

COVID-19

With cases of Covid-19 rising in the local area, we are reviewing daily the guidelines from the Government. We will contact all parents by the end of Monday 1st November (inset day), if the Government are recommending any changes to the way the school day is to run. You should all have received a letter this week with some of the details of the closure of Cherry class and the processes we have put in place.

Sickness

Unfortunately, Mr. Daniels is unwell and hasn't been in the academy for the past week. We are very fortunate that Mr. Wright with support from the rest of the staff has stepped in and we have been doing fantastic work in the academy. We would like to wish Mr. Daniels a speedy recovery.

Staff News

We are sadly saying goodbye to Mrs. Mee today. We will miss her greatly and wish her all the best on her next adventure. Mrs. Banks will be joining the office in the mornings to give some support to the school day.

Parents Meetings

The online parent's evenings were a great success again and we hope you found them useful. Thank you to all the staff who helped to make the evenings run smoothly. For those parent's in cherry class we will be in contact shortly to provide new dates and times.

Parking Around the Academy

Once again, we've received complaints about parents parking around the academy and not giving consideration to pedestrians and other drivers. I understand people are leaving their cars around the roundabout and blocking driveways, causing considerable obstruction. Please can you be mindful of parking and to use the one-way system when driving to and from the academy. (Heading to school - Second Avenue - School Road – Dursley Primary, leaving school – Highfields Approach),

Inset Day – Monday 1st November

We would like to remind you that the school will be closed to all pupils on the Monday following the half term for an inset day. School will reopen to all children on Tuesday 2nd November.

School Photos

The school photographer is booked to visit us on **Tuesday 2nd November** for the children's individual photographs. Unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions we are unable to offer photos for younger siblings not at Dursley Primary school this year.

New Reception 2022 School Visits

We've had a number of prospective reception class 2022 parents calling us with regards to visiting the academy. Unfortunately, due to the rising number of Covid cases in the area, we have made the decision not to offer these visits at the moment. We hope that we are able to resume these visits later on this year. We do have a fantastic virtual tour on our school website which is a short video to show what Dursley Primary Academy has to offer. If you know anyone who is interesting in our Academy, please direct them to

<https://www.dursleycofeprimaryschool.org.uk/virtual-tour>

Holidays During Term Time

Whilst I realise absence through illness is unavoidable, I do have concerns about children missing school through holidays and the impact this makes on their learning. Children also need to be present for important assessments throughout the year – **there are particularly important tests for Year Six and Year Two in May and Year One in June. I cannot, therefore, authorise any requests for family holidays except in exceptional circumstances.**

Important - Year Six Transfer to Secondary School

Year Six children will have received a letter regarding their transfer to secondary school. This is a reminder that the deadline for applications is **31st October 2021**. Go to www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/transfersecondaryschool for further information. If you need any help with the application, please let me know.



Reception Class

Elm and Palm classes have had a very busy, but fun week!

We had a fantastic walk where we looked at all the autumnal treasures our local area has to offer, with lots of leaf collecting and puddle jumping.

Then on Wednesday we had an amazing dress-up day which the children really enjoyed.

We would like to thank all the parents who were able to help out with our walk.

Swimming Lessons

Swimming lessons for children in Cedar and Maple classes will begin the week after half term. Cedar will have their lessons on Thursdays, Maple will be on Wednesdays. You should have all received an email with the dates and payment details. Please use ParentPay to pay for the lessons and to give your consent. If you do not have the log-in details for your child, please contact the school office.

We would be grateful for any parent volunteers to walk the children down to the pool. If you can help, please speak to your child's class teacher.

School Association

Date for your diary – Christmas Fair

The School Association have set the date for this year's Christmas fair for Friday 3rd December 5-7pm

Our first donation request is for the Jolly Jars Tombola on the 12th November - Fill a small jar with children's treats.

They could be sweets, small toys, crayons, hair accessories, decorations -anything really! Decorate the jar if you're feeling creative!

VIRTUAL 50/50 BUCKET for 2021/22

This Month's winner is **Kristy Maidment**. Congratulations Kristy you have won £50! The School Association will be in touch shortly.

If you would like to be in with a chance of winning on our monthly prize, please consider signing up to the school VIRTUAL 50/50 BUCKET for 2021/22.

Based on the 50:50 buckets that we have at the school fairs, and so called "100 clubs" it is a great way to support your association whilst having a bit of a flutter! Simply complete and sign the subscription form sent out last week and sign up for **£2 a month** (or £24 annually) per entry. This buys you **one membership number** (which will be randomly allocated); this will enter you into the monthly draw. All participants must be parents, guardians or staff of Dursley C of E Primary Academy School. The draw will take place during Worship on the last Friday of each month (or virtually if no Worship is held). **The winner will receive 50% of the membership fee taken that month.** The remaining 50% goes to the School Association to help fund equipment, resources and opportunities for pupils. In 2020/21 the average prize was more than £60, and if we sell more tickets, the prize could be higher. If you win, a cheque will be posted to your home address. The name of the winner will be announced in the newsletter, on Facebook and the school's website. Any queries, please contact the school association on schoolassociation@dursley.gloucs.sch.uk

Holidays During Term Time

Whilst I realise absence through illness is unavoidable, I do have concerns about children missing school through holidays and the impact this makes on their learning. Children also need to be present for important assessments throughout the year – **there are particularly important tests for Year Six and Year Two in May and Year One in June. I cannot, therefore, authorise any requests for family holidays except in exceptional circumstances.**



Cake Sales

The first cake sale of the year was a great success with Magnolia Class raising a fantastic **£90** for the school association! Thank you so much to everyone who either donated or purchased a cake.

Our next cake sale will take place on Friday 12th November, when we will be asking Willow and Copper Beech classes to provide the cakes. Happy baking!

We wish you all a wonderful half term and we look forward to seeing you all on November 2nd.

David Wright

Together we shine brightly

Holidays During Term Time

Whilst I realise absence through illness is unavoidable, I do have concerns about children missing school through holidays and the impact this makes on their learning. Children also need to be present for important assessments throughout the year – **there are particularly important tests for Year Six and Year Two in May and Year One in June. I cannot, therefore, authorise any requests for family holidays except in exceptional circumstances.**