



Durweston
CE Primary School

Head teacher: Nicola Brooke

Email: office@durweston.dsat.org.uk
Website: www.durweston.dorset.sch.uk

‘Feed the mind, nurture the spirit, free the imagination.’

15th February 2023

Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Half way through half term and the sun is shining! I hope you are managing to get out and enjoy some of it.

We finished last half term with lots of visits and one visitor. Seahorses went to Dorchester on Tuesday. In the morning they made pizza and in the afternoon they visited the museum. What a packed day!



Sarah Johnson, Eve and Ada’s mum came to talk to Dolphins about her expedition to Everest - a chance for them to end their work on explorers with the chance to interview a real one!



On Friday, I took our netballers to Pimperne for the BSN y5/6 netball tournament. We played brilliantly and so very nearly made it to the next round.

Meanwhile Sharks went to the forest to explore habitats as part of their work on Science and in the afternoon, they went to the climbing wall at Bryanston – I bet they slept well!



Diocese of Salisbury
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Tel: 01258 452277





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Porpoises have been busy in school making Mayan masks and tiles as part of their history project. The results are truly amazing!



The week before last, we held our Candlemas/Christingle service in church. At Candlemas, we remember the story of Jesus being brought to the Temple by his parents. We use the service to welcome our Reception children into church. From now on, they will attend collective worship with the rest of the school. I didn't manage to find someone to video the service, but there are lots of photos [here](#). I hope the children could tell you all about their Christingle when they brought it home!



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Many thanks to everyone who bought cakes on Friday. We’re raising money to redecorate Handy Paws and to buy new equipment for the garden. We’d like to organise **a painting weekend on the 1st/2nd April**. All donations of white paint and painting rollers would be gratefully received and all willing helpers welcomed. (Or even unwilling ones to be honest!) Also, does anyone know anyone who might be able to help us with the artificial grass? I’m getting quotes at the moment, but it would be good to have recommendations. The PTA have given us £1000 and I’m applying for grants from Tesco and the National Lottery. Fingers crossed!

Forest School and Shroving

The weather is warming up so we’ll be going back to the Forest after half term. Please look out for a letter telling you when it’s time for your child’s class to go.

It’s Shrove Tuesday on the Tuesday of the first week we are back in school ((21st Feb), so we will be Shroving round the village. This year we’re leaving a bit later than usual. We have visitors from the Blackmore Vale and a local care home, so we will be gathering in the hall at 10.30. Please send a small bunch of flowers in with your child that we can leave flowers at the villagers’ doors.



Seahorses Shroving last year



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Governor vacancy

Do you have some spare time and are looking for a meaningful and rewarding way to help our school? We are looking for volunteers with a Christian faith to join our Academy Ethos and Standards Committee (ASEC).

ASEC members support the raising of standards of achievement for all pupils, develop a strategic plan for the school and maintain its Christian ethos and distinctive character. This includes monitoring and evaluating the leadership of the Headteacher, challenging decisions as a critical friend and ensuring the Academy Improvement Plan is implemented and supports the very best education for children. Our ASEC meets every half term and volunteers also visit school to monitor its development and improvement through the year.

Foundation ASEC members don't need experience of foundation governance, but they do need the following qualities:

- Christian faith
- A willingness to represent and support the school and Diocese of Salisbury Academy Trust in a professional manner
- An ability to manage communication and relationships including face-to-face, on the phone and in written communication, efficiently and diplomatically
- Commitment to contribute to and support the overall aims and ethos of our Trust and school
- An ability to deal with highly confidential and sensitive issues
- Patience and enthusiasm to achieve the best for children and our community

If this sounds like you and have 5- 10 hours every half term to offer, please get in touch, we would love to hear from you.

More information on being a governor here: <https://diocese-of-salisbury-academy-trust.primarysite.media/media/making-a-difference-as-a-governor>

Attendance

Class	Last week (should be 96%+)	Whole school last week	Whole school this year
Starfish	100% 😊	94.3%	94.5% (National Average 93.4%)
Dolphins	91%		
Seahorses	90%		
Sharks	96% 😊		
Porpoises	99% 😊		





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Goodbye Helen 😞

It was really sad saying goodbye to Helen last Friday, but she didn't leave empty handed. Thanks to everyone who contributed to making sure she knows how much she has been loved, and how much she will be missed.

Mrs Riley, with Trudi, will be taking over in Handy Paws until we find a replacement.

I think that's all my news for this week. See you all again on Monday!

Nicola Brooke
Headteacher



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