



Durand Primary School

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Headteacher - Mrs H Kilbourn

March 2024

Dear Parents / Carers,

The days are getting longer, it's a touch warmer and drier (just) and the optimism of the Summer Term is just around the corner! This term has gone in a flash, we've packed in so much learning and so many experiences for the children even in these two quite short half terms.

We held a very successful Eisteddfod on March 1st. It is lovely to celebrate living in Wales and a great day to come together and share our learning. Congratulations to all of the winning entries - it was lovely to celebrate pupils who showed the most improvement as well as best entries. I was blown away by the standard of all of the work entered.

I would like to say a thank you to Monmouthshire Upcycle, based in Chepstow, for their kind donation of a washing machine for our Nursery. In times of very tight budget constraints this was a very kind and generous donation.



We look forward to the Summer Term and hopefully some drier and warmer weather is on its way. We hope you all have a restful and enjoyable Easter break. Monday 8th April is a training day and we welcome pupils back to school on Tuesday 9th April. Please see important updates below - especially the exciting news about our soon to open Breakfast Club.

Kind Regards,

Mrs Kilbourn

(Headteacher)

Breakfast Club:

We are all set to open our new Breakfast Club provision on Monday 15th April. As we need to prepare for numbers - food and staffing - it is essential that you book places for **each child** that will be attending. Booking will be done via Parent Pay.

Breakfast Club will open at 8.00am. Any child arriving between 8.00am and 8.30am will need to pay £2 per session, payable when booking via Parent Pay. Please start booking your slots from **Tuesday 9th April**. If you book the 8.00 - 8.30 slot you will not need to select the 8.30 - 8.45 session.

Children arriving between 8.30 and 8.45 will have a free breakfast. It is still essential to book.

Please note... there will be no entry to Breakfast Club after 8.45am and children must be booked onto the session and on the register to gain entry. Please book by 3.00pm the day before to be on the register for the following morning. Registers will be printed at this time for the following day.





I am looking forward to seeing our pupils enjoying a healthy breakfast - as this is a new provision we may experience some teething troubles. Please contact the school with any further questions or difficulties you may have with the booking system.

After school provision:

We are currently trying to gauge interest for after school provision. If you haven't already, please respond to the following survey so that we are able to gather numbers.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeW22dly8BmafV-Z1y3z8IDF6wAYbx_rew9phdfM_oGhO5CZQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

Change of email address: A reminder that the main school email address has now changed to dur.primary@monmouthshireschools.wales

Parent Pay and Dinners: Dinners must be ordered via ParentPay before 8:30am. If you haven't ordered a meal, you will need to provide a packed lunch for your child. Despite the offer of a free school dinner, we still urge you all to apply for the Free School Meals Grant if you think you might be eligible (please see below).

Cost of the school day: Might you qualify for the School Essentials Grant? Have a look before you think not. You get £££ and the school gets £££ to support your child. Over 30% of our children do and the grant makes a real difference to you and us. [Free School Meals & School Essentials Grant - Monmouthshire](#)

Parent Teacher Association:

Upcoming events are:

March:

Easter trail - please buy trails from Caldicot Library or Ladybird Pottery

April:

Friday 19th - Cake and Tea, a treat for you and me - parents/guardians pre book tickets for cake and tea with their child. 2 slots available in the afternoon.

May:

Friday 24th (last day of term) - Dress down day - will be an item donation event

July:

Friday 12th Colour Run merging with Summer Fayre.

Further details of each event will be shared nearer the time.

Safe Parking: To support the safe arrival of children and families at the start of the school day, the school gates are being opened earlier to allow for a less congested flow into school. A polite reminder that classroom doors will not open until 8.50am. Supervision of children until this time to ensure a calm and safe arrival is appreciated. I discourage ball games on the yard prior to school starting, preventing



accidents or injuries at this time. Please manoeuvre cars with great care, leave disabled spaces for badge holders and support our active travel plan by walking or park and striding.

Nursery update:

In Nursery this term we have been continuing to look at the season of Winter and we have now started to look at spring. We have had some fun celebrations! In Nursery we made chinese rattles to celebrate Chinese New Year, celebrated St David's Day by singing a welsh song in the Eisteddfod and painting a daffodil and dressed up for World Book Day!. Nursery children have also enjoyed going up the forest and loved puddle play!



Reception update:

The children have been very busy in Reception this half term. We have celebrated St David's Day, World Book Day and Red Nose Day. They have also been learning about Chinese New Year. The children have made lots of Chinese crafts, helped cook a Special Festive rice dish , which most of them enjoyed eating and have taken part in a Chinese Festival Parade around the school. They also enjoyed our Chinese Restaurant role play area. We have also been doing lots of Science experiments. Our topic for next term is Growing and planting.

World Book Day



Corn flour Slime



Our Chinese Restaurant



Dancing Raisins



Chinese New Year Parade



Static Hair



Make a boat that floats



Year 1 update:

In Year 1 this half term we have been learning about bread. The children thoroughly enjoyed STEM week where one of the activities was to see what happens when we add yeast to sugar and water. We also joined a live lesson with Fiona the Farmer (NFU Education). The children visited ASDA to purchase the ingredients that they needed to make the bread and hosted a bread sale for their parents.



Year 2 update

It's been such a busy half term this time and we have crammed lots of learning experiences in. We have been exploring our new text The Lost Stars writing a retell and this has led to us researching stars and meteorites. We have become real scientists exploring in the dark tent, discovering how forces can make rockets launch and we've even grown our own crystals! We watched news reports on a sighting of a meteor and went to investigate, we found fragments of it on our school grounds! We interviewed some eyewitnesses and wrote a newspaper report to tell the news.



Year 3 update:





In Year 3 this half term we have continued with our theme of 'Space'. The children have really enjoyed working as a team! We have found it fascinating to look at space, a lot of us have found it difficult to comprehend how big space actually is! We used Google Earth to find the school and then zoomed out to see Planet Earth, the difference between the size of Durand Primary School and Earth was definitely something that shocked a few of us! In Literacy we have been looking at the book 'Hey You!' written by Dapo Adeola, we have then looked at different inspirational people. We have then chosen a person to write a biography on, looking at the features of a biography first. In Math we have been learning about multiplication and division, we have talked about how they can create fact families like addition and subtraction! We have been practising our times tables every day. In PE we have been focusing on Gymnastics, in pairs the children have created a sequence including a pike, straddle and a tuck!

Year 4 update:

In Year 4 this half term we have continued with our theme of 'Discover and Explore - A World of Food'. The children enjoyed working as a team to make homemade butter and had the opportunity to taste what they had made by making a sandwich. The children then had the opportunity to apply their instructional writing skills learnt earlier in the year to write a set of instructions to explain the process. We have also looked at 'Seasonal Foods' and used the internet to investigate the foods available in the UK each month. In ICT the children created a database using the nutritional information for different foods and searched and sorted the database to answer questions. In PE the children have also been working extremely hard to develop their swimming skills and should be very proud of the progress they have made so far.



Year 5 update:

Hello again from Year 5. We have had an incredibly busy and fun Spring Term in School. Here are some of the things we have been doing.

Our topic this term has been entitled 'Discover and Explore'. Our key text this term has been Kensuke's Kingdom. The book follows Michael and his parents on a trip of a lifetime around the world. They give up their jobs, pack their belongings onto the 'Peggy Sue' and off they set. Sounds like a fairy tale doesn't it... Michael falls overboard and ends up being washed up on an island with only one other inhabitant - Kensuke!

We have focussed on the Humanities and Science and Technology AoLEs (Areas of learning and experience) this term. Learning about islands in the Pacific Ocean and famous explorers. We have



also been developing our design and technology skills by building boats and shelters. The children have also been working incredibly hard in maths, where we have been focussing on division and fractions. The children have all earned a two week break!



Year 6 update:

This half term, Year 6 have continued with our Discover and Explore topic. We have written balanced arguments about living forever, learned about different pandemics through history and have created our own models of different types of virus germs and how benefits of handwashing help stop viruses spreading. We have enjoyed a visit to the library to change our books and listen to visiting author Shoo Rayner also.



Forest School

Year 1 has been having their block of forest school sessions looking at New Life. We planted fruit bushes and herbs in our new mud kitchen area. The plants were kindly donated by Chepstow Garden Centre. We have also been making bird boxes to put around the forest to attract more birds.



Dates for your Diary:





Monday 25th March - Friday 5th April - Easter holidays

Monday 8th April - Training Day - School closed to pupils

Tuesday 9th April - Pupils return to school

Wednesday 10th April - Reception Growth and Vision Screening

Thursday 2nd May - TRAINING DAY DUE TO SCHOOL BEING USED FOR ELECTIONS - WE HAVE HAD TO CANCEL THE TRAINING DAY ON THE 19TH JULY

Monday 6th May - May Day Bank Holiday - School closed

Wednesday 15th May - Girls Tag Rugby Tournament

Friday 24th May - Y6 Forest School Family Event (Fire Day)

Friday 24th May - Last day in school before half term

Monday 27th May-friday 31st May - Half term

Monday 3rd June - Pupils return to school

Wednesday 5th June - Y6 Leavers' photos

Tuesday 18th June - Nursery and Reception Sports Day 10.00am

Tuesday 18th June - Y1,Y2 and Y3 Sports Day 1.15pm

Wednesday 19th June - Y4, Y5 and Y6 Sports Day 1.15pm

Wednesday 26th June - RESERVE Sports Day N & R 10.00am, Y1,Y2 and Y3 1.15pm

Thursday 27th June - RESERVE Sports Day Y4, Y5 and Y6 1.15pm

Friday 5th July - Y5 Forest School Family Event

Monday 8th July - Move up day (Durand and Caldicot School)

Friday 12th July - Colour Run / summer fayre

Tuesday 16th July - Y6 Leavers' Assembly 9.30am

Wednesday 17th July - Y6 fun day

Friday 19th July - **Children are in school as training day has been cancelled. Last day of school before summer holidays.**

All dates are provisional and subject to change.

