

Durweston CE VA Primary School

Durweston, Blandford Forum, Dorset

DT11 0QA

Tel : 01258 452277

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Website: www.durweston.dorset.sch.uk

Head teacher: Nicola Brooke



'Stand true in what you believe. Be courageous, be strong. And do everything with love.' 1 Corinthians 16:13-14

6th June 2021

Dear Parents,

Firstly, I hope you have all had a lovely half term and managed to get out and enjoy some of the lovely weather. Can you believe we are now into the last half term of this academic year? Where has the time gone?



Shiver my timbers!

Starfish and Handy Paws were reading *The Night Pirates* the week before last so obviously they had to round things off with a pirate party. I was pleased to see that there were a few feisty female pirates – and I'm not just talking about the staff!



Maypole Madness



Not quite all the fun of the Country Fair that we usually hold at this time of year, but at least we managed the Maypole dancing. I did love this photo of Freddie Spiller dancing whilst holding onto his shorts. More photos on the [school blog](#), plus the video of the staff's attempt at dancing, which only proved that it really isn't as easy as it looks! Many, many thanks to Chris Newton for providing the video.

Perhaps we need to get a few parents to give it a go next year? You could even choose your own song!





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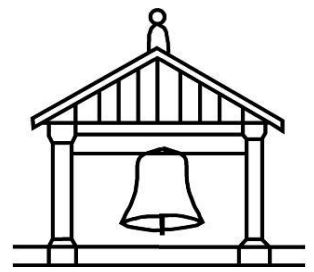
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Goodbyes, hellos and a few changes

I had hoped to get the class lists for next September out to you in the last week of term but, as you know, OFSTED arrived! More of that later. However, I can let you know of a few staff changes for next year.

- In Handy Paws, following Lyndsay's departure, Helen and Sharna are going to be working together to welcome the youngest members of the Durweston family
- Mrs Carroll and Mrs Joyce will be in Starfish
- Mrs De Silva will be joined by Mrs Gedye in Dolphins because...
- Mrs Plummer is joining Ms Stirk in Seahorses as a teacher-in-training. Ms Stirk has asked to reduce her hours so she can spend more time being mummy to her two children, so Mrs Plummer is going to be teaching Seahorses in the afternoons, as well as teaching Orcas in the morning.
- In Sharks, Mrs Saint is going to be joined by Mrs Riley and
- In Porpoises, Mrs Johnstone and Mrs Sutherland will continue to the fabulous job they do at the top of the school.



Sadly, we have also lost Mrs Holbrook, our wonderful finance officer this term. She too wants to spend more time with her family. I cannot say thank you enough for the work she has done for our school, especially in helping reduce the deficit we inherited. Fortunately we are going to be joined by Mrs Raynor, who is currently finance officer at Sturminster Marshall First School. We are looking forward to welcoming her to Durweston.

OFSTED



So they came again. For the third time this year. But, as the inspector explained, the first 'visit' was an information gathering exercise for OFSTED themselves; the second was 'an additional' monitoring inspection to review the quality of our provision during lockdown and only this third visit is part of the usual schedule of visits and means that the next time they come, it will be for the full inspection that will hopefully see us move out of RI. Whilst the outcome of the visit remains confidential until the report is published, I can tell you that things went very well and that once again, the inspector was really impressed by the support of all our parents. (I think they just like visiting us.)

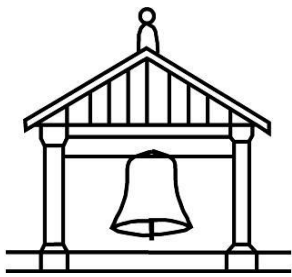
Returning to school

Don't forget we're back to 'nearly-normal' start and finish times from Monday 7th June. That means you can drop off from 0850 at the entrances we have been using this year:

- Porpoises and Sharks – bottom gate from village hall
- Seahorses and Dolphins – Dolphins' gate
- Starfish – Starfish gate
- Handy Paws – 0900 at Handy Paws

Pick up is 1530 from Monday to Thursday and 1500 on Fridays from the field, except for Starfish/Handy Paws parents, who can please pick their children up from Starfish and then come to the field to collect siblings.





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Whilst I do know that current rates of infection are very low, please could I ask that everyone continues to respect the one-way system on the pavements outside school, that we continue to keep our distance from each other as much as possible and that we continue to wear masks at drop off and pick? The Delta variant is out there, and I'd hate for any of us to fall victim to this new infection.

We are all really hoping that we will be able to fully return to normal before long but, as I write, the news is not looking hopeful, and the Local Authority is currently advising that we keep to the bubble system for the rest of the year. I will obviously keep you posted and will let you know of any change as soon as I know myself.

Have a super week.



Nicola Brooke

