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Registered office: Burnham Grammar School, Hogfair Lane, Burnham, SL1 7HG

DORNEY SCHOOL

Harcourt Close, Dorney Reach
Maidenhead, SL6 0DY
Tel: 01628 620871
E-mail: office@dorneyschool.co.uk
Website: www.dorneyschool.co.uk

RESPECT * COLLABORATE * GROW
Headteacher: Mrs Lee

Newsletter 17th October 2025

Dear parents,

Rainbow Day

One of the symbols of our school is the rainbow. The children rightly identify this with PRIDE and equal rights for all. However, the rainbow is much more than the colours on LGBT+ flags and posters. In our school, the rainbow holds a special place as a symbol of hope and promise for better tomorrows. The rainbow is a symbol of unity as each unique colour merges into each other, and creates a something beautiful; and this is what our school is. A place where each child is a valued member of the community, no matter their background, ethnicity, gender, faith or needs. Thank you for your donations to our Rainbow Day today. All donated items will go towards creating colourful hampers for Fireworks Night raffle. Do purchase your tickets early as tickets for this event was sold out last year: https://www.tickettailor.com/events/dorneypta/1871156

Forest School

Some photos from Forest School this Autumn. All pupils attend an average of one session a week with Mrs Hughes. The aim of Forest School is to foster a love for nature by providing hands-on, learner-led experiences that build confidence, self-esteem, and resilience through a process of play, exploration, and supported risk-taking. Do take a look at what Year 6 children have been up to this Autumn – there is always an inner child in all of us no matter how grown up we think we are!

Staying Safe

As the days are getting shorter and the night draw in, some helpful suggestions for families and children to stay safe whilst travelling to and from the Schools' Travel team.

Why Visibility Matters in Low Light

Reduced Driver Visibility
In low light, drivers have a harder time spotting pedestrians, cyclists, and other road users. Wearing dark clothing makes you nearly invisible until it's too late.

Shorter Reaction Times
If you're not clearly visible, drivers have less time to react—especially in poor weather conditions like rain or fog.

Increased Risk of Accidents
According to road safety statistics, a significant number of pedestrian and cyclist accidents happen during dawn, dusk, or night time.

🦺 **How to Be Seen**

Wear Reflective Gear: Jackets, vests, armbands, or even reflective tape on bags and shoes.

Use Lights: Cyclists should use front white and rear red lights. Walkers and runners can use clip-on LED lights or headlamps.

Choose Bright Colours: Fluorescent clothing (yellow, orange, pink) is more visible in daylight and twilight.

Avoid Distractions: Stay alert and avoid using phones or headphones when crossing roads.

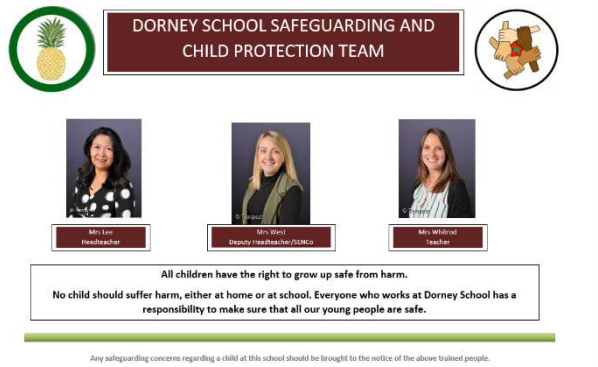
Cycle to School Week is Next Week: Monday 20th - Friday 24th October 2025!!

It would be fantastic if more children cycle/scoot to school every day as this promotes an active lifestyle and reduces carbon footprint through the use of cars and other means of transport.

For the Cycle to School week campaign, we would welcome as many pupils as possible to come to school on their bikes/trikes/scooters next week. Pupils may use the bike shed at the back of school to secure their bikes. Bikes left in the bike shed will be the responsibility of the pupil and their parents where appropriate.

For this campaign, do send in photos of your child enjoying the outdoors on their bikes/ trikes and scooters. Photos sent in by Wednesday 22nd October will have the photos published in the school newsletter and on our website.

Safeguarding



Halloween and Children's Safety - Child Accident Prevention Trust

It's October which every parent knows means two things; half-term and Halloween. Halloween has long given concern to school leaders and parents as well as the general public. Largely this has been due to anti-social behaviour, social disorder linked to trick or treating, house party overspills, late opening hours in the nightlife sector and so on.

Whilst parents and teachers up and down the country may spend the lead up focusing on preventing anti-social behaviour, there are other dangers lurking for children and young people. These secondary dangers including unsafe costume design, and the low nocturnal visibility of participants have been addressed in a recent article from the Child Accident Prevention Trust.

Find out more here: Halloween and Children's Safety
https://capt.org.uk/halloween/?utm_source=capt&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=parentsoct25&mc_cid=376a41f0ed&mc_eid=d72f37d350

Dates for Your Diary

22.10.25 – Parents Book Look after school at 3.15pm
23.10.25 – A special Diwali afternoon to celebrate the Festival of Lights, wear something bright
24.10.25 – nursing team: Flu Immunization Years R to 6 – please refer to parentmail
24.10.25 – school closes to children at 3.30pm for half term
27.-31.10.25 – October half term
03.11.25 – Inset Day/Parent-Teacher Consultation Day – more information to follow
05.11.25 – Tempest Individual Photos – please refer to parentmail

Half-term draws closer and the clocks are set to go back soon. However, at school we are as busy as ever, with our own take on Diwali celebrations next week. To all families who celebrate the festival of light, I would like to wish you a very Happy Diwali!

Mrs Sharifah Lee

Stars of the Week

Reception
Daisy for her amazing neat handwriting when writing letters
Theo for his amazing blending and reading this week

Year 1
Poppy for great listening and always following school rules
Harry for always being kind and helpful in the classroom

Year 2
Scarlett for excellent pattern spotting n Maths. Well Done!

Year 3
Dottie coming up with amazing sentences in group writing this week
Karam with fantastic explanations in Maths this week

Year 4
Ethan for always working hard, good listening and participation
Darcie for working so hard and being kind to others

Year 5
Rana for great resilience in Maths and always pushing for those extension questions
Kaine for working hard in Maths to understand subtraction with an exchange

Year 6
Sahib for consistently contributing in class and thoughtfully writing a detailed narrative
Jack-Arthur for asking questions to make his writing better and showing care in his work

Staff Star of The Week
Mrs Khakh for making lunchtimes calm and organised

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SCAN THE QR CODE TO SECURE YOUR PLACE:

Topic	Date	Link	QR code
Overview of Mental health – Primary	Monday 20th of October 2025	https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/c250a6a6-2c13-4997-be09-407feae1ef4e@759ac89b-2aa4-4973-b048-e6903b46a8b6	
Overview of Mental health– Secondary	Monday 3rd of November 2025	https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/0d1c87a5-b3b5-4a9b-a4b2-dbbcbee77abf@759ac89b-2aa4-4973-b048-e6903b46a8b6	
Childhood Anxiety	Monday 17th of November 2025	https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/741a9c4f-0eb4-4a23-9694-def68b6eb3b5@759ac89b-2aa4-4973-b048-e6903b46a8b6	
Adolescent Anxiety	Monday 1st of December 2025	https://events.teams.microsoft.com/event/ffeb1299-da8c-44dc-8d3b-6ad980e5c729@759ac89b-2aa4-4973-b048-e6903b46a8b6	