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DORNEY SCHOOL

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RESPECT * COLLABORATE * GROW
Headteacher: Mrs Lee

Newsletter 6th November 2026

Dear Parents,

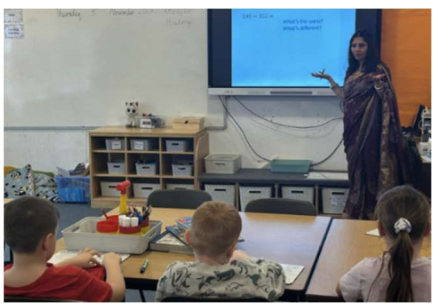
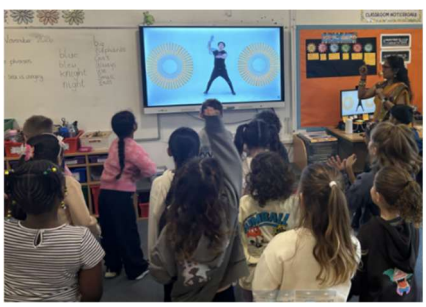


Bonfire Night

These dark autumn nights are certainly made brighter by the sparkle of fireworks! The children recalled the story of Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot, a significant event in British history that could have dramatically altered the course of the nation's future had it succeeded in 1605. Zeb in Year 2 confidently led the well-known chant, enthusiastically joined by many of his peers.

Remember, remember the 5th of November
Gunpowder, treason and plot
I see no reason why Gunpowder treason
Should ever be forgot

<u>Diwali</u>





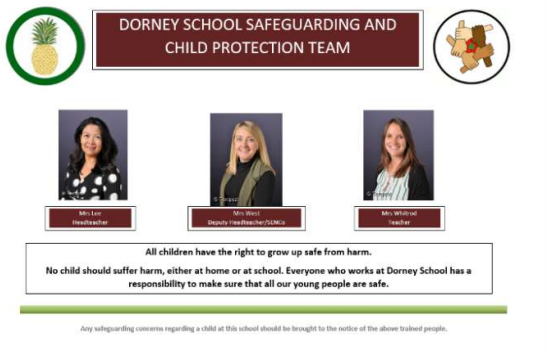

Today's assembly was especially vibrant, with staff and pupils dressed in colourful attire to mark the occasion. Several members of staff brought in objects and artefacts to help the children understand the significance of Diwali and its traditions. During the assembly, the children reflected on the many celebrations and events we learn about throughout the year that deepen our understanding of culture, beliefs, diversity, and belonging. I felt immensely proud when so many hands shot up in response to the question, "What have you learned?" From Christmas, Eid, Diwali, Remembrance Day, Chinese New Year, Hanukkah, International Women's Day, PRIDE, Jeans for Genes Day, Easter, Black History Month, and Culture Day, children across the school confidently shared their knowledge and understanding of these important events and celebrations. Their responses demonstrated not only what they had learned, but also the respect and appreciation they have developed for the diverse communities around them. We truly are a rainbow school, where everyone belongs, everyone is valued, and everyone is celebrated.

Urgent – Parking

We continue to receive concerns and complaints from both residents and parents regarding inconsiderate driving and parking in the local area. With the darker mornings and evenings now upon us, the risk of accidents increases significantly. Complainants have been advised to contact the police if they witness driving that poses a danger to pedestrians or other road users. We kindly ask all members of our school community to drive and park considerately, safely, and in accordance with local regulations. Thank you for not using the staff car park unless prior permission has been granted. By working together, we can help keep our children, families, staff, and neighbours safe.

Safeguarding

The school and its staff take safeguarding all children seriously.



AI Technology

Our school is using a mixed approach to managing the rise of artificial intelligence, balancing classroom integration with safeguards against over-reliance and cognitive offloading. School policies focus on acceptable use and vigilance.

Statutory safeguarding guidance now incorporates generative AI and deepfakes. Our PSHE and computing curriculum address online safety and AI literacy.

We are also doubling down on primary core skills that AI cannot replace such as handwriting, physical play, direct social relationships, verbal conversation and number sense.

We are grateful to parents who support us in our endeavour to offer a balanced curriculum that does not rely heavily on IT and AI. We are careful with what we post online and you will see a reduction on the use of photographs of pupils as we navigate the ever-increasing risks of AI technology.

Anti-Bullying Week and Cyber-Bullying

PCSO Angela supported me in delivering the key messages for our anti-bullying campaign during whole school assembly on Monday.

The key parts of bullying:
• It is on purpose (Intentional): It is not an accident or a one-time mistake. The person knows they are causing harm.
• It happens repeatedly (over and over): It is a pattern of behaviour, not just a single falling-out or argument.
• Power imbalance: One person or group feels bigger, stronger, more popular, or more powerful
A single mean argument or "falling out" is still unkind and needs fixing, but it is not technically bullying **unless it fits the pattern.**

Teachers brought these key messages back to the classroom and discussed further about what children could and should do if they are worried, upset or if they witness bullying at school.

This is an excellent website full of information and resources for parents to use at home. Do take a look https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/tools-information/advice-and-support/advice-parents-and-carers

Dates for Your Diary

1.12.26 – English/Phonics/Maths Curriculum Workshop for parents at 1.30pm – please refer to parentmail
8.12.26 – KS1 Nativity for R/Y1/Y2 Parents 9.15am
9.12.26 – KS1 Nativity for R/Y1/Y2 Parents 1.30pm
10.12.26 – Christmas Lunch (booking is already opened)/Christmas Jumper Day
11.12.26 – Santa Dash – please refer to a parentmail
17.12.26 – KS 2 Carol Concert for parents at 1.30pm on the school playground
18.12.26 – Inset Day – school closed to all children
21.12.26 till 1.1.27 – Christmas Half Term
4.1.27 – Inset Day
5.1.27 – School opens to all children at 8.30am

Have a lovely weekend full of lights and sounds! I would like to take this opportunity to wish our families who celebrate the Festival of Lights, a Happy Diwali.

Best Wishes
Mrs Sharifah Lee
Headteacher