



Mr Kirby's Weekly News

Dear Dover Park Family,

It has been an incredibly productive, inspiring, and busy week here at Dover Park. From hosting headteachers to saving the planet (one costume at a time), our school community has been buzzing with energy.

A World of Books (and a Cleaner Planet!)

On Thursday, we celebrated World Book Day with a green twist. Our focus was on the environment, inspired by Tim Walters' fantastic text, *Island SOS*.

The creativity on display was second to none. We had everything from recycled cardboard heroes to nature-inspired explorers. A huge thank you to parents, carers and staff for arranging such amazing costumes (and for only minimally complaining about the inevitable glitter and glue left on the kitchen table!).

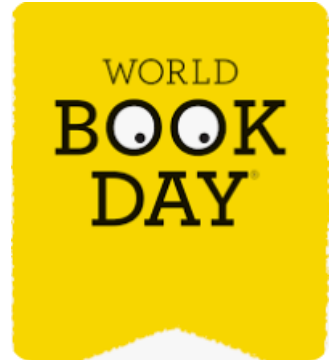
Beyond the dress-up, the children delved deep into the text, producing Powerful Poetry that captured the beauty of our world; persuasive writing that would give most politicians a run for their money; detailed reports; and eye-catching posters.

The children also got their hands dirty with some community litter picking and eco-art. As I often say, fostering a love of reading is the greatest gift we can give our children for their future opportunities. Seeing them so engaged with a book that carries such a vital message was fantastic.

Praise from Headteachers

On Tuesday, Dover Park had the pleasure of hosting the Local Authority Headteacher Briefing. Headteachers from all across the island descended upon our school for their termly updates.

It was a wonderful opportunity to "show off" our school. I am delighted to report that our visitors were incredibly impressed. They had nothing but high praise for our facilities, our atmosphere and, most importantly, our pupils. It's always nice when someone else notices what we already know: that Dover Park is a pretty special place to be.



Striving for excellence

Even while hosting events, we never stop looking at how we can do things better. On Thursday, our teaching staff met to review the feedback from our recent Local Authority Review.

We spent time diving into the latest research regarding the most effective methods of marking and feedback. We're moving away from the "marking for the sake of marking" philosophy and focusing on high-quality, inclusive feedback that truly helps a child understand their next steps. Our goal remains constant: providing the highest possible standards of education for every single child.

A Note of Thanks

As you can tell, it's been an extremely busy week for our staff. Between the Headteacher Briefing, a full-day Local Authority Review, World Book Day and intensive training sessions, the team has been working at 110% capacity.

I want to publicly thank every member of our staff. They work tirelessly to ensure our children live out our school values every day: Enjoy, Belong and Believe. Their dedication is what makes our school thrive.



HAF Project

Spring is just around the corner, which means our HAF (Holiday Activities and Food) project is back for the Easter break.

We are proud to be hosting these sessions again at Dover Park. It's a fantastic way for children to stay active, eat well, and have fun during the holidays.

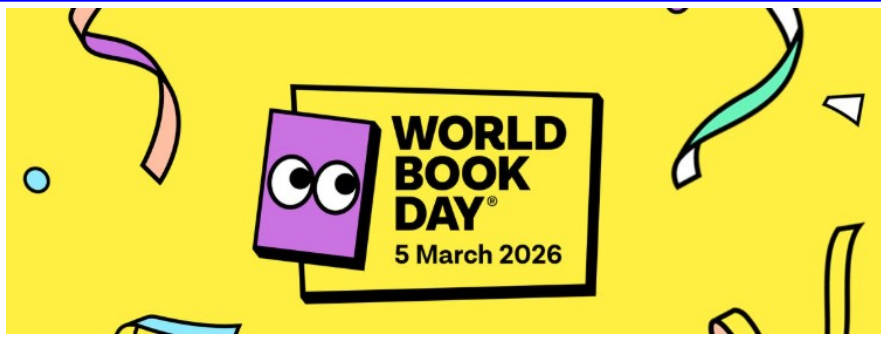
How to book:

All bookings can be made through our HAF Booking System (QR code below)



Full details on all of our activities can also be found on the Isle of Wight [Family Information Hub webpage](#).







Hot Chocolate Friday

Year 1— Phoebe

Year 2— James

Year 3— Lennon

Year 4— Sophie

Year 5— Sophia-Rae

Year 6— Esmae



Reader of the Week

Year 1— Ellie

Year 2— Jacob D

Year 3— Kayla

Year 4— Amirah

Year 5— Annie

Year 6— Freddie



Cloakroom Award

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

14th May — Year 4 Assembly

20th 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



Art Wow Awards

Reception - Khadija and Talia

Year 1 - Phoebe Anstee and Ellie Williams

Year 2 - Adalyn Djemal and Gabriela Volcu

Year 3 - Enid Allen and Ellie Webb

Year 4 - Sophie Parkman and Reona Basil

Year 5 - Evie Lale and John Ostos

Year 6 - Logan Carter-Living and Pru Fisher-McIntyre



Gabby has gained a new certificate in swimming. Well done!

SEND INFORMATION SESSION



Isle of Wight SEN Support would like to invite you to a SEND information session:



UNPICKING THE SEND WHITE PAPER CONSULTATION

11th March 2026 - 6:30pm to 8pm

Open to parents, carers, young people, education staff and anyone working in or interested in special educational needs and disabilities!

Join us to find out:

The lowdown on the proposed changes coming to SEND. This is your chance to understand what the reforms mean for you and your community.

How you can respond to the consultation on the SEND white paper.

We'll break down all the important info in a friendly, easy-to-grasp way. Don't miss out on this opportunity to stay informed and ask questions live!

£3.50 per person (to cover refreshments and room hire) or we do have some free tickets for those on a low income.



[Click here to book !!](#)

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



Family Assist
Solent

NHS

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**