



Mr Kirby's Weekly News

Dear Dover Park Family,

We've reached the end of another busy week here at Dover Park! The building has been a hive of activity and while the weather might still be deciding whether it's spring or winter, the energy in the classrooms has been fantastic. Here is a look at what we've been up to:

Assessment Week

This week, classrooms across the school were a little quieter than usual as the children took part in our scheduled assessments for Reading, Maths and Spelling, Punctuation, and Grammar (SPaG).

We use this information to see exactly how the children are progressing and, more importantly, to identify their next steps. We use the information gleaned from the assessments to plan support and booster sessions. Our Reading and Maths leaders (Mr Gregory and Mr Rowson) dive into this data to tweak our curriculum, ensuring that we are always teaching the right things at the right time for every child.

A special shout-out goes to Year 6, who undertook their Mock SATs this week. These sessions are designed to help the children get used to the format and "feel" of the national assessments coming up later this year. They handled the week with great maturity—well done, Year 6!

Budding Artists

Exciting news from Dover Park! A group of talented KS2 students have been selected to showcase their artwork at the prestigious Quay Arts PEACH Energy Exhibition. After taking on the challenge of creating pieces inspired by the theme of energy, these young artists submitted their work to Quay Arts—and out of many entries, their pieces were chosen to be part of this incredible exhibit. It's an amazing opportunity for them to share their creativity and passion with the community!



Year 5 Look to the Future

On Friday, our Year 5 class headed over to Ryde Academy for a taster day. Since the majority of our pupils transition there after Year 6, these visits are vital. Moving on after seven years with us at Dover Park is a big milestone and building these early links helps settle those natural "big school" nerves.



I was incredibly proud to receive several comments from the staff at Ryde Academy regarding how well-behaved our pupils were. They represented Dover Park perfectly, showing curiosity and respect throughout the day.

Community Request: Road Safety

On a more serious note, I must ask for your support regarding the morning drop-off please. We have received a couple of reports of some parents driving quickly past the school.

I know the morning rush is stressful and can feel very rushed (particularly if you have children who need a little more encouragement to get through the morning routines), but the safety of our children is paramount. Please ensure you:

1. Drive slowly and safely in the immediate vicinity of the school.
2. Be patient with other families; a little extra time is a small price to pay for everyone's safety.
3. Model respect. Our children look to us to see how to handle stress and interact with others. Let's show them the "Dover Park Way" by remaining polite and courteous, even when we're in a hurry.

Thank you for your continued support in making our school a safe and positive place to learn. I hope you all have a restful and enjoyable weekend!



LEARNING

In RE the children have been thinking about the Easter Story and have completed some drama, they were thinking about the different events that led up to the resurrection. There has been some great discussion about the events that happened and the emotions that were felt.



Year 5 enjoyed a fantastic Shakespeare workshop led by Emily from Ad Lib Theatre. The children particularly loved the *Shakespeare or Fakespeare* game - you'll hear more about that in next week's assembly! You can also see the children using force meters in science to measure the impact of friction on different surfaces.



science this week, Year 4 made panpipes to explore pitch and amplitude.

LEARNING

Year 3 have been excited this week to start an investigation with plants. We have been learning about different parts of a plant and the environment they need to thrive in. As scientists, the children have taken away one of the plants needs for 2 weeks, to see if they will continue to grow. The children have made predictions around this and we will share the results!



Following on from their World Book Day activities with the 'Island SOS' book, Year 2 spent some time looking carefully at the natural world around our school. They collected small samples of different colours they could find and match these colours by mixing and blending chalk pastels.



This half term Year 1 have started investigating plants. We have been identifying and classifying seeds and bulbs this week. We have made predictions and will observe the seeds planted to see what they grow in to. The children are very excited and have predicted some may grow vegetables!



LEARNING

Reception had a good trip to see different transport in Ryde. They watched the hovercraft depart and arrive, trains going in and out of the tunnel and identified bus numbers.



Ameila and Aleksandra have both been working hard in their swimming lessons and have achieved certificates. Well done!



new certificates.



certificates. Well done!

Hot Chocolate Friday

Year 1— Violet

Year 2— Amelia

Year 3— Rose

Year 4— Amirah

Year 5— Freddie

Year 6— Rosie



Reader of the Week

Year 1— Ezra

Year 2— Jacob A

Year 3— Sophia T

Year 4— Arlo

Year 5— April

Year 6— Lola



Cloakroom Award

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—27th March—Year 4 PGL residential

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



Parent and Caregiver Peer Support Sessions

11th June 2026 (9am – 11am) Cowes Family Centre

16th July 2026 (9am – 11am) Carisbrook & Gunville Church

16th September 2026 (9am – 11am) Ventnor Family Centre

16th October 2026 (9am – 11am) Sandown Family Centre

18th November 2026 (9am – 11am) Carisbrook & Gunville Church

13th January 2027 (9am – 11am) Carisbrook & Gunville Church

10th February 2027 (9am – 11am) Carisbrook & Gunville Church



Drop in for a chat, a cuppa and shared experiences

No booking needed



Isle of Wight
Neurodiversity
Team

Cowes Family Centre –
Love Lane, Cowes PO31 7ET
Carisbrook & Gunville Church
Gunville Road, Newport
PO30 5LS
Ventnor Family Centre
Albert Street, Ventnor PO38 1EZ
Sandown Family Centre
The Fairway, Sandown PO36 9EQ

**Get
20% off**

All Bowling
or
Laser Quest
bookings online
in March!

We're kicking things off this March with a bang...

We know you love a bit of competition, so we're making it easier to get a win this month. Whether you're aiming for a perfect game or dominating the leaderboard in the arena, save big while you do it.

Get 20% OFF Bowling or Laser Quest all through March!

Use Promo Code: MM20

BOOK NOW!

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



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**