



Mr Kirby's Weekly News

Dear Dover Park Family,

As always, it's been another busy and productive week at Dover Park. As we head into the final stretch of the spring term, I am constantly reminded of the dedication of our staff and the incredible resilience of our pupils.

Year 6 SATS: Exemplary Maturity

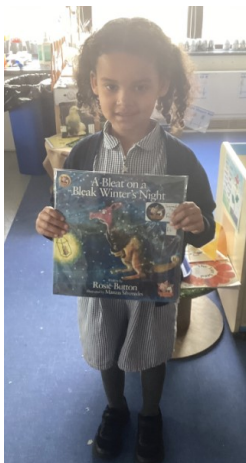
I would like to start by saying a huge 'well done' to our Year 6 pupils. This week, they completed their Key Stage 2 National Curriculum Tests (SATs), and I couldn't be prouder of how they conducted themselves. We saw 100% attendance across the cohort every single day, which is a testament to their commitment.

While these tests provide a snapshot of academic progress, they also provide children with the experience of formal testing. Our children approached each paper with a calm, mature attitude, which will serve as excellent preparation for their transition to secondary school. Regardless of the results, their work ethic was exemplary. Well done, Year 6!

Monkton Arts: Competition Success

Creative talent is thriving at our school! I am delighted to announce that we had **six winning entries** in the recent Monkton Arts competition. Children were challenged to write book reviews and artwork linked to their favourite texts.

As a reward for their creativity and hard work, each winner has received a signed copy of Rosie Button's wonderful book, '*A Bleat on a Bleak Winter's Night*'. A huge congratulations to our winners - we are very proud to have such imaginative ambassadors representing our school in the wider community. Special thanks to Monkton Arts for running such a fantastic competition.



Attendance Hero Challenge: Every Day Counts

We remain committed to ensuring every child has the best possible start in life. Research consistently shows a direct link between high attendance and attainment and improved life chances. Children who attend school regularly are significantly more likely to achieve higher attainment levels and develop stronger social bonds, so we want to support children being in school in any way we can.

We all know that mornings can be challenging for some families to get children up, fed and clothed in time (They certainly are in the Kirby household!). However, it's important for children to be in school and on time to settle into their routines and to complete their morning work: providing opportunities for children to consolidate their learning and to practice skills they have been taught. To support this and to celebrate our children, we are launching a new initiative for the final half term: **The Attendance HERO Challenge**.

An Attendance HERO is a child who is:

- Here
- Every day
- Ready
- On time

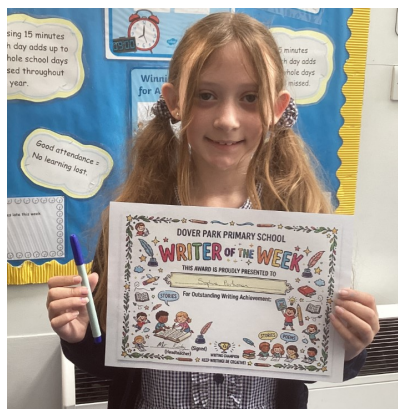
Every child who achieves 'HERO' status for a full week will be awarded a **raffle ticket**. These will be entered into a grand prize draw at the end of the academic year. We look forward to seeing who our lucky winners will be!



Celebrating Writers of the Week

We are thrilled to announce a new addition to our weekly Celebration Assemblies: Writers of the Week! This new award is designed to encourage creativity, effort and excellence in written work.

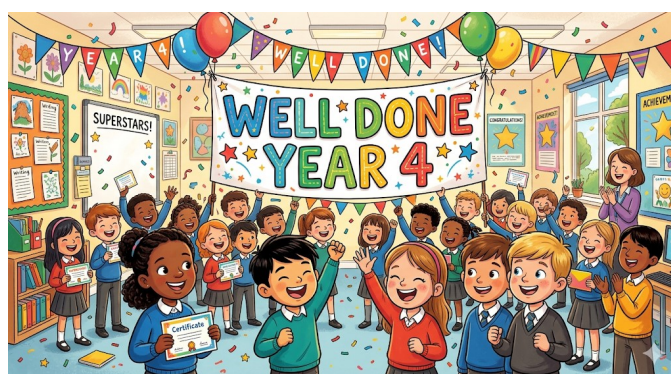
This week, we celebrated our very first cohort of Writers of the Week. Each of the winning children was proudly presented with our brand-new Writer of the Week certificate and a handwriting pen to encourage their writing journey. We look forward to celebrating many more talented writers throughout the year.



Year 4 Assembly

Finally, thank you to the parents and carers who joined us for the Year 4 class assembly on Thursday. The children did a fantastic job of showcasing their recent projects.

What struck me most was the visible growth in their confidence and how happy they are in their learning. Seeing pupils who were perhaps a little shy in September now standing tall and speaking clearly in front of an audience is an absolute joy. Well done, Year 4!



LEARNING

This week, Reception looked at number bonds to ten by using numicon. This helped them to immediately see the two parts that made the whole number ten.



Year 1 used their skills of cutting, smelling, tasting and finally choosing their ingredients and designs to make a delicious fruit salad. Some layered their salads others mixed it all in! They were all very full and ready to evaluate by the end of the lesson.



Year 2 we're exploring how author and illustrator Petr Horacek creates his artwork. They looked at a fragment of a page from 'The mouse who ate the moon,' using pencils, felt tips, chalk/oil pastels and watercolours to try to match his style and techniques. We will be using a wax resist technique to create our own paintings in art lessons soon!

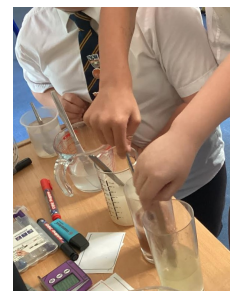
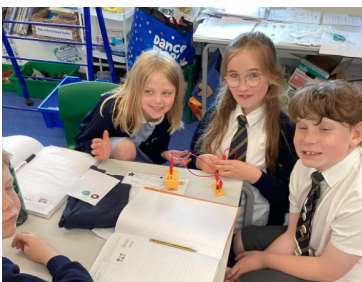


Year 3 have been enjoying our Geography unit on volcanoes. This week we looked at reasons for and against living near one, and the children were surprised to see how many benefits there are to living next to a volcano. After starting the lesson with no one wanting to live close by. At the end of the lesson, most children had changed their minds!

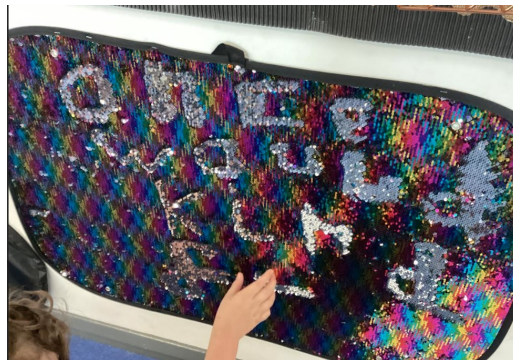
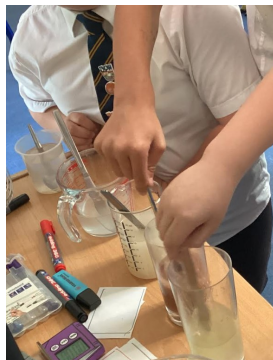


LEARNING

In science this week Year 4 explored the question: does doubling the amount of batteries double the brightness of a bulb?



This week in Science, year 5 explored solubility, investigating whether a substance (solute) can dissolve in water and what *dissolving* really means. In English, we have continued exploring *The Arrival*, particularly enjoying uncovering the backstories of the characters and the strange, mysterious world our main character is navigating. In Maths, we are revisiting our geometry skills, focusing on the properties of shapes, so please do quiz us on the names of shapes with different numbers and lengths of sides to help keep our learning sharp!



This week, in year 6, children were preparing to write their formal recount of the events surrounding the disappearance of Salim who is in our class reading book the 'London Eye Mystery'. Rehearsing and a bit of drama help to plan out what they are going to write.



Writer of the Week

Year 1— Phoebe

Year 2— Phoebe

Year 3— Pearl

Year 4— Sophie

Year 5— Annie-Belle

Year 6— Pru



Hot Chocolate

Year 1— Cameo

Year 2— Jacob D

Year 3— Farley

Year 4— Hugo

Year 5— James

Year 6— Billie-Rose

Cloakroom Award

Diary Dates

21st May — School Disco

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

22nd May—Sing Up

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

22nd June—School Development Day (School closed to children)

24th June—KS2 Sports Day (parents will be welcome in the afternoon, details to follow)

25th June—Reception & KS1 Sports Day (parents will be welcome in the afternoon, details to follow)

23rd July—Last day of term for children

Friday 24th July—Inset day STAFF ONLY

Monday 27th July—Inset day STAFF ONLY

Awards from Home



Well done to all the children that have been working hard on skills outside of school. This week's awards include Etta and Violet for walking the Wight and Alfie and Tommy for fantastic achievement in football and many more!



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families, couples

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**

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**

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YELLOW LINES**