



Dear Dover Park Family,

### A Warm Welcome Back

It has been an absolute pleasure to welcome our pupils back to school following the Easter break. The classrooms are once again filled with energy and I have been incredibly impressed by how quickly the children have settled back into their learning routines. It is lovely to see them reconnecting with their friends and diving straight into our new topics for the Summer term.

### The Importance of Attendance

As we begin this new term, I would like to take a moment to reinforce the vital link between **attendance and attainment**. National data and our own internal tracking consistently shows that children who attend school regularly achieve significantly better outcomes than those who do not.

We kindly remind parents and carers that holidays should be taken during the designated school holiday periods. While we are fully aware that travel costs are often higher during these times, every day of school missed is a missed opportunity for learning.

Furthermore, I must strongly urge families to maintain honesty regarding absences. Please do not encourage children to say they are unwell when they are on planned holidays. This places children in a very difficult and uncomfortable position with their teachers and peers, encourages dishonesty and breaks the mutual respect we expect from our school community. We value the partnership we have with our families and appreciate your transparency and support in this matter.



### Staffing News

I am delighted to welcome back **Mrs Newnham**, who has returned to us following her maternity leave. It is fantastic to have her back on the team!

During this term, Mrs Newnham will be working across the school in a specialized capacity. She will be supporting various groups of children to further develop their skills in **reading, writing, and mathematics**, ensuring everyone has the tools they need to succeed as we head toward the end of the academic year.

## Year 5 Music Workshop: Date Correction

I would like to sincerely apologise for a clerical error regarding the date of the upcoming **Year 5 Music Workshop**. Please note that this exciting event will now be held on **Wednesday, 8th July**. We hope this correction provides enough notice for your diaries, and we look forward to seeing the Year 5 children showcase their musical talents.



## School Uniform: PE Kits

We have recently noticed an increasing number of children arriving at school in incorrect PE kits. To support our families, we made the decision to relax the rules regarding footwear, so children are no longer required to wear plain white trainers; any suitable sports trainers are now acceptable, as we recognise this provides more flexibility and better value for money for our families.

However, children should be coming into school for PE wearing:

**Shorts:** plain, navy-blue shorts without logos, ticks, stripes or patterns please. They need to be an appropriate length for a school environment and not cycling shorts.

**Tee-Shirts:** Dover Park sports tee shirt with white stripes on the shoulders. These are available from Kids and Co.

**Tracksuit:** In colder weather, children may wear plain navy sweatshirts and/or jogging bottoms with no logos, ticks or stripes.



I would like to take this opportunity to explain why maintaining a consistent uniform policy remains a priority for us. A uniform approach fosters a **sense of belonging** and pride in being part of the school community. In PE specifically, it ensures that all children are dressed safely and practically for physical activity. Perhaps most importantly, a consistent policy helps to **remove social pressures** and prevents competition between pupils regarding expensive branded clothing, ensuring that the focus remains entirely on their learning and teamwork.

# LEARNING

Reception had a great walk to the park looking for signs of Spring.



This week year 1 have been discussing fairy tales. We have talked about what makes a fairy tale, the language used (once upon a time, happily ever after) and, heroes and villains. One fairy tale the children enjoyed was the Three Billy Goats Gruff - they really got involved with the troll!



Year 2 spent some time using positive language with one another, thinking about what they can say to encourage others to keep trying to do their best. They worked with partners to throw and catch a ball a target number of times. Belonging and believing - well done Year 2.



Year 3 thoroughly enjoyed exploring the character of 'Mr. Twit' in our new Learning journey. They acted with great enthusiasm, and it was evident how well they enjoyed portraying his persona!



# LEARNING

In English this week year 4 have been acting in role to help them with their inference skills



This week, Year 5 have enjoyed learning about *chine collé*, a printing technique using coloured tissue paper, as they created their own jungle bugs using polyblock printing. In English, we have begun exploring the use of dialogue within a story to move the action forward, here you can see some wonderfully dramatic faces as the children stepped into the roles of characters from our class text *The Explorer*.



Year 6 enjoyed using a range of instruments to compose a sequence of music to match a scene from Tom and Jerry.



## Hot Chocolate Friday

Year 1— Ronnie

Year 2— Lorenzo

Year 3— Hunter

Year 4— Reggie

Year 5— Morris

Year 6— Pru



## Reader of the Week

Year 1— Odin

Year 2— Matthew

Year 3— Louie

Year 4— Halle

Year 5— Jake R

Year 6— Gabriel



## Cloakroom Award

## Diary Dates

11th-14th May—Year 6 SATS

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

8th June—Year 5 Music Workshop (please note change of date)

17th-19th June— Year 6 residential

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

The NHS Occupational Therapy Team will be running monthly parent advice sessions. These sessions are open to any families which don't have an existing referral.

The sessions will be with an Occupational Therapist and an Assistant.

The team will be able to give advice, signpost to other services / charities and support with completing a full referral to Occupational Therapy if it is felt the needs discussed require a full assessment.

The team will be able to support with advice around:

- Self Care tasks - e.g. washing, dressing, using cutlery, toileting
- Fine motor skill development
- Play skills
- Preschool / school readiness



### **Session Dates for 2026**

(more dates and locations may be added if required):

15 Jan, 19 Feb, 19 March, 16 April, 21 May and 18 June.

Slots will be available at 9am, 10am and 11am.

Appointments will last for 45mins.

To book, contact the department on **01983 534520** or via email to **[iownt.paediatric-ot-mailbox@nhs.net](mailto:iownt.paediatric-ot-mailbox@nhs.net)**

Sessions will take place at the Childrens Therapies Department,  
St Mary's Hospital, Newport, Isle of Wight



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**