



Dover Park Primary School



Mr Kirby's Weekly News

11 July
2026

Dear Dover Park Family

As we approach the end of another fantastic academic year, I want to take a moment to reflect on the incredible energy filling our school. It has been a week of looking forward, embracing change and celebrating everything that makes our Dover Park family so special.

At the heart of everything we do are our core values: Enjoy, Belong, and Believe. This week, those values have really shone through our entire school community.

Governor Forum Meeting ✨

On Wednesday, Dover Park had the privilege of hosting this term's Governor Forum Meeting. This is a significant event organized by the Local Authority, bringing together school governors from right across the Isle of Wight.

It is always a proud moment when external visitors recognise the unique, nurturing environment we have built here together and to hear lots of positive comments about our school.



www.doverpark.co.uk



Football Fever



On Monday, the school was absolutely buzzing with excitement! We brought the whole school together for a very special assembly to watch the highlights of the England v Mexico World Cup match.

The hall was filled with cheers, smiles, and collective pride as we watched England secure the victory. It was a great moment of togetherness. With the next match taking place over the weekend, I know many of our families will be cheering on the team from home. Good luck, England, in the quarter-finals!



School Uniform

I've had a couple of queries regarding school uniform recently and whether we intend to relax it to polo shirts for Key Stage 2. While I completely understand the appeal of a more casual, everyday routine, our choice to maintain a shirt and clip-on tie from Year 3 is very deliberate.

Here is why we believe keeping our traditional, high standards is in the best interest of our pupils:

- **Secondary School Readiness:** Our local secondary school requires a formal shirt, tie and blazer. Introducing this in Year 3 gives our children four years to become comfortable with formal dress, removing one major source of anxiety when they make the big leap to Year 7.
- **A Mindset for Learning:** Stepping into a formal uniform acts as a physical cue that the school day has begun. It fosters a sense of purpose, focus and pride, signalling to children that they are here to do important work.
- **Equality and Community:** A standardised formal uniform is a powerful equalizer. It eliminates peer pressure surrounding fashion trends and brands, ensuring every child stands on an equal footing.
- **Life Skills:** Learning that different environments, like school or the workplace, require different standards of dress is a vital lesson in context, self-discipline and respect.

While other schools may choose a different path, we take immense pride in how smart our Key Stage 2 children look and the high standards they represent. Thank you for your continued support in helping us prepare our children for a successful future.



Smooth Steps Forward: Our Transition Success

Transition is an incredibly important milestone for us, and our absolute priority is ensuring that our children feel safe, settled and happy as they look toward next year. We know that moving up a year can sometimes bring a little anxiety, which is why our transition model is designed to gently alleviate those worries. By giving our teachers multiple opportunities to work with their new classes in the afternoons, we build the foundations for future success.

Following on from a wonderful afternoon last week and full transition day on Tuesday, the children spent Friday afternoon immersed in their new classrooms once again.

They completed a fantastic range of fun, engaging activities designed to help staff and children get to know one another. I am a firm believer that strong relationships are the ultimate key to success in school and it was a lovely to see every single class settled, smiling and enjoying working together.

Meanwhile, our Year 6 class took an exciting step toward their next adventure with a day at their new secondary schools, finding out more about what life will look like in beyond Dover Park. We also had the pleasure of welcoming our brand-new Reception cohort for another 'Stay and Play' session. They are already a wonderful addition to our school family.

Celebrating Success - WOW Awards

Every Friday, our Celebration Assemblies give us a chance to pause and recognise children who are excelling, pushing their boundaries and challenging themselves across the curriculum and beyond.

This week, we shone a spotlight on our Religious Education (RE) WOW Awards. It has been great to celebrate children who have been thinking so carefully about other religions. They have been asking incredibly thoughtful questions, demonstrating acceptance of difference and bravely sharing their own personal experiences. They embody our value of respecting and valuing every individual in our world.

This year's RE WOW Awards go to:

Rec - Rocco and Rudy

Y1 - Ellie and Phoebe

Y2 - Lorenzo and Matthew

Y3 - Preston and Pearl

Y4 - Lisa and Hugo

Y5 - Nuha and Vaishnav

Y6 - Pru and Isaac



In the Classrooms

Reception Class

Reception had a great morning on their beach visit. They enjoyed discovering treasures. It was a long walk back up the hill so they cooled down under the hose as soon as they got back!



Year 2

Year 2 have been using their powers of belief and resilience in Maths. They have used 'trial and error' as a problem solving strategy to apply their knowledge of number and place value.



Years 3 & 4

During the heatwave, we adapted our PE curriculum to ensure we kept the children safe from the sun. Year 3 and 4 really enjoyed planning crazy golf routes as a team, then having a go at recreating them and testing them out. They were so creative and enjoyed the challenge!



Year 5

What a way to round off our sailing adventure! During our final session at Seaview Yacht Club, nerves were certainly tested, but we saw so much bravery, resilience and courage as the children challenged themselves on the water. Back in the classroom, we checked on our mummified tomatoes... be sure to ask your child what they look like now! Finally, the children put their mathematical thinking to the test by tackling a maths mystery, solving clues to uncover the culprit. A brilliant end to another busy week in Year 5!!



Year 6

This week, Year 6 have been rising to the challenge of making a car park barrier that opens and closes using a sensor. It has involved using 'Scratch' to write the instructions to make the barrier work.





Celebrations and Award



Writers of the Week

YR: Khadeja
Y1: Arnie
Y2: Charlie
Y3: Abigail
Y4: Alecsandra
Y5: Sophia S
Y6: Tommy

Hot Chocolate Friday Winners

YR: Bowie
Y1: Hurricane
Y2: Logan
Y3: Kaelen
Y4: Arlo
Y5: Owen
Y6: Chester

Cloakroom Award

Reception Class



This week in assembly, we celebrated the whole of year5 for their fantastic achievements in their sailing lessons, the incredible achievements of our Bikeability children and writers of the week (and much much more!!)

Dates for the Diary

14th July—Year 1 trip to Wildheart Sanctuary

15th July—Year 4 trip to Carisbrooke Castle

17th July—Summer Fayre 3:20-5:00pm

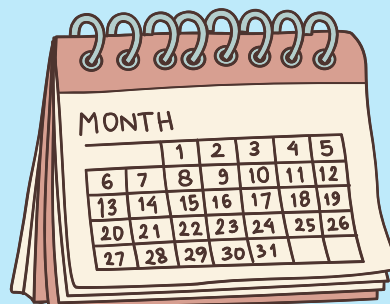
21st July—Year 6 leavers assembly 5:30-
6:30pm

22nd July—Year 6 Prom—Ryde Castle—6:00-
8:00pm

23rd July—Last day of term for children

24th July—Inset day STAFF ONLY

27th July—Inset day STAFF ONLY





Staff Performances



Mrs Grubb
playing the keyboard!



Miss Jones as
Mrs Potts!



Our very own Miss Jones and Mrs Grubb are performing in Beauty and the Beast at Medina Theatre on 10th and 12th July. If you'd like to see them in action, tickets are available, as detailed above.

Community



**ISLE OF WIGHT
STEAM RAILWAY**

IWSO
ISLE OF WIGHT
SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Steam Railway Prom

Saturday 25th July 2026, 3pm
Isle of Wight Steam Railway, Havenstreet

**kids go
free***
*SEE WIGHTLINK FOR DETAILS

Enjoy family film favourites with a live orchestra and a Last Night of the Proms finale.
Bring a picnic. Dogs welcome.

iwsteamrailway.co.uk/events

WIGHTLINK
Isle of Wight Council

Isle of Wight Symphony Orchestra Society is a registered charity, No. 283278

£3 per session
Refreshments are free

Every Wednesday
10:30am – 12:00pm
(Except the 3rd Wednesday of the month)



**For those with dementia
and their carers**

**No musical ability needed
Come along and have some fun**

All Saints Church - Ryde
Queens Rd
PO33 3BG
01983 716020



Beat the heat

Plan ahead



Check the weather
forecast and the news



Plan ahead to
avoid the heat



Schedule activities to
cooler times of the day

Keep yourself cool



Drink plenty of fluids and
avoid excess alcohol



Wear sunscreen, a
hat, and sunglasses



Cool your skin with water
and slow down

Find somewhere cool



Close blinds and curtains
during the day



Go indoors or outdoors,
whichever feels cooler



Avoid closed spaces
like stationary cars

Be safe



Be on the lookout
for signs of heat
related illness



Look after yourself
and check in with
others



Stay safe when
swimming



Get help. Call
NHS 111 or in an
emergency 999

For more information go to: gov.uk/ukhsa/beat-the-heat

A six-week celebration of
creativity and culture taking
place across the Isle of Wight.

**11 SEPTEMBER
to 24 OCTOBER**

CREATIVE
ISLAND
Presents

CAN YOU HEAR US?

Celebrating all
that the Island is

Find out more →

Join the creative island team from 11th September to 24th October 2026 for the Island's 6-week celebration of creativity and culture: CAN YOU HEAR US?

Between now until the end of October, we're building up to our 6-week celebration by collaborating with brilliant partners to host a vibrant range of FREE community-led activities to ensure that everyone has access to creative and cultural opportunities. We're talking theatre, carnival, music, food, nature, craft and stories. Reconnect with your community, try something new and join in the Island's biggest celebration.

Free activities are ready for you to book, visit canyouhearus.uk for more information.



HAF is back for Summer 2026!

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme offers free activities and meals to eligible school-age children during the main school holidays. With summer approaching we have included details below of our summer programme.

- Activities run from Monday 27th July- Friday 28th August
- Bookings open Tuesday 23rd June at 12pm
- All activities include a healthy nutritious meal for children and young people attending
- Free spaces are available to children who receive income-related free school meals
- Varied activity programme including horse riding, music, football, fun at the farm, youth clubs, multi activity holiday clubs, bushcraft, water sports and family days.
- Please share with families you are working with and encourage them to book on to activities should they be eligible.

We can also offer a limited number of discretionary-funded places for children who do not meet the criteria above but would benefit from attending. This may include, for example:

- Children assessed by the Local Authority as being in need, at risk or vulnerable
- Looked-after children
- Children under Early Help
- Young carers
- Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

For more information on the programme and details on who can access discretionary funded places, please visit our [webpages](#).

How to book:

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



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

Please contact the HAF Team on holidayactivities@iow.gov.uk if you have any questions.