

DORNEY SCHOOL

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RESPECT * COLLABORATE * GROW
Headteacher: Mrs Lee

Newsletter 27th February 2026



Dear parents,

Welcome back to some sunshine and still many more showers! However, I am sure the sight of daffodils and crocus must brighten the day.

An email was sent regarding the importance of school attendance. In case you missed it, please read the information below carefully:

As you are aware, the government has set a target of 96% attendance for ALL pupils. Parents have a legal duty to ensure their child attends school regularly. You can find more information here <https://www.gov.uk/school-attendance-absence>

In the government guidance it states that:

When your child can miss school

You can only allow your child to miss school if either:

- *they're too ill to go in*
- *you have advance permission from the school*

There may be other exceptional circumstances where you can ask to take your child out of school. Your school will consider each application and may let you take your child out of school.

Holidays in term time

*A holiday is generally not considered an exceptional circumstance. You cannot usually take your child away during term time. You can be **fined or face legal action** for taking your child on holiday during term time.*

Some things parents must consider:

- An attendance figure below 94% (which is more than 9 days absent across the school year) is below the acceptable target and will be considered a concern
- Only schools, and not parents, can authorise pupil absences



- Parents must try to make medical appointments outside of school hours where possible
- **Evidence of any medical appointments during the school day must be produced as soon as possible** via the school office eg appointment cards, text message of confirmed medical appointment, hospital letter etc
- Unless it is an exceptional circumstance, failure to produce evidence of appointments will be considered as an unauthorised absence
- Regular lateness (after 8.45am) will be marked as an absence from school

Thank you for your ongoing support in ensuring your child is punctual and attends school regularly.

Parent Governors

We are looking for parent governors to strengthen our school governing board. Parent governors are elected representative on a school's governing board who brings a parent's perspective to strategic decision-making, helping to raise standards and ensure accountability. They work collectively to set the school's vision, oversee budget/performance, and support the headteacher, while remaining impartial and not representing individual children or acting as a complaints channel for parents. Do email the office or our clerk to governors, Alison Witchell AMWitchell@dorneyschool.co.uk , if you are interested in finding out more.

News Around the School

Month of Ramadan



We are happy to be able to support staff and pupils who are observing the Muslim fasting month. I am sure there is now a Countdown to Eid for many children. Aleena Y5 and Sophia Y3 brought an Eid advent calendar to share with their classmates.

Year 6 Eton College Trip

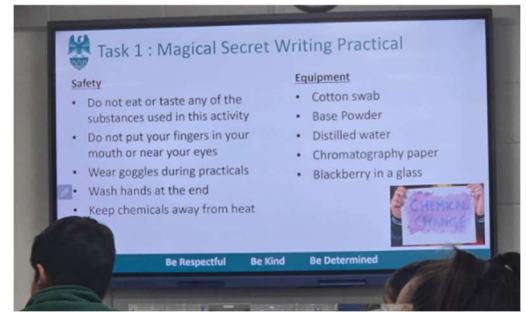


Year 6 had the exciting opportunity to attend a World War II workshop at Eton College on Thursday. We were incredibly impressed with their enthusiasm, learning and teamwork throughout the workshop. The children worked collaboratively to build a protective den using sandbags, learned how fires at home would have been put out during the war and even discovered where real bombs were found at Eton College itself. It was a fantastic hands-on experience that really brought their learning to life!



Year 4 & 5 Cox Green Science Workshop

Year 4 & Year 5 were kindly invited to Cox Green School over two days for a morning of science! The children became young scientists as they mixed exciting "potions" using different acids and alkalis, watching in amazement as their experiments fizzed and changed. They put their levitation skills to the test with fun, hands-on activities and even discovered how to write secret messages using disappearing solution. It was a fantastic, action-packed experience that sparked curiosity, teamwork and a real love of scientific exploration. We are grateful to Cox Green for allowing our children the opportunity.




Reception Celebrates the Chinese New Year of the Horse


Before half-term, Reception pupils were busy learning and celebrating all about Chinese New Year. The pictures speak for themselves!




Safeguarding




DORNEY SCHOOL SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION TEAM






Mrs Lee
Headteacher



Mrs Ward
Deputy Headteacher/SLM(S)



Mrs 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.

Any safeguarding concerns regarding a child at this school should be brought to the notice of the above trained people.



GOOD TRAVEL PLAN 2025

Dates for Your Diary

06.03.26 – World Book Day non-uniform day, please refer to parentmail sent

27.03.26 – school closes to all children at 3.30pm for Easter Half Term

30.03. – **10.04.26** – Easter Half Term

13.04.26 – school opens to all children at 8.30am

Warmest wishes for an indifferent February

Mrs Sharifah Lee
Headteacher



Week Commencing 9th February 2026

Reception

Bailey for being kind and helpful to his friends – great sharing!

Cooper for excellent phonics work using diagraphs in his reading and writing

Year 1

Avni for working hard to master her handwriting presentation

Wilbur for neatness and presentation in his handwriting book

Year 2

Zhuri for showing an excellent understanding of equal groups and multiplication in Maths

Year 3

Bebe for writing an excellent poem in English with lots of super ideas!

Stanley for super learning in Maths when answering measurement questions!

Year 4

Josh for his hard work and participation across all lessons

Bambi for her hard work in Maths and English, consistently

Year 5

Rana for improved presentation and stamina for writing

Scarlett for picking out key information in text and being our resident animal expert!

Year 6

Matthew for improving the presentation of his handwriting

LJ for fantastic vocabulary choices when writing figurative phrases



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- 80+ Activities!
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Braywick Court School

- 7-13 year olds
- Series of 1-day coding camps
- Devices provided

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www.codecamp.co.uk/braywick

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REFER YOUR SCHOOL

If you think your child's school would be interested in running a coding club please let us know
Get in touch at hello@codecamp.co.uk



GOOD TRAVEL PLAN 2025