# Dover Park Primary School



# Mr Kirby's Weekly News

5th Sept 2026

## Dear Dover Park Family

Following our three-day settling-in period last week, it has been great to complete our first full week back at Dover Park. The children have adapted brilliantly to the longer days, swiftly getting back into the rhythm of school routines and meeting our high expectations for learning.

Across all year groups, we have seen our core school values in action: pupils enjoying their lessons, feeling a strong sense of belonging within their new classrooms and showing the confidence to believe in their own potential as the term gains momentum.
Warm regards,

Mr Kirby

## Individual Education Plan (IEP) Meetings

A reminder to parents of pupils on our SEND register that Mrs. Roberts will be conducting IEP meetings this coming Monday.

These meetings provide a vital opportunity to review your child's targets, celebrate their recent achievements and to work collaboratively to ensure they receive the best possible support. If you have not yet confirmed an appointment, please contact Mrs. Roberts.





# An Unusual Request: Clean Sock Donations



We have just introduced a new handwriting scheme called Kinetic Letters, which the children have been thoroughly enjoying. As part of this program, we have a somewhat unusual request for our school community: we are asking for donations of clean, spare socks.

Placing a sock over their non-writing hand allows pupils to quickly erase their whiteboards while keeping their dominant hand ready to write. If you have any spare, clean socks at home that are no longer needed, please send them in with your child. (Rest assured, our teaching staff are vastly relieved that we are requesting clean ones.)



# Sports Fixtures: A flying Start

We are passionate about offering our pupils the opportunity to apply their sporting skills in structured clubs, competitive matches and inter-school events. To ensure a rich calendar of opportunities, Mr. Chapman has been carefully mapping out competitive sports across the academic year and has already secured and supported our very first fixtures!

Our Year 5 and 6 football team has already kicked off the season, competing in their first matches in the Pokémon Cup at Ryde School. The children played brilliantly, displaying fantastic teamwork, sportsmanship and determination. It is great to see our sporting calendar underway so early in the term!



# A Literacy Visit: Ian Dickens

We strive to provide opportunities that engage and inspire our children across every subject, which is why we work hard to plan meaningful school trips and host expert visitors throughout the year.

This week, we were honored to welcome Ian Dickens, the great-great-grandson of Charles Dickens, to Dover Park. Ian delivered a captivating assembly to Years 5 and 6, speaking eloquently about the power of storytelling and the extraordinary opportunities that writing can unlock. He also introduced an exciting new writing competition, "The Power of the Pen." The children were completely spellbound and we look forward to seeing the wonderful creative writing that stems from this visit.





# Parent Governor Vacancy

We currently have a vacancy on our Governing Body for a Parent Governor. Serving as a governor is a rewarding way to contribute to the strategic leadership of the school and support our ongoing development. Further details regarding the application can be found on the following link:

https://forms.gle/iwoDrTFJSw3hsZMn7

# Nutritious Snacks and Lunchbox Guidelines

To ensure the health and safety of all our pupils, please keep the following guidelines in mind regarding food brought into school:

## Snacks:

Children are welcome to bring a breaktime snack, but this must be limited to fresh fruit or a healthy, handheld alternative.

## Lunchboxes:

Lunchboxes should provide a balanced meal and must not contain sweets or chocolate bars.

## Reheating Food:

Please note that staff are unable to reheat food sent from home, so all packed lunches should be ready to eat.

## No Nuts:

We have pupils in school with severe nut allergies. Therefore, no products containing nuts are permitted to be brought into school by pupils - this includes peanut butter and nut-based chocolate spreads.






# In the Classrooms

## Reception Class

Reception enjoyed using mirrors to talk about their facial features, before drawing some incredible self-portraits.





## Year 1

Year 1 have been showing their excellent maths knowledge. They have been counting objects within 10, counting from a larger group and using different representations and manipulatives.





## Year 2

Year 2 have been busy using role play in their English work this week. They had to create a freeze frame to show a traditional tale without moving. They tried really hard to use facial expressions to show how characters were feeling..





## Year 3

Year 3 had a lot of fun in English this week. They came into class on Monday to discover the big bad wolf had made a mess in their classroom! They became detectives to try and figure out it he was actually bad or simply just had a cold!









## Year 4

Year 4 enjoyed exploring perimeter this week in maths, they began with some careful measuring using their feet and went outside to measure the perimeter of different shapes on the playground and the distance around the muga.....it was very quiet as they counted carefully and thought about their heel to toe measuring!





## Year 5

Year 5 have been busy in Computing, designing their own input and output systems to make a teddy complete a process and in PSHE they put their teamwork and problem-solving skills to the test with a paper tower challenge: who can build the tallest freestanding tower using just 6 pieces of paper?




## Year 6

This week Year 6 were introduced to playing the Ukulele. They learnt about it's different parts and started by learning to play the chord C. This was the first step to playing some simple songs.




# Celebrations

## Hot Chocolate Disco Friday

Year 1: Rudy
Year 2: Arnie
Year 3: Maisie
Year 4: Pearl
Year 5: Isabelle
Year 6: Sophia B & Stuey



## Readers of the Week

Year 1: Jinash
Year 2: Cameo
Year 3: Louis
Year 4: Kaelen
Year 5: Hugo
Year 6: Sophia-Rae



## Awards from Home

Well done to Winnie for gaining her 5 metre badge!






Lift Ryde

# Lift Ryde Open Evening

## October 7th 4:00pm - 7:00pm

Parent Presentations 4:30pm and 5:30pm



## FREE ONLINE COURSES FOR PARENTS / CARERS

**Book a place by emailing: info@sftrust.org.uk**






Southampton Family Trust
building relationships



Does your child have ADHD or ADHD traits?

FREE ONLINE SEMINAR

## "An Introduction to Parenting Children with ADHD"

Insights and strategies for families

**Thursday 8th October 2026, 7.30 - 9.00 pm**

No booking required!

Simply join the seminar by scanning the QR code or use the Zoom details below:

**Meeting ID: 890 8579 5122**
**Passcode: 492249**

If you prefer, feel free to email us at **info@sftrust.org.uk** for the Zoom link.

www.sftrust.org.uk

Scan the QR code for the Zoom link

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Southampton Family Trust
building relationships



Does your child have or might have autism?

FREE ONLINE SEMINAR

## "An Introduction to Parenting Children with Autism"

Insights and strategies for families

**Thursday 22nd October 2026, 7.30 - 9.00 pm**

No booking required!

Simply join the seminar by scanning the QR code or use the Zoom details below:

**Meeting ID: 837 3366 5621**
**Passcode: 160704**

If you prefer, feel free to email us at **info@sftrust.org.uk** for the Zoom link.

www.sftrust.org.uk

Scan the QR code for the Zoom link

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Southampton Family Trust
building relationships



Does it sometimes feel like everything is a battle with your child or teen?

FREE ONLINE SEMINAR

## Understanding Demand Avoidance in Neurodivergent Children (diagnosed or suspected)

Insights and strategies for families

**Thursday 12th November 2026, 7.30 - 9.00 pm**

No booking required!

Simply join the seminar by scanning the QR code or use the Zoom details below:

**Meeting ID: 857 2711 9710**
**Passcode: 701137**

If you prefer, feel free to email us at **info@sftrust.org.uk** for the Zoom link.

www.sftrust.org.uk

Scan the QR code for the Zoom link

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Southampton Family Trust
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Is your child masking at school and crashing at home?

FREE ONLINE SEMINAR

## "Understanding Masking and Burnout in Neurodivergent Children"

Insights and strategies for families

**Thursday 26th November 2026, 7.30 - 9.00 pm**

No booking required!

Simply join the seminar by scanning the QR code or use the Zoom details below:

**Meeting ID: 864 1384 1446**
**Passcode: 303701**

If you prefer, feel free to email us at **info@sftrust.org.uk** for the Zoom link.

www.sftrust.org.uk

Scan the QR code for the Zoom link

Isle of Wight Council

BEST START IN LIFE

*You're Invited*

REOPENING OF

# COWES FAMILY CENTRE

## SUPPORTING FAMILIES and STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

*Come and celebrate with us!*

**VENUE**
Cowes Family Centre, Love Lane, Cowes

**DATE**
Tuesday, October 20, 2026 at 10:00 AM



**PROGRAMME**

**Session one (Families)**
10:00am to 12:00pm

**Ribbon cutting ceremony hosted by Councillor Freeman**
10:30am

**Session two (Professionals)**
1:00pm to 3:00pm

Find out more on the
Isle of Wight Family Information Hub What's On
https://tinyurl.com/2c964zbz