



Dear Dover Park Family,

I would like to start by offering a very warm welcome back to all our pupils and families. I hope you all enjoyed a restful and refreshing half-term break. It has been wonderful to see the school gates buzzing with energy again this week. The children have settled back into their learning routines with remarkable ease, showing great focus and enthusiasm in their classrooms. It truly feels as though we haven't been away!

### Celebrating Our Successes

I am delighted to share some exceptional news regarding our school's recent achievements. We have been officially recognized by the FFT (Fisher Family Trust) with two prestigious attendance awards:

**2024-2025 Academic Year:** Our school was in the top 25% of similar schools nationally.

**Autumn Term 2025:** We improved even further, placing in the top 10% of similar schools.

There is a direct, proven link between consistent attendance and high attainment. When children are here every day, they build the social and academic foundations necessary for long-term success. By working together, we ensure that no child misses out on those "lightbulb moments" that drive progress. Thank you for your continued support in prioritising your child's attendance.



We also recently received a letter from the Secretary of State for Education, Bridget Phillipson. She wrote to personally congratulate our staff and pupils for the outstanding outcomes achieved by our disadvantaged Year 6 leavers last year. To be recognized at a national level for closing the gap and ensuring every child thrives is an amazing achievement for our community. I have attached a copy of the letter to this newsletter for you to read.

## A message from Bridget Phillipson



Dear Jonathan,

Congratulations to you and your team on the excellent outcomes the disadvantaged pupils at Dover Park Primary School achieved at the end of the 2024/25 academic year. Your school's performance places it among the very best nationally, and this is a significant achievement.

This success reflects the dedication of your staff and the hard work of your pupils. It shows what can be achieved when ambition and commitment come together. Thank you for everything you do to give children the best possible opportunities to succeed.

Your school's achievements demonstrate what is possible, and I hope you will continue to share your experience and best practice with others. Even the strongest schools can go further. We encourage you to lead the way as a system leader - sharing effective practice, championing networks, supporting collaboration, and helping raise standards across the sector.

Please pass on my thanks and congratulations to your staff and pupils. I look forward to working with you as we strive together to raise standards for all.

*Your sincerely,*

*Bridget*

**Bridget Phillipson**  
Secretary of State for Education

## School Nurse Visit

The School Nurse will be visiting us next week to offer support and advice to families. If you would like to book a private consultation, please contact Max in the school office, who will be happy to arrange a specific time slot for you.



## Harmony in the Halls: Choir Club

I am pleased to announce that Mrs Grubb will be re-launching our Choir Club starting next Wednesday. This is a fantastic opportunity for children to develop their musical talents and find their voice. The choir will be preparing for a very special performance at our Annual Sing Up event on 22nd May. Please check your child's bag for the sign-up slip!



## Easter Celebrations & Fundraising

As we look forward to the end of term, we have two exciting events planned to support the Children's Fund:

Friday 20th March: We will hold a 'Dress Down Day'. In exchange for coming to school in non-uniform, we kindly ask for a donation of an Easter Egg.

Friday 27th March: We will host our Annual Easter Egg Tombola on the final day of term.

These donations allow us to raise vital funds that go directly back into school resources and experiences for the pupils. Thank you in advance for your generosity—let's hope for plenty of lucky winners!



# LEARNING

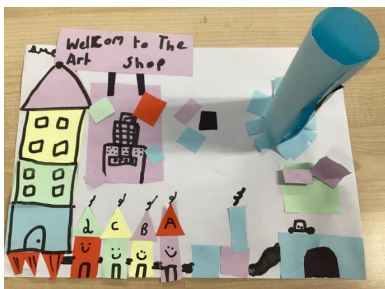
Reception have been reading stories by Quentin Blake who wrote and illustrated his books. The children then recreated his pictures using pencils and watercolours. This was great for pencil control and observational skills.



This week year 1 have started looking at toys as part of their history learning. They are exploring the kinds of toys played with in the past and comparing these to toys they play with now. They were very surprised at how old some of them looked but also noticed they still look like some of there toys now, like teddies and skipping ropes. They enjoyed trying out the older toys!



In maths, Year 2 used Paul Klee's Castle and Sun artwork to help them practice and embed their vocabulary and understanding around the properties of 2D and 3D shapes. How many sides, vertices, faces and edges can you spot in our collages?



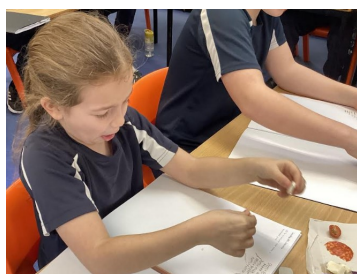
In English this week Year 3 have started our learning journey 'It Starts With a Seed'. The children have done so well with understanding the elements of poetry. Here they are demonstrating what a sycamore seed does as it falls and grows



This week Year 4 have started a new topic in science. We are looking at Sound. The children made telephone cups to explore how sound travels.



This week, the children have begun their preparations for pizza tasting, exploring different flavour combinations and thinking carefully about what makes the perfect pizza! In English, we have started rehearsing sentences to create balanced arguments, working hard to maintain a formal, expert and professional tone in our writing.



## Hot Chocolate Friday

Year 1— Odin

Year 2—Louis

Year 3— Haiden

Year 4— Jacob

Year 5— Tommy

Year 6— Alfie



## Reader of the Week

Year 1— Wren

Year 2— Rowan

Year 3— Louie

Year 4— Tommie

Year 5— Owen

Year 6— Toby



## Cloakroom Award Reception

12th March —Year 2 DT Workshop

16th March — Year 4 Music Workshop

19th March —Year 5 Assembly (please note change of date)

20th March — Easter Egg donation — Dress Down Day

25th March —Year 6 Music Workshop (please note change of date)

26th March — Year 1 Assembly

27th March —Easter Egg Tombola

27th March — Last day before Easter Break

13th April—Children return to school

4th May —Year 5 Music Workshop

14<sup>th</sup> May — Year 4 Assembly

20<sup>th</sup> May — Year 1 Music Workshop

21st May — School Disco

22nd May — Reception Music Workshop (please note change of date)

22nd May—Last day before May Half Term

1st June Children return to school

5th June — Year 3 Parent Workshop

19th June— Whole School Teddy Bear Picnic 12:15-1:00





Etta and Raine have achieved medals in their most recent gymnastics competition. Lucy has gained a medal at rugby for working really hard. Well done all!



### World Book Day

Thursday 5th March

This year there will be an Environmental Theme with children planning work around the book

**Island S.O.S**

**By Tim Walters**

an Island based writer

Come to school dressed as a favourite book character or wearing a costume with an environmental theme.

We can't wait to see you dressed up on March 5th.



# Bee Netball

Yrs 1 – Yrs 7!



**Tuesday at Lift Ryde**  
**5.30 - 6.30 PM**

- Fun Games, Friendly Matches &
- Fun Tournaments on the Mainland!

Contact for more details:

Chris 07969504734 • Christie Lee 07814906259

or email: [cmg1504@gmail.com](mailto:cmg1504@gmail.com)



Family Assist  
Solent



Hampshire and  
Isle of Wight Healthcare  
NHS Foundation Trust

# Helping to keep your child healthy

The Isle of Wight 0-19 Team is made up of Health Visitors, School Nurses, Community Nurses, Associate Practitioners and Administrators.

We use our skill mix team to ensure that all families are offered mandated health contacts for needs assessment, advice and support.

**Please see Family Assist for additional support information.**



If you have any questions or would like to speak to a Health Visitor or School Nurse, please ring the 0-19 duty desk on **0300 123 5224**





**PLEASE  
DON'T PARK**

**ON DOUBLE  
YELLOW LINES**