Dover Park Primary School



Mr Kirby's Weekly News

14th Nov 2026

Dear Dover Park Family

I hope you have all had a good week. In school, it's been a busy week, filled with thoughtful reflection, hands-on learning and exciting plans for the year ahead. This week, I would like to share a detailed look at our School Improvement Plan priorities for the 2026-27 academic year, alongside highlights from across our classrooms this week. Following feedback from pupils, we've also included a Sports News section, written by Mr Chapman, providing an overview of sports activities throughout the week. Thank you, as always, for your ongoing partnership and support. Wishing you and your families a restful and enjoyable weekend.

Warm regards,

Mr Kirby

Remembrance Day Reflections

This week, our school community came together to mark Remembrance Day and I could not have been prouder of how respectful, thoughtful and mature our pupils were throughout the occasion.

Ahead of the service, the children spent time in class carefully crafting wreaths, which were then laid during our commemorative assembly. Together, we reflected on the significance of Remembrance Day and why it remains so important to pause and honour those who have served.

The children stood impeccably for the two-minute silence. We were also incredibly fortunate to be joined by a cornet player, who movingly played The Last Post to introduce the silence and Reveille to bring it to a close.

It was a poignant moment for the whole school and our pupils conducted themselves with genuine dignity.

School Improvement Priorities 2026-27

At Dover Park Primary School, our vision of 'Learning Together to be Our Best' sits at the very heart of everything we do. Each year, we identify three or four key priorities for development. Rather than guessing where to focus our energy, these priorities are chosen following a rigorous evaluation of our internal pupil data, classroom monitoring and feedback from wider sources.

Setting clear priorities ensures we focus on the right things at the right time, allowing us to continually enhance our educational offer and secure the very best outcomes for every child. Our three core priorities for this year are:

PRIORITY

Priority 1: Improving Outcomes in Reading, Writing, and Maths Combined

We are working to accelerate progress across all three core subjects together, ensuring that children who may be slightly off track in a single subject receive swift, targeted support.

What this looks like in class: We are embedding daily Number Sense and Mastering Number sessions to strengthen fluency in number bonds, multiplication and division, alongside targeted work on fractions. We have also introduced early diagnostic screening (Tallimō) to quickly identify and support barriers such as dyslexia or dyscalculia, paired with dedicated work on attendance, belonging and wellbeing.

PRIORITY

Priority 2: Improving Outcomes in Writing

We want every child to feel confident, inspired, and fluent when putting pen to paper.

What this looks like in class: We have introduced a dedicated 20-minute daily handwriting session focusing on fluency, pencil grip and posture ("sitting for success"). Alongside this, we are using Colourful Semantics to support sentence structures, enforcing clear spelling expectations across all subjects and bringing writing units to life through drama, live modelling and visiting authors.

PRIORITY

Priority 3: Developing Leadership and Planning of Foundation Subjects

A rich, broad curriculum is essential for sparking curiosity. We are reviewing our long-term planning and progression maps across our foundation subjects (such as history, geography, science, and art) and developing our use of data in these subjects to enhance our offer.

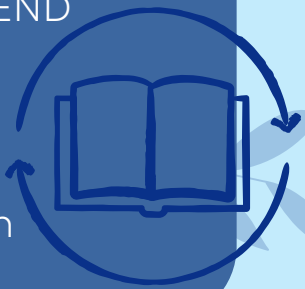
What this looks like in class: Subject leaders have dedicated release time to monitor learning and supporting staff, while targeted pre-teaching helps ensure that all pupils, including those with SEND or additional needs, can access the full curriculum with confidence.

Investing in Our Staff and Curriculum

We continuously review both our curriculum and the way we implement it to ensure our teaching is the best it can possibly be. Every subject at Dover Park has a dedicated leader in school and all of our leaders attend regular Continuing Professional Development (CPD) to stay at the forefront of educational best practice.

Just over the past two weeks alone:

- Mr Rowson attended specialist CPD for maths leadership.
- Mrs Newnham attended a science leadership course.
- Ms Castle attended a geography development session.
- Mrs Newnham and Miss Baxter participated in training focused on developing maths teaching across the school.
- Mrs Roberts and I joined fellow headteachers and SENDCos on a dedicated course aimed at further developing SEND provision.



This ongoing investment reflects our deep commitment to developing our staff team and ensuring our curriculum remains dynamic, inclusive and effective.



Hands-On Design Technology Parent Workshops

I'm really passionate about parents, children and staff working together to support children as a school community. It has been fantastic to kick off the new half term by welcoming so many parents and carers into school for our Year 5 and Year 6 Design Technology workshops. Seeing families learning alongside their children brings such a great energy to the classrooms.

Year 6 got stuck into practical engineering, safely using saws and bench supports to begin constructing wooden chassis and axles for their moving cars. (I am pleased to report that all fingers remain intact and accounted for!)

Year 5 focused on textiles, mastering a range of different sewing stitches with great patience and precision.

Thank you to all the parents and carers who were able to join us and lend an extra pair of hands. Your support makes a huge difference to the children's enthusiasm and confidence.



Reminders & Looking Ahead

Attendance & Winter Bugs: As part of our school improvement work this year, we are aiming for whole-school attendance of 96.5%. We are now getting to that time of year where winter bugs start circulating amongst our school community. Coughs and colds are common during these months, and we want to reassure you that children are perfectly safe to attend with these mild illnesses. We understand that it can sometimes be a difficult decision in the morning rush to know whether or not your child is well enough to come in. If you send your child into school, our staff will monitor them closely throughout the day; we hold a school supply of Calpol that we can administer with your consent if needed, or we will contact you to collect them early should they become too unwell to stay in class.



Winter Weather: As November temperatures dip, please ensure your child comes to school every day with a warm, clearly named coat (we have a growing collection of unlabelled knitwear trying to make a break for it in lost property!).

In the Classrooms

Reception Class

RThis week, Reception welcomed some very special visitors from our local Police team as part of their People Who Help Us topic. The children loved learning about how officers keep our community safe and even got a closer look at their uniform and equipment!





Year 1

In Art Year 1 have started looking at primary and secondary colours. They practiced mixing the correct colours, finding out what happens if you had too much on one colour or not enough of the other. They created their own colour wheels to help them.

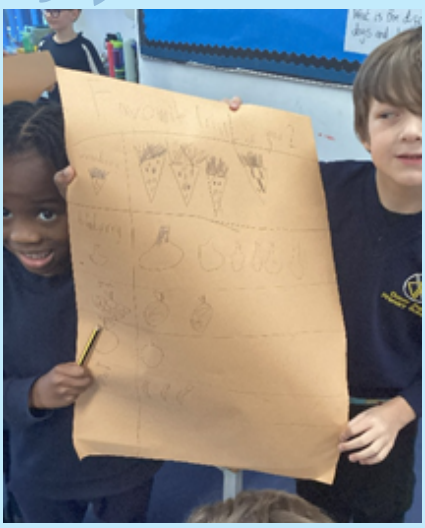


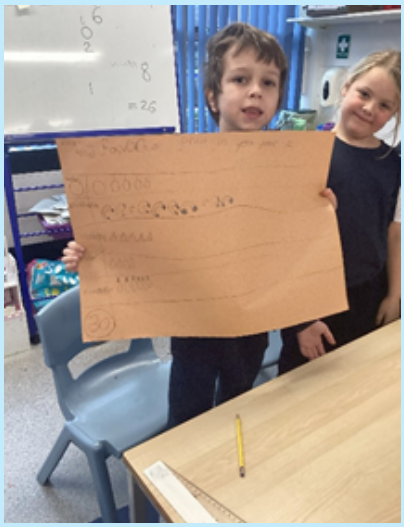




Year 2

Year 2 have been using pictograms in maths and this week they created their own. They have been using subtraction to find the difference between two amounts.







Year 3

This week Year 3 became history detectives. They looked at artefacts from the Stone Age and discussed what they were made out of, what they were used for and what this taught us about people from the Stone Age.











Year 4

This week Year 4 will have added the “square” times tables to the list of multiplication and division facts they have learned. These are number facts such as 3 x 3 = 9 and 7 x 7 = 49 (Mr Rowson’s favourite times table). Heading into next week they will begin to have daily practice of the 5 times table, mixing in 2 times and square times along the way. The pupils tested out their 2s and 10s using TTRS this week and were very impressed at their improved speed and accuracy.





Year 5

It was WONDERFUL to welcome families into our classroom this week to get hands-on with textiles! Tying knots is a fiddly business, so the extra pairs of hands were very much appreciated.

The children have absolutely LOVED their poetry writing this week. They’ve thrown themselves into creating some wonderfully dramatic storm poems, so get ready to see some stunning writing over the coming week!





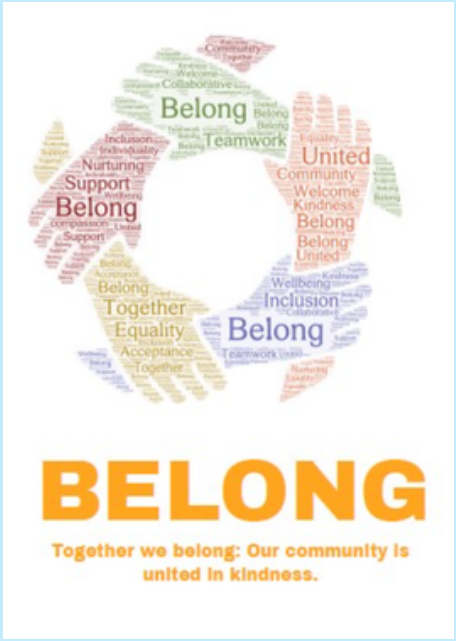
Year 6

This week as part of Year 6's Design Technology project they have been building the base for their car design. This has involved careful measuring, sawing and joining. Luckily we had a team of 27 parents and family members to hand. Thank you for all your help!











Celebrations

Hot Chocolate Disco Friday

Year R: Declan
Year 1: George
Year 2: Ari
Year 3: Amelia
Year 4: Henry
Year 5: Olivia H
Year 6: Annie



Readers of the Week

Year 1: Eli
Year 2: Harry
Year 3: Cody
Year 4: Olivia
Year 5: Olivia J
Year 6: Zak



Awards from Home









Attendance Award



This week's attendance award goes to Reception Class:

98.6%

Cloakroom Award

This week's cloakroom award goes to :

Year 1



NEW

Mr. Chapman's Sports News

This week's Sports star award goes to :

Arabella



Arabella has had an outstanding week, scoring two hat-tricks across two fixtures for our Under-9 girls, helping the team secure victories in both games. Alongside her performances on the pitch, Arabella has also been putting in some fantastic efforts during PE lessons, particularly in basketball and indoor athletics. A brilliant week all round. Well done, Arabella!



Sports Weekly Round Up

This week, our younger year groups have been developing their movement skills, focusing on aerial shapes and repeating movements, alongside a range of ball skills.

As we progress through the school, Years 3 and 4 and Years 5 and 6 have been preparing for their upcoming indoor athletics events, putting their movement skills into practice and developing their coordination.

Alongside this, pupils have continued to build their ball skills, with a transition towards basketball. Dribbling, ball control and maintaining possession have been at the forefront of this week's learning, helping pupils develop confidence and control with the ball.

Football Fixture Report

The Bay travelled to Dover Park today to take on our girls, who continued exactly where they left off against Ryde School with another fantastic performance and an emphatic 6-2 victory! The girls started brilliantly and carried their confidence into another strong team performance. Amelia, Abigail and Sofia all got themselves on the scoresheet, while Arabella continued her incredible goalscoring form with another hat-trick! At the other end of the pitch, Etta produced some fantastic saves in goal to help keep the team going throughout the game. A huge shout-out to the whole team. The girls are continuing to show everything we work on in PE and their football sessions, with brilliant teamwork, determination and a real desire to keep improving.

A fantastic result and another performance to be proud of. Well done, girls!



GOAL!!

Dates for the Diary

Whole School Dates

Monday 7th December - Christingle

Tuesday 15th December - Christmas Movie Night – PJ's and Popcorn

Friday 18th December - Last day of Term

Monday 4th January - First day back to school after the Chrstmas break

Reception

Wednesday 16th December – Christmas crafts

Friday 21st May – Music workshop

Thursday 15th July – Class Assembly

Year 1

Tuesday 15th December – Art Workshop

Thursday 18th March – Class Assembly

Tuesday 18th May – Music Workshop

Year 2

Wednesday 9th December – Music Workshop

Wednesday 17th March – DT Workshop

Friday 28th May – Class Assembly

Year 3

Thursday 11th February – Class Assembly

Monday 15th March – Music Workshop

Monday 17th May – Art Workshop





Dates for the Diary

Year 4

Thursday 10th December – Class Assembly
Thursday 20th May – Music Workshop
Thursday 1st July – Art Workshop

Year 5

Thursday 12th November – DT Workshop
Thursday 25th March – Class Assembly
Thursday 13th May – Music Workshop

Year 6

Wednesday 11th November – DT Workshop
Monday 1st March – Music Workshop
TBC – Leavers Assembly





DOVER PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

CHRISTMAS & DECEMBER DATES

1st DECEMBER



CHRISTMAS/WINTER JUMPER WORN TO SCHOOL

in exchange for a food donation for Food Bank 12 Days of Christmas

(each class will be asked for a specific donation)

7th DECEMBER



WHOLE SCHOOL CHRISTINGLE

8th DECEMBER



YEAR 6 PUPILS

going to Lift Ryde School to watch their performance of Nativity

15th DECEMBER



PJs AND POPCORN

(pjs to school and a movie after school with a snack)

17th DECEMBER



SCHOOL CHRISTMAS DINNER DAY

children are welcome to wear Christmas/winter clothing

menus to be sent

18th DECEMBER



SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PARTY LUNCH

children invited to wear Christmas/winter party clothes.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS FROM ALL AT DOVER PARK!

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

Southampton Family Trust
building relationships



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

Family Hubs
Isle of Wight

Ready to Learn



IS YOUR CHILD READY TO LEARN?
Join Our FREE Family Hub Session for Parents and Carers of Children Aged 3-5

Come and find out how small steps at home can help your child become confident, curious, and ready to learn.

What will we explore?

- **Communication Skills**
- **Growing Independence**
- **Social & Emotional Development**
- **Physical Development**
- **Healthy Routines**

Scan the QR code below to book a space on the next available session.

BARNARDO'S

Isle of Wight Council

BEST START IN LIFE

HEALTHY BABIES

Barnardo's Registered Charity Nos. 216250 and SC037605 24423shc23



Step into Wildheart Wonderland

Join us at the Wildheart Animal Sanctuary for a magical festive evening as the Sanctuary is transformed into a winter wonderland of lights, music, fire and festive fun!

On Friday 4th and Saturday 5th December, from 5pm to 7.30pm, come along and experience the Sanctuary after dark, with dazzling illuminations, live entertainment and plenty of festive atmosphere for the whole family.

Get into the Christmas spirit with:

- ✨ Festive illuminations and spectacular light installations from The New Carnival Company plus LED light shows from StixGuy Kai and Azaria
- 🎶 Christmas carols and festive favourites performed by the Melodic Choir & The Collective Voice Choir
- 🎤 Live entertainment throughout the evening including music performances by Here Comes Treble, Ruby & Amy Jolliffe and a spectacular aerial display by Jaydene Lee Arts
- 🔥 Enjoy a cosy firepit to warm up beside & delicious food from local food traders

Whether you're looking for a magical family night out, a festive get-together with friends or simply want to soak up some Christmas atmosphere, Wildheart Wonderland is the perfect way to start the festive season!

Book now!





Registered charity number 1171144
www.wildheartanimalsanctuary.org
Yaverland Road, Sandown, PO36 8QB

ROTARY ON THE WIGHT CHARITY QUIZ

Rotary on the Wight Grand Charity Quiz at the Riverside Centre! (Trafalgar Room)







FRIDAY 20TH NOVEMBER

7PM FOR 7:30PM START

Teams of up to 6
Costs £10 per head - all proceeds to charity!
Cash bar (no drinks to be brought in)
'Nibbles' provided
Raffle
Booking is essential!

For more information, please contact Ian Pratt
ian.pratt5@btopenworld.com