

DORNEY SCHOOL



RESPECT * COLLABORATE * GROW
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Newsletter 23rd January 2026



Dear parents,

Apart from one day of sunshine, how dreary has this week been? Staff try to get all pupils outside as much as possible to ensure they get some fresh air and are able to be active during the day. With this in mind, it is important that they have waterproof and warm coats, jackets and shoes to enjoy the outdoors. Some common illnesses are not due to spreading virus, but catching a cold instead whilst being outside. Pupil attendance this week has been low due to illness. Pupils who are regularly absent find it hard to keep up or catch up on learning, and trying to support pupils who have missed out on core learning at school becomes difficult as there is so much to teach, and learn. Our staff appreciate your support with attendance and punctuality. Most foundational English or Maths learning happen in the first 15-30 minutes of school, for example phonics, grammar or arithmetic. Such lessons are crucial to a pupil's lifetime reading, writing and numerical skills. If they miss 15 minutes each day, that is one hour and 15 minutes of learning lost each week. Multiply this by weeks and months, and a child's attainment gap can quickly widen.

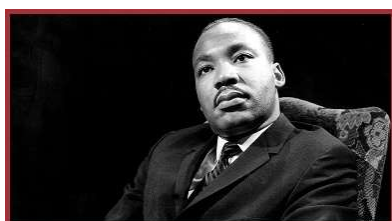
A good measure of attendance for parents is if your child's attendance is **95% or above**. Statistics show that pupils who attend school regularly make good progress which prepare them for their ongoing journey in education. The table below is for information only

Dorney School current pupil attendance for the year to date:

Overall attendance	94.17%
Reception	94.35%
Year 1	95.30%
Year 2	94.24%
Year 3	93.19%
Year 4	96.37%
Year 5	94.42%
Year 6	90.67%

News Around the School

Martin Luther King Day



On Monday 19th January, pupils listened to the key messages from Martin Luther's famous 'I have a Dream' speech. The speech is a reminder that the struggle for justice and equality carry on each day. We see increased divisions in society today as the world navigates ongoing crises. The messages we give our children are important as they will be the ones to walk



the paths of tomorrow. This is an excellent video clip and resource that you may wish to share with your child

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/4mYSfdJBpkY6rCDMrGwgS0y/dr-martin-luther-king-dream-on>



Year 4 Basketball Event



On Thursday the children attended an exciting basketball event, the Primary Basketball Festival at Beaconsfield High School. They took part in a carousel of activities around the sports hall, rotating through different stations. Activities included shooting hoops and a range of fun mini-games that kept everyone active and engaged. The children had a fantastic time, displayed excellent teamwork and enthusiasm throughout the day. It was a wonderful opportunity and an enjoyable experience for all involved!

Miss Rolls (Year 4 teacher)

Safeguarding

Understanding the risks of Roblox

Roblox is used by children from a very young age, with many starting in primary school and a particularly large number of players aged around 8 - 12. There is no fixed minimum age to play, and children often share games and social spaces with much older users. This mix of ages, combined with user-generated content and social features such as chat and voice chat, means children's experiences can vary widely. As a result, generic advice like "just be sensible" gives us very little insight into what a child is actually seeing, doing, or who they are interacting with.

DORNEY SCHOOL SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION TEAM

Miss Lee
Headteacher

Miss West
Deputy Headteacher/DMCO

Miss Whitford
Teacher

All children have the right to grow up safe from harm.
No child should suffer harm, either at home or at school. Everyone who works at Dorney School has a responsibility to make sure that all our young people are safe.

Helpful lines of curiosity include:

- What games are they accessing, and are they age-appropriate?
- Is chat enabled, and who can message them?
- Have they come across anything violent, hateful or worrying?
- Are they using private servers or public spaces?
- Are parental controls or age settings in place and actively used?
- Does the parent feel confident managing the platform?

Disclosures of concerning content on Roblox should be treated as safeguarding issues, not just IT problems, and may relate to online safety, digital resilience or Prevent duties. The goal is curiosity, not panic. We want



to help children talk openly about what they encounter and support parents to move beyond “just be sensible”.

Some advice for parents:

- Regular, interested conversations about what children enjoy playing, who they play with, and what they notice online
- Adults showing curiosity, including watching or playing alongside children, so games are not treated as a secret or separate world
- A clear understanding of personal information, including why chats should stay about the game and when to tell an adult
- Agreed rules around spending, with children knowing when real money is involved and when permission is needed
- Reassurance that worries should be shared, including exposure to upsetting content, mean behaviour or hate-based language
- Confidence using block and report tools, so concerns can be addressed calmly and practically
- Active use of safety settings, including age-appropriate controls, chat restrictions and parent account oversight

More information can be found here: <https://corp.roblox.com/safety-by-age>

Dates for Your Diary

13.02.26 – Toy Sale Fundraiser – please refer to the information sent via parentmail

13.02.26 – School closes to all children at 3.30pm for half term

16. – 20.02.26 – Half Term

23.02.26 – Inset Day: Parent/Teacher Consultation Day

TBC - Grandparents Day (more details to follow)

As always, thank you for reading and engaging with the newsletter. Wishing you a great weekend ahead.

Best Wishes

Mrs Sharifah Lee

Headteacher



Reception

Ally for settling in so well in to a new class

Hunter for working so hard on his phonics and reading



Year 1

Farren for expressing her enthusiasm and leadership skills within her group during our ROAR Project Day
Wilbur for expressing such innovative and creative ideas during his ROAR group presentation

Year 2

Zhuri for working independently in English lesson

Year 3

Ottilie for excellent ideas when comparing different events in the text
Karam for his secure knowledge of multiplication facts

Year 4

Oscar for his wonderful ROAR Project and always doing his best
Rose for her wonderful ROAR Project and always doing her best

Year 5

Dom for brilliant perseverance in Maths when learning multiplication
Kaine for creativity and innovation during the ROAR competition

Year 6

Sukaina for settling into Year 6 well and trying her best consistently
Isabelle for her efforts and knowledge to support her team throughout the ROAR Project

fun-fest
HOLIDAY CLUB

Book this February
MON 16TH - FRI 20TH

Come and join the fun this half term! Activities include dance, crafts, sports, games, outdoor play, Fun Friday and much much more!

LONG CLOSE SCHOOL
Open 8am - 6pm for children aged 3-12

Childcare vouchers accepted including universal credit Sibling & full week discounts available

For more information phone : 01753 396274
stoughoffice@funfestholidayclub.co.uk

To see our timetables and to book your children's chosen activities go to: www.fun-fest.co.uk and please select the club you would like