

### End of Term!

What a busy term! We have enjoyed many different activities from painting Picasso inspired art works, heart based experiments to fencing, swimming galas and circus skills. We have lots planned for next term, and are looking forward to welcoming the children back on **Tuesday 20 February 2024**.

### Parking

Some of our local residents have been in touch, to let me know that some parents/carers have been blocking streets and driveways with their parked cars. Please can I ask you to be respectful of our local residents, and ensure that you park safely and considerately when dropping your children off. The Local PCSOs have been informed, and will be monitoring the area of the next few weeks. Thank you for your support with this.

### Governors Corner

Hello from your Governor's here at Dursley Primary Academy. There have been a couple of changes to the Governing Body that you need to be aware of:

Edwina Walton our foundation governor has now stepped down and we have approached the St James PCC to recruit her replacement. We will keep you updated on this.

Anne-Marie Thurgood our chair has also stepped down and we have a new chair – Carole O'Donnell our substitute ex-officio governor.

Carole is an experienced chair in the DGAT family, currently also chairing two other school's governing bodies (Coaley and Hardwicke). Born in the area and living in Slimbridge, Carole attended local schools (Coaley and Rednock). Before retiring Carole worked in the nuclear industry for 24 years as a procurement officer and previously in local government. She has experience in governance, processes, and procedures. Carole also holds the responsibility of safeguarding governor for our school.

Governors are meeting termly and working closely with the school senior lead team to ensure continuous improvement as we work towards our SIAMS inspection, which is due at any time.

If you need to contact Carole at any time please use [chair@dursley.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:chair@dursley.gloucs.sch.uk) in the first instance.

*Carole O'Donnell*  
Chair of Governors



### World Book Day – Thursday 7 March 2024

Save the date! Thursday 7th March is World Book Day. We have many exciting plans for the day but wanted to give you plenty of notice that the Scholastic Bookfair will be in school that week and those children who wish to can come to school dressed as a character from a favourite book. In addition, children are bringing home a paper plate today so they can get creative over half term.

[See the letter accompanying the plate for more details](#)



### Our Vision

We are currently updating our entrance hall! Your child would have come home today with a template of our candle flame. As our vision statement is '**together we shine brightly because together we make a difference**'. We would love the children to write something on the candle flame about something they have done over the half term to 'shine.' This could be an achievement; helping around the house etc., we will then laminate them and then hang them on our new tree! Please just write first names on them and not surnames.

Thank you. Mrs Elliott

### Holidays During Term Time

Whilst we realise absence through illness is unavoidable, we 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. We cannot, therefore, authorise any requests for family holidays except in exceptional circumstances.** If you do need to take your child out of school for a long absence, please contact the school office for an absence request form.

### **The Dursley Children's Choir**

Well done to those of you who sang at The Christmas Carols by Candlelight service in December and again in the church on the first day of term. You were all AMAZING! Everyone in the church was very impressed by you all as well as the Choir members, Nigel, Lynn and me.... Well done! You should be very proud of yourselves.

I hope you enjoyed the experience and would like to join in another service with us:

**SUNDAY, 10TH MARCH 10am MOTHERING SUNDAY.**

I will come in to school on THURSDAYS after half term to teach you the music we need to learn

**Thursdays in school: February 22nd, 29th March 7th,**

### **PARENTS**

If your child is interested in this opportunity and able to commit to keeping the date, please let me know by completing the attached form. There will be an extra date for the children to come and rehearse with the choir for a short while on **Friday, 8th March from 7.15pm to 7.45-pm in the Parish Centre, at St James Church.**

A parent/carer is required to stay during the 30 minute rehearsal and for the Mothering Sunday Service in order to comply with our church safeguarding procedures. Indeed, we would welcome other family members and friends to this celebratory service.

Please be aware that this an invitation from the church choir and not school related. There will be no school staff present, just the choir members led by Nigel Davies, Director of Music and Lynn James, Assistant Director of Music at St James. I of course will be there. Please note that our DBS checks are current.

If you wish to discuss this with me , please contact me via email: [edwinawalton@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:edwinawalton@hotmail.co.uk) or speak to me during or after the choir club on Thursdays.

I fully appreciate the commitment on your part and thank you for your support.

With very many thanks and best wishes,

Edwina Walton (on behalf of the Choir of St James the Great, Dursley)

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**Kindness, Respect, Responsibility, Thankfulness, Forgiveness and Perseverance in Action**

**Attendance & Achievement**

If attendance drops below 95%, then absence begins to have a significant impact on achievement. Catching up after absence can be difficult – this period can last as long as the absence itself. 95% attendance means around 10 days out of school in a year. 90% attendance means:

- ½ day absent each week
- 4 weeks absent each year
- ½ year absent over 5 school years

Being in school is important to your child’s achievement, wellbeing, and wider development. [Evidence](#) shows that the students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best results.

% Attendance figures for week commencing: 5 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	
Elm	93.19%
Palm	91.67%
Oak	92.86%
Cherry	93.33%
Larch	92.26%
Maple	91.67%
Cedar	94.35%
Magnolia	90.8%
Willow	93.06%
Sequoia	84.52%
Copper Beech	88.89%

If your child is finding coming into school difficult please come and ask us for support. We would really like to help you and your child to ensure they are happy and secure in school.

[NHS - is my child to ill for school](#)

 **Value Leaves Awarded**

Kindness	Responsibility	Perseverance
Rory R Charlie K Zach L Ellie P Fern H Asker W-W	Reuben S Jasper S Violet J Kayden C	Lacey-Mae M Tufigo B-M Freddie H James C
Thankfulness	Forgiveness	Respect
		Prisha S Ivy P Cedar Class Delilah S Arabella H-A

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**Mobile Phone Reminder**

Please remind children to drop their mobile phones at the school office at the beginning of the day, and collect after the bell at the end of the day. These are important safeguarding procedures that we all need to follow. Please ensure that they are switched off until they leave the school site. Thank you.

**Dogs on the school site**

Please do not leave dogs tied up on the fence without adult supervision. The field is part of our school grounds, and is often used for PE lessons. As a result, this is not to be used for exercising pets. Thank you for your support with this!

**Dates for your diary**

	<b>Dates for your diaries</b>
<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Swimming Gala
<b>Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February</b>	School Association Cake Sale – donations from Sequoia class
<b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup> to Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Half Term Holiday</b>
<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Inset Day – School closed to all pupils</b>
<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February</b>	Parents evening (details to follow)
<b>Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February</b>	Coffee and Chat with the NHS Health and Wellbeing team 9am School Hall
	Parents evening (details to follow)
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February</b>	School Association Pub Quiz at The Old Spot.
<b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March</b>	School Association Cake Sale – donations from Larch class
<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April</b>	School Association Cake Sale – donations from Maple and Cedar classes
<b>Coming Soon</b>	More dates coming soon!

Thank you for your continuing support, wishing you a fantastic half term.  
 From Mrs Gregory and Team Dursley

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