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

DORNEY SCHOOL

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RESPECT * COLLABORATE * GROW
Headteacher: Mrs Lee

Newsletter 3rd October 2025

Dear parents,

Black History Month is well underway. It was lovely seeing the different hairstyles the children had today as we discussed many forms of discrimination, including afro hair discrimination. It is even more important now that we teach our children the language of love, acceptance, equality and peace as we navigate very troubling times. The horrific incident near a synagogue in Manchester yesterday and the increase in racism, Islamophobia, and antisemitism must be challenged at every level, and part of this work must happen in education. The strength of our school community lies in its values of Equality and Empathy. We carry on the theme of 'No outsiders' because everyone belongs. I know you support us in this crucial work in helping our children understand the importance of acceptance and critical thinking. There is a lot of misinformation and disinformation for us to sift through, let alone our children.

Collection for Maidenhead Foodbank

Please ensure all donations are brought into school by Wednesday 8th October 2025

- Tinned foods
- Long life foods
- Children's snacks
- Dried foods such as pasta or rice
- Supermarket gift vouchers which allow the foodbank to top up on fresh fruits and vegetables and cold snacks.
- Colouring pens, pencils and crayons
- Colouring books and paper

Farmer William's visit to our school for the harvest festival has been postponed as we have been notified that he is recovering from illness. I know the children cannot wait to see him and his tractor again.

Jeans for Genes

Thank you for supporting Jeans for Genes Day, and all your donations and contributions. Together, we managed to raise £160 which has been donated to the charity. Should you wish to, please have a look at the following link: https://www.jeansforgenes.org/pay-in-your-money

News Around the School

Remembrance Day Poetry Session
On Tuesday, Years 5 and 6 took part in a special Remembrance Day poetry webinar through the National Literacy Trust hosted by Tomos Roberts. There was a lovely buzz of ideas and poetic phrases in the classroom, inspiring our young poets. The children planned and created their own stanzas, reflecting thoughtfully on what Remembrance Day means to them. This was a fantastic opportunity to develop their writing skills and will serve as excellent preparation for their upcoming assembly on the topic.

Diwali Celebrations at School
We are excited to let you know about a special fundraising event taking place on Thursday 23rd October, a Diwali Afternoon to celebrate the Festival of Lights and raise money for our school. What will happen on the day?

· Dress Code: Children are invited to wear something bright and colourful, in keeping with Diwali as the Festival of Lights.

· Contribution: We kindly ask for a £2 donation per child, which will go towards sourcing craft resources and towards school funds.

· In-School Activities:
o A KS2 Diwali Quiz held in the hall, with the winning class announced in assembly.
o Bollywood and Bhangra Dancing workshops in the hall, giving pupils across the school a chance to enjoy music and movement.
o In-class Diwali activities, such as crafts and learning about the festival.

After-School Bake Sale
We will also be holding a Diwali-themed Bake Sale after school, supervised by staff and supported by our Year 6 pupils. We would be very grateful for any donations of cakes or biscuits (homemade or shop-bought). These can be brought in on the morning of the event. Please ensure ingredients are clearly labelled if homemade.

· If you intend to contribute to the Bake Sale, please let your child's class teacher know in advance so that we can manage the number and variety of items.

· If there are any parents or community members who would feel confident supporting with bhangra dancing, please also let your child's class teacher know. Mrs Parkash will then get in contact directly to coordinate.

How you can help?
· Encourage your child to wear something bright.

· Send in your £2 contribution that will be collected by class teachers
· Donate/contribute cakes/biscuits/samosas for the bake sale, and let your class teacher know
· If you can support with bhangra dancing, let your class teacher know.
· Come along to buy a treat after school!

We hope this will be a joyful afternoon of learning and celebration, bringing our school community together. Thank you, as always, for your support.

Best wishes, Mrs Parkash

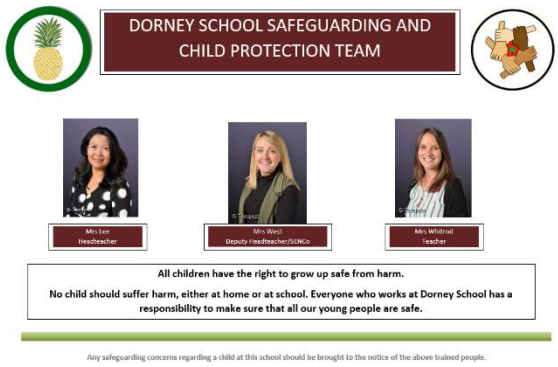
PTA

I hope you are all looking forward to our popular Fireworks event coming up on Saturday, 15th November 2025. More details will follow on how to secure family tickets.

To help with the raffle prizes, we would appreciate if all children to bring in at least one specific coloured item (from the list on the left) in exchange for wearing non-school uniform on **Friday 17th October 2025.**

If you are able to help in any way, please contact the PTA or speak to Mrs Whitrod or Mrs Van der Walt. Thank you for your support!

Safeguarding



Dates for Your Diary

08.10.25 – last day for donations to Maidenhead foodbank
17.10.25 – PTA Rainbow Raffle non-uniform day
22.10.25 – Parents Book Look after school at 3.15pm
23.10.25 – A special Diwali afternoon to celebrate the Festival of Lights
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 info to follow

It is unbelievable that October is upon us, and before long even this month will be a thing of the past. Enjoy the weekend and hold your family close – fill your home with love and autumn fare.

Mrs Sharifah Lee

Reception
Baani for being super helpful in the classroom and for being super kind to other children
Lochi for being super helpful in the classroom and for being super kind to other children

Year 1
Mannat for super listening and focus in Maths
Farren for super contribution in Maths

Year 2
Kayden for applying what he knows in Maths to solve problems

Year 3
Brettly for trying his best in all his learning this week – well done 😊
Rhea for her amazing effort in Maths this week using number lines to 1,000

Year 4
Jaden for working so hard always and for being such a good listener
Lilly for always being kind, helpful and trying hard!

Year 5
Sian for working hard in all classes with superb listening skills
Aiden for much improved writing with better punctuation and vocabulary

Year 6
Ahmed for settling into Year 6 well and demonstrating school values
Charlie for asking insightful questions at The Houses of Parliament. Well Done!

Staff Star of The Week

Miss Farnborough for going over and above and being helpful.

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