



**WELCOME
TO
KS1!**

PARENTS' INFORMATION EVENING 2026-2027

Meet the Team

Working together to help every child flourish



Senior Team

Heads of School:

Mrs Thelwell
Mrs Hales

Assistant Heads:

Mrs Mannion
Mrs Morrey



Year Leads

Year 1:

Mrs Biddlecombe

Year 2:

Mrs Sayer



Year 1

Mrs Dudek / Mrs Johnson
Miss Timmins

Mrs Hunt
Miss Bamber
Ms Drake

Year 2

Mrs Scott
Mrs Richardson
Mrs Taylor
Mrs Morris



Additional Support

Family Support Team:

Mrs Davies
Mrs Mayers

A strong team, working together for happy, successful children!

Morning and Hometime

A calm start. A safe finish. Thank you for your support!



Morning



Gates open at **8:40am** – please be prompt.



If you need to see your child's teacher, please make an appointment.



Any messages should be written in the Home School Organiser or sent on ClassDojo.



Please note: Home School Organisers are not checked daily, so urgent messages should be sent via ClassDojo or by phoning the school office.

Hometime



Hometime is **3:20pm**.



2D and 2P come out of the door by the hall.
2S and Year 1 come out of their own classroom doors.

Thank you for helping us keep everyone safe and our school running smoothly!

Building the Foundations for a Lifetime of Writing

We focus on developing the essential skills that give children confidence and the tools they need to become successful, independent writers – now and in the future.



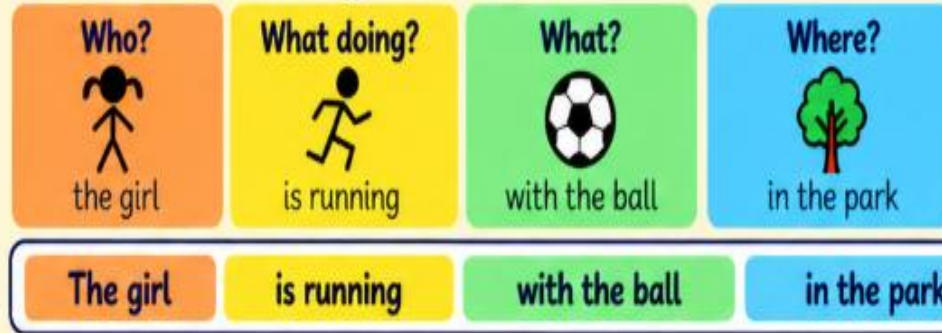
Why Transcription Matters

Transcription means the physical skills needed to write – handwriting and spelling.

In KS1, we place a strong focus on transcription because the automaticity of these skills is essential for a lifetime of writing. When children can confidently form letters and spell words, they free up their working memory to focus on what they want to say, rather than how to write it.

Colourful Semantics

We use **Colourful Semantics** to help children understand how to build a sentence. Each colour represents a different part of the sentence, making it clear and visual. We focus on the who, what doing, what and where.



A simple structure that helps children say it, see it and write it!



Handwriting – Penpals

- We teach letter formation using the Penpals handwriting scheme.
- Children learn to form lower-case and capital letters in the correct direction and with the correct starting points.
- The goal is for handwriting to become fluent and automatic, so they can focus on their ideas.

 Regular practice helps children develop a clear, joined and legible handwriting style.



Spelling

- Children use their phonics knowledge to spell words.
- They learn and practise the Year 1 and Year 2 common exception words.
- They apply the spelling patterns and rules they have been taught.



Capital Letters and Punctuation

We use a simple colour code to help children remember when to use capital letters and punctuation:

Green means
Go for capitals!

A B C

- Start of a sentence
- Names of people
- Days of the week
- The pronoun 'I'

Red means
Stop for punctuation!

. ! ?

- Full stop
- Exclamation mark
- Question mark

The Home School Organiser is a great home support tool!

It includes the Year 1 and Year 2 common exception words, letter formation guides, phonics sounds and lots of other useful resources to support your child's learning at home.



Year 1 Writing

By the end of Year 1, a child working securely within the Year 1 curriculum will typically be able to:



Compose and write

- Say a sentence aloud before writing it.
- Write a sequence of sentences to create a short piece of writing, including simple narratives.
- Re-read their writing to check that it makes sense, making simple changes.



Sentence structure and punctuation

- Leave clear spaces between words.
- Join words and clauses using *and*.
- Begin to use capital letters, full stops, question marks and exclamation marks appropriately.



Spelling

- Use their phonics to spell words.
- Spell many of the Year 1 common exception words.
- Apply the Year 1 spelling patterns and endings they have been taught.



Handwriting

- Form lower-case letters in the correct direction, starting and finishing in the right place.
- Form capital letters correctly.
- Form digits 0-9 correctly.



The Home School Organiser is a great home support tool!

It includes the Year 1 common exception words, letter formation guides, phonics sounds and lots of other useful resources to support your child's learning at home.



Year 2 Writing

By the end of Year 2, a child working securely within the Year 2 curriculum will typically be able to:



Compose and write

- Say a sentence aloud before writing it.
- Write for a range of purposes and audiences (for example, narratives, recounts, instructions and information texts).
- Plan or discuss what they are going to write.
- Write a sequence of sentences to form short narratives and non-fiction pieces.
- Use and mostly maintain the correct past and present tense in their writing.
- Re-read their writing to check that it makes sense and make simple changes.



Sentence structure and punctuation

- Use a wider range of conjunctions to join clauses (e.g. *and*, *but*, *so*, *because*, *when*, *if*, *that*).
- Use expanded noun phrases to add detail (e.g. *the small, fluffy dog*).
- Use and punctuate different sentence types (statements, questions, exclamations and commands).
- Use capital letters, full stops, question marks and exclamation marks correctly.
- Use commas to separate items in a list.



Spelling

- Use their phonic knowledge and spelling patterns to spell words, including alternative spellings (e.g. the /or/ sound spelt *a*, *al*, *aw*, *au*, *oor*).
- Spell many of the Year 1 and Year 2 common exception words.
- Apply the spelling patterns and rules they have been taught.
- Use a dictionary to check the spelling of words.



Handwriting

- Form lower-case and capital letters of the correct size, orientation and relationship to one another.
- Use consistent spacing between words.
- Write with increasing fluency and speed, so that their writing is legible.
- Form digits 0-9 correctly.



The Home School Organiser is a great home support tool!

It includes the Year 2 common exception words, letter formation guides, phonics sounds and lots of other useful resources to support your child's learning at home.



Dorridge Primary Curriculum (DPC)

Exploring. Creating. Discovering. Preparing for the future.

At Dorridge we use Kapow to deliver our wider curriculum, which we call DPC.

This includes Humanities (History and Geography), Computing, Design & Technology and Art.

DPC gives our children the knowledge, skills and experiences to understand the world, be creative, solve problems and become confident, curious learners.



History



Thinking like a historian

Children learn how to ask questions, use sources, explore evidence and find out about the past.

Example units (Year 1 and 2)



Year 1 – How have toys changed?

Exploring toys from the past and how they are different today.



Year 2 – What is a monarch?

Finding out about monarchs and how they have shaped our history.



Geography



Thinking like a geographer

Children learn how to observe, ask questions, use maps and investigate places and environments.

Example units (Year 1 and 2)



Year 1 – What is the weather like in the UK?

Exploring seasonal weather patterns and how the weather affects our lives.



Year 2 – Why is our world wonderful?

Exploring the world's continents, oceans, landscapes and the amazing places, people and wildlife that make it special.



Computing



Building digital skills for life

Children learn how to use technology purposely, safely and creatively to solve problems.

Example units (Year 1 and 2)



Year 1 – Digital Imagery

Exploring how to take, edit and improve photos, and understanding how images can be changed and used.



Year 2 – Coding

Learning how to give instructions, create and debug simple programs, and develop logical thinking skills.



Design & Technology



Designing, making and solving problems

Children learn to design, make, evaluate and improve products.

Example units (Year 1 and 2)



Year 1 – Moving Pictures

Creating simple moving pictures using sliders and levers.



Year 2 – Healthy and Varied Diet

Designing and making a healthy wrap.



Art



Exploring creativity and self-expression

Children explore a range of artists, styles and techniques to create their own artwork.

Example units (Year 1 and 2)



Year 1 – Drawing: Exploring lines and shape

Developing drawing skills and experimentation with line and shape.



Year 2 – Understanding tones and texture

Exploring how to use tone and texture to create different effects.

Reading at Dorridge

♥ Nightly reading ♥ Confident learner ♥ Lifelong readers

Why is reading so important?

We want every child to read **every night** at home. Reading regularly makes a huge difference to your child's **confidence**, not just in English, but in all areas of learning.

- ♥ Builds vocabulary
- ♥ Develops comprehension and thinking skills
- ♥ Supports writing
- ♥ Builds knowledge about the world
- ♥ Helps children achieve their full potential



Talk about books!



Talking about books builds those all-important early **comprehension skills**. The more you chat about what you read together, the more your child deepens their understanding.

While you read together, try:

- What do you think might happen next? Why?
- How is the character feeling? How do you know?
- What does this word mean?
- What has happened so far? Can you tell me in your own words?
- What did you enjoy about the book?

There are no wrong answers – just great conversations!



Reading Rewards



Dojos for home reading

1 dojo = Reading 3 x in a week
2 dojos = Reading 5 x in a week



Raffle tickets

When your child has read 5 x during the week and this is signed in their Home School Organiser, they will receive a raffle ticket. The class teacher will check this and give out raffle tickets accordingly.



Reading Raffle

Each term, we hold our celebration assembly where 1 child from each class will win a **£5 Amazon voucher** from our reading raffle!



Please record home reading

We kindly ask that you record your child's reading in their Home School Organiser each time they read at home. Thank you for your continued support – it really does make a difference!



Year 1

Homework in Year 1

Little and often makes a big difference!



Thank you for supporting your child at home.

Reading, practising and exploring together really helps build confidence and a love of learning.



Reading (every day!)

- Please read with your child **every day** – even a few minutes makes a big difference.
- Books are changed in school on a Monday.
- A school adult will listen to your child read at least once a week.
- Talk about the story, the characters and encourage them to enjoy books of all kinds.



Readers today, lifelong learners tomorrow!



Spelling

- A spelling sheet will be sent home **every Monday**.
- Use the sheet to practise at home – this is also a great opportunity for handwriting practice.
- Homework books are due back in school on **Thursday**.



Year 1 will be set **5** spellings each week. There is **no** weekly spelling test.



Maths – NumBots

NUMBOTS

- We use **NumBots** to support children's understanding and fluency in maths.
- The children began to use **NumBots** in Reception and will continue in Year 1.
- They can log in at home to play games and complete activities.
- We also encourage the use of practical resources for counting and pencil and paper activities if your child would like to.

Have fun with numbers!



English Homework

- There will be a short reading or writing task set at times throughout the term.
- Any additional project or creative tasks will be set in your child's homework book.
- These activities link to the learning in class and are optional extras to enjoy together.



Homework in Year 2

Little and often makes a big difference!



Thank you for supporting your child at home.

Reading, practising and exploring together really helps build confidence and a love of learning.



Reading (every day!)

- Please read with your child **every day** – even a few minutes makes a big difference.
- Books are changed in school on a Monday.
- A school adult will listen to your child read at least once a week.
- Talk about the story, the characters and encourage them to enjoy books of all kinds.



Readers today, lifelong learners tomorrow!



Spelling

- A spelling sheet will be sent home **every Monday**.
- Use the sheet to practise at home – this is also a great opportunity for handwriting practice.
- Homework books are due back in school on **Thursday**.



Year 2 will be tested on their spellings **every Friday**.

Maths – Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS)



- In Year 2, we move on to TTRS to begin developing that all important speedy recall of times tables.
- Children can log in at home to play games and complete activities.
- There is a weekly competition recognising the class in Year 2 who engages most with TTRS each week.
- The winning class over a half term wins a class prize!



Play Practise Progress!



English Homework

- There will be a short reading or writing task set each week. These will be set in homework books at first and online using Century later into the school year.
- At times, special project or creative tasks will be set instead of English Homework.
- Homework should not be a battle. Please speak to your class teacher if you face challenges.

PE and Endeavour

Be active

Be healthy

Be confident

Be amazing!

Year 1 - PE



- Children should come to school in their **school PE kit** on their PE day.
- Please ensure they wear **trainers**. (Pumps are not required in KS1).
- As PE will be outside whenever possible, please make sure your child has suitable **layers** for the weather (e.g. school jumper or plain navy/black tracksuit top and bottoms).

Year 2 - PE



- Children should come to school in their **school PE kit** on their PE day.
- Please ensure they wear **trainers**. (Pumps are not required in KS1).
- As PE will be outside whenever possible, please make sure your child has suitable **layers** for the weather (e.g. school jumper or plain navy/black tracksuit top and bottoms).



On a Friday, children are encouraged to **bring in and share any achievements** they have earned outside of school.

This might be a certificate, badge, medal or something they are proud of (e.g. swimming award, Man of the Match, dance exam, music achievement etc).



Assemblies

Christmas Play: Year 2 only



Wednesday 9th December
2pm (afternoon performance)

Thursday 10th December
9.30am (morning performance)

Please attend ONE performance
so all parents have the opportunity
to see their child(ren) perform.

Two tickets per child.

A very
special
performance!

Behaviour

Working together to make our school a happy, safe and successful place for everyone

★ Rewards

We celebrate positive behaviour in lots of ways:



Class Dojo points

Earn dojos for showing our school values.



Stickers

A little extra recognition for positive choices.



Endeavour certificates

Celebrating children who go above and beyond.



Postcards home

Sharing great news with you!

● Sanctions

If a child makes a poor choice, we use a consistent approach to help them reflect and make better choices:



Warning

A reminder to make the right choice.



2 minutes thinking time

Time to reflect.



5 minutes thinking time

Continued reflection time.



10 minutes thinking time

With an LMT / SMT and a letter home.



Ready · Respectful · Safe



Positive behaviour
helps everyone to learn
and be their best!

Communication

Working together to support every child



Class Dojo

Whole School Approach

- A closed class group where class teachers can send messages to parents and vice versa.
- Use this to contact your child's class teacher if you need to.
- Please do not share photos or information about other children.



Class Dojo messages are not for late pick up or changes to arrangements.

Teachers might not see these messages as they will be teaching.

Please contact the school office for these kinds of messages.

Dojo is more appropriate for a learning, class or pastoral question.



School Office

General enquiries

- Appointments
- Changes to collection arrangements
- Lost property
- Lunches or school club queries
- Any other general enquiries



01564 772 836



office@dorridge.solihull.sch.uk



Class Teacher or Year Lead

Learning, behaviour and wellbeing

- Learning progress and next steps
- Worries or changes at home that may affect your child
- Friendships or social concerns
- Behaviour or attendance patterns
- Any other matters relating to your child in school



SEND, Safeguarding or Senior Leaders

Additional support

- Concerns about your child's safety or the safety of another child
- SEND needs or additional support
- Ongoing concerns that haven't been resolved
- If you feel your child needs further pastoral or welfare support

You can contact the school office and ask for the relevant member of staff.

We will always endeavour to respond to Class Dojo messages within **24 hours** (Monday–Friday, 8am–4.30pm).

Arbor – Absence & School Lunches

Please use Arbor for both of these everyday school tasks

Reporting an absence

If your child is going to be absent, please record this through Arbor.



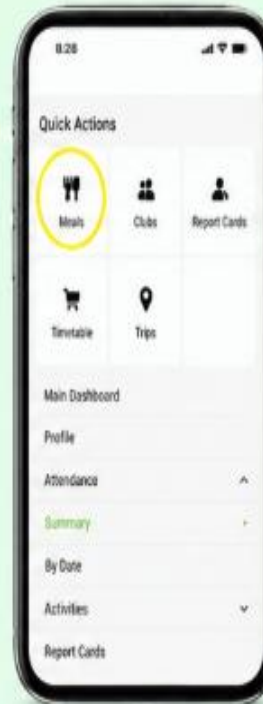
Tap
Log Absence

This lets the school know quickly why your child will not be attending.



Ordering school lunches

School lunches are also ordered through Arbor.



Use the
Arbor menu

Please make sure your child's meal choices are submitted in Arbor.



One app for two key tasks: report absence • order school lunches



Illness & Attendance

A quick guide for families

Report on Arbor



Please report your child's absence on Arbor as soon as possible.



Give the reason for absence and include your child's name and class.

If they become too unwell at school, we will contact you.

Well enough? Come in!



Coughs and colds do not usually mean children need to stay at home if they are otherwise well.

VOMITING / DIARRHOEA
48 HOURS
before returning

Medical appointments



Please arrange appointments outside school hours wherever possible.

The office will need evidence of any appointments within school time.



If your child is well enough for school, we want them here and learning.



Attendance

Every Day Matters

Why attendance matters

Regular attendance helps children:



Keep up with their learning



Build friendships and feel part of school



Develop routines and confidence

A bright future starts with being here! 

When attendance becomes a concern

90%
attendance =
persistent absence

This means a child has missed 10% or more of their possible school sessions – whether the absence is authorised or unauthorised.

Anecdotally, 90% attendance means the child has missed roughly 19 days of school.

Every day in school makes a difference 

We're here to help

We monitor all children's attendance regularly. If attendance begins to cause concern, we will work with families to understand any barriers and support improved attendance.



Our family support team, Mrs Davies and Mrs Mayers, are available if you have any worries regarding attendance or you are struggling to get your child into school.

If something is making attendance difficult, please talk to us early – we want to work with you.

Leave during term time

Leave during term time cannot normally be authorised.

Requests will only be considered where there are exceptional circumstances.



Please complete an **Absence Request Form** in advance.

This helps us to consider your request and respond in a timely way.

 Thank you for your support!

Fines for Unauthorised Absence

What Parents Need to Know



**10 sessions
= 5 school days**

If your child has 10 sessions (usually 5 school days) of **unauthorised absence** within a rolling 10-school-week period, a penalty notice must be considered.

The 10 sessions do not need to be consecutive and can include absences across terms or school years. For example, if your child is absent from the last week of summer term and the first week of autumn term, this will meet the trigger threshold.

Penalty amounts



First penalty notice

£80

per parent, per child
if paid within 21 days

£160

if paid within 28 days

Second penalty notice (within 3 years)

£160

per parent, per child
(no £80 option)

Further action



If your child has a **third occurrence** of unauthorised absence within 3 years, a further penalty notice cannot be issued. Instead, the local authority may consider **other action**, which could include **prosecution**.

You could get a fine of up to £2,500, a community order or a jail sentence of up to 3 months.
The court could also give you a Parenting Order.

Please speak to us if there are difficulties affecting
your child's attendance – we want to work with families to support good attendance.

Sharing Pupil Photos

♥ Keeping our children safe online ♥

✓ Class Dojo

- We love to share photos of your children's learning and special moments with you on Class Dojo.
- Class Dojo is a closed group, only accessible to the parents and carers of children in our class.
- This allows us to celebrate your children's achievements safely and securely.



ClassDojo

✗ School Website or Facebook

- To keep all of our children safe online, we do not share pupil photos on the school website or Facebook page.
- This helps to protect our children's privacy and ensures we are following safeguarding and internet safety guidance.



Same amazing moments,
just a safer way to share!



Safer Schools App

Expert advice. Happier, safer children.

What is the Safer Schools App?

The Safer Schools App provides trusted, expert advice and resources to help keep children safe and well.

It offers helpful information for parents and carers on a wide range of topics, including online safety, mental health, wellbeing, safeguarding and much more.

**Practical advice.
Trusted support.
A safer tomorrow.**



How to get started

- 1 Download the Safer Schools App from the App Store or Google Play.



- 2 Open the app and enter our school code:

6903

- 3 Start exploring a wide range of helpful advice and resources!

Topics include...



Online safety



Mental health & wellbeing



Safeguarding



Relationships & friendships



Behaviour & development



Practical tips and guidance

And much more!

Working together to keep our children safe, informed and happy.

#WakeUpWednesday

A quick weekly update to help families navigate the online world

What is Wake Up Wednesday?

Each week we share a simple online-safety guide for parents and carers.



New apps, games and online trends



Potential risks to be aware of



Practical tips for keeping children safer



Useful conversation starters for home

Where will you find it?

Every Monday on Class Dojo

Look out for the weekly guide and take a couple of minutes to have a read.



You can also find the Wake Up Wednesday fact sheets in PDF format on the school website page.

Look out for guides like this →



A few minutes each week can help you feel more confident about your child's online world.



School Fund

Small contributions make a big difference!



What is School Fund?

School Fund is a **voluntary annual contribution**, paid via **Parent Pay**, which helps to provide extra opportunities and resources for all of our children.



A little contribution makes a big difference!



What does it help fund?

Your contributions enable lots of wider school opportunities, for example:



Author visits and special events



School trips and transport



Workshops and enrichment activities



Sports equipment and events



Additional resources that enhance learning

How to contribute

You can make your annual School Fund contribution easily via **Parent Pay**.



ParentPay

Secure • Simple • Convenient

Look for the 'School Fund' item in your Parent Pay account.



Thank you for your support!

Brighter opportunities together

Every contribution, no matter the size, helps us to provide memorable experiences, exciting opportunities and additional resources that enrich school life for all our children.



Together we can create even more opportunities!



Thank you for helping to make our school a special place.

Dorridge Primary PTA

Every family can get involved! 

What does the PTA do?

We raise money to provide extras and experiences that benefit **all children across the school**.



How can you help?

There are lots of ways to get involved, big or small:



Come along to events



Volunteer when you can



Share ideas



Support fundraising

Stay connected

Join the **Dorridge Primary PTA Facebook** group for news, events and ways to get involved.



Search for:
Dorridge Primary PTA
on Facebook



News and upcoming events



Updates and ways to help



Fundraising and much more!

Every event you attend, every hour you volunteer and every bit of support helps make a difference to our children.

Volunteers

We love having extra help in school!



Helping in school

We welcome volunteers to support in a range of activities, for example:



Listening to children read



Supporting learning activities (e.g. maths)



Helping with creative activities



Supporting small groups



Regular volunteers will be in a different year group to your child.



Trips & events

We always appreciate extra support on:



School trips



Local visits



Special events



Enrichment activities

More information will be shared nearer the time.



Share your expertise

We'd love to hear from you if you have a special skill or interest, for example:



Science Week



Creative Arts Week



Mathematicians



Musicians



And much more!

Please get in touch if you think you could help.



How to help



Keep an eye on the 'Weekly News'



Check the website and ClassDojo for opportunities



Speak to your child's class teacher too



Resources – we're always grateful for donations!



Together we play, learn and succeed

Any
Questions?