

Weekly News

27th – 30th April 2026



Amazon Wishlist

We have had an overwhelming response to the Library Book letter sent by Heads of School on Tuesday.

Thank you, we are amazed and truly grateful.

Every book added will go straight into children's hands, making an immediate difference to their learning and enjoyment of reading. If you would like to contribute, please use [this link](#) to access our list and to make your donation book choice(s). Your continued support through contributions like this has a direct and lasting impact on the quality of education and experiences we can provide. Together, we can ensure that every child has access to a rich, inspiring range of books.

Endeavour

Reception: Theo, Kylo, Jesse

Year 1: Monty, Annabelle, Elliott

Year 2: Rebecca, Arjay, Cami

Year 3: Eugene, Willow, Jessica

Year 4: Rajan, Reuben, Emily

Year 5: Louis, Krishna, Sophie

Year 6: Edward, Maryum, Persia, Pippa

Long Weekend

Friday 1st May – INSET

Monday 4th May – Bank Holiday

Year 4&5 Golf Enrichment Day

Next Tuesday (28th April), all children in Years 4 and 5 will have the opportunity to engage with a Golf Enrichment Day, which will be led by a golf expert from Ignite Golf. Each class will have a 45-minute session and children should come to school in their **PE kit for the day**. Hopefully this will be a great opportunity to play a new sport for many and should prove to be a really fun day!

Please do not ride scooters (including electric) when on the school grounds. Dismount at the school gate and leave them in the scooter park provided. Thank you.

Safeguarding Reminder

In the interest of safeguarding, we ask that parents and carers leave the school site promptly after collecting children at the end of the school day. We are aware of parents and carers chatting on the playground leaving children unsupervised whilst Teachers and Sports Coaches are running clubs. Please remember there are other children on site at Darby's or in after school clubs. **Thank you.**



West Midlands
POLICE

IS YOUR CAR PARKED ILLEGALLY?

It is if...

- You are parked within 10 metres of a junction
- You are parked in front of an entrance to a property
- Parked on Zig Zag lines
- Parked on Double Yellow Lines
- Parked causing any other obstruction

THE CONSEQUENCES

A fine and potentially points on your licence

SCHOOL - KEEP - CLEAR

May Diary Dates

MAY		
01.05.26		INSET Day – school closed to pupils – Darby's OPEN
04.05.26	School closed	MAY BANK HOLIDAY
04.05.26		Deaf Awareness Week
08.05.26		Year 3 Benchball Festival at Arden
11.05.26		Mental Health Awareness Week
11.05.26		Year 6 SATs Week
11.05.26		Book Fair Week – 3for2 offer
11.05.26		National Walk to School Week
14.05.26	11am	Year 6 Picnic in the Park – End of SATs – Parents Welcome
16.05.26		PTA May Ball at Nuthurst Grange
22.05.26		INSET Day – school closed to pupils - Darby's OPEN
25 th -29 th .05.26		HALF TERM – Darby's Holiday Club OPEN



Year 5 learned how to prepare spaghetti bolognese from scratch this week. We are grateful to Eric Lyons butchers in Bentley Heath for donating enough mince beef for 96 children to cook with. Year 5 teachers and support staff rose to what turned out to be a logistical challenge! It was a great day and taught the children useful and lifelong skills



Girls' Football

This week, a team of year 5 and 6 girls have represented Dorridge brilliantly in football. First, they played Tidbury Green on Monday, winning 3-1, which provided a great opportunity to prepare for Thursday's tournament.

At the tournament, the girls finished their league in third after winning 2 games, drawing 3 and losing only 1. A phenomenal achievement given that this was the first time this group of girls had played together! It was lovely to see them thoroughly enjoying an afternoon of football in the sunshine - well done, girls!



Thank you

Claire Lunham from PAPAAYA popped in to receive your Charity Fortnight donations this week. As you know our intention is to split all the money raised over Charity Fortnight between Dorridge Primary and PAPAAYA. Together with the PTA, we hope to have raised enough funds for a new jog track at KS2, which will give children a safe, all-weather space to stay active, even when the field is too muddy to use. Having this dedicated track means pupils can enjoy regular movement throughout the year, supporting their physical health, boosting their mood, and helping them return to learning feeling focused and energised. As part of our ongoing commitment to promoting children's wellbeing, resilience and healthy habits, this track would be a valuable addition to our outdoor provision and something the whole school community can benefit from.

PAPAAYA (Parents Against Phone Addiction in Young Adolescents) will continue their amazing work on promoting digital wellbeing, protect children's mental health from the addictive nature of smartphones and social media.



Nursery

We've had a really lovely week in the sunshine, with the children thoroughly enjoying learning all about dinosaurs. It has been wonderful to see their curiosity and enthusiasm during our activities. We will be continuing with our dinosaur topic next week, where the children will have the opportunity to make their own salt dough fossils, something we're sure they'll really enjoy. In phonics, we will be learning the letter sound 'u' using the alliteration 'Umberto the umbrella'. In maths, we will continue to explore the concepts of *more* and *fewer* through a range of practical and engaging activities. As the weather continues to be warmer, please ensure that your child comes to school with a **named** sun hat each day. We also ask that sun cream is applied at home before school. Please do not send sun cream into school. This week, we sent name cards home for you to practise with your child. Please focus on correct letter formation. We will continue to practise name writing in school as well, so do keep your set at home for regular use. Have a wonderful weekend in the sun.

Year 1 In English, we have been continuing our work on 'The Day the Crayons Quit'. We got into character, as Duncan, and wrote a letter back to one of the crayons to explain how we would try and use them better in the future. In maths, we have begun our new unit on multiplication and division. This week, we have been practising counting forward and back in 2s, 5s and 10s as well as looking at how these can be shown pictorially. It would be beneficial for the children to continue to practise their counting in 2s, 5s and 10s (both forward and backward) to support our multiplication and division work. In geography, we have been looking at map skills and focusing on the human and physical features of Dorridge. The children then worked in pairs to create their own map of Dorridge with symbols and a key. The children are very much looking forward to our upcoming walks to Dorridge over the next few weeks to put our map and observation skills into practise! As this is a short local walk, we don't require any extra support or help on this occasion. In art, the children have been learning about wool wrapping and really enjoyed practising these skills to decorate their sticks and brighten them up with a variety of different types of wool. Next week, we will be moving onto plaiting skills. Have a wonderful weekend and we will see you on Monday.

Year 3 Our corridor will soon be filled with fantastic "trickery" ideas for *Mr and Mrs Twit*, as the children have now written and published their own trick chapter. This has been a wonderful opportunity for them to showcase the wide range of writing skills they have developed throughout the year. In maths, we have now completed our learning on length. The

Reception This week, Reception continue with our three texts: RD will be exploring *The Three Little Pigs*, RP will dive into *Jack and the Beanstalk*, and RS will enjoy *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*.

In phonics, we are continuing to focus on adding **-ed** to the end of words. So far, we have looked at words such as *wanted* and *jagged*, where the **-ed** is pronounced 'id.' Last week, we looked at words such as *brushed* and *picked*, where the **-ed** is pronounced 't.' This week, we look at more **-ed** words, but they make the 'd' sound, for example 'joined' and 'grabbed'. We are continuing to practise our phase 4 tricky words that can be found on their tricky word bookmarks.

In maths, the children will begin to explore the number 10, learning how it can be made in different ways. The children will practise making groups of 10 objects to help them understand what makes 10 special. We will also look at how 10 can be split into two parts (for example, 6 and 4, or 7 and 3). The children will use visual resources, such as double dice frames and 10-frames to help them quickly recognise these amounts without counting.

We are also very excited to welcome our caterpillars into the classroom. The children will have the opportunity to observe them closely each day as they grow and change, learning about the life cycle of a butterfly.

RS will continue on their Forest School adventures every Thursday, RP will be continue their Footiebug sessions on Tuesdays, and RD will further develop their skills in their Friday PE lessons.

Please note that this week's homework will be based on Numbots. Log in information for your child will be placed in the front of their home school organisers. Further information will be added onto Dojo.

Year 2 Year 2 have had a lovely week this week!

In English we have continued our work on Paddington. This week the children have been completing some writing pieces in the POV of Paddington. We have been working on building the children's writing stamina ready for KS2 this week, so they have been working extremely hard in English. The children have thought about Paddington's emotions in different parts of the story and written these up in his POV, and drafted and written up a post card to send all the way to Aunt Lucy in Peru telling her about his crazy adventures so far in London!

In maths we have been telling the time to and past the hour in 5 minute intervals which the children have worked so hard so and have tackled amazingly! For any extra practise on telling the time please look to dojo for links to games they can play.

In History we have continued looking at monarchs, and this week have focused on the coronation ceremony. The children learnt about the different stages of the ceremony and why they are important. In science we completed some work on what spring is and how we can see it within our school grounds.

Next week we will be beginning our final science unit, plants.

Enjoy the sunshine over the weekend!

The Year 2 Team

Year 4 It has been another busy and productive week in Y4! We would like to say a huge thank you to Sharon Grimson for coming into school and sharing how important debating is in her role. The children thoroughly enjoyed debating topics such as whether we should have school uniform and if children should have mobile phones. It was fantastic for them to see

children have made great progress with measuring and converting units (mm to cm and cm to m), and these skills will continue to be important as we move onto perimeter next week. Using a ruler correctly has also improved significantly over the past couple of weeks—well done! Any practical measuring activities at home would be a great way to reinforce this learning.

To round off our geography unit, the children thoroughly enjoyed exploring our school and local area using Google Earth. We have also been learning the eight points of a compass, which will help when we begin writing directions for our classmates to follow around the school grounds next week. Hopefully, unlike Shackleton, no-one will end up shipwrecked! In science, we have been learning about friction and are looking forward to carrying out an investigation next week to see how different surfaces affect it. The children have already made their predictions—do ask them to explain their thinking at home.

Change to PE next week: As next Friday is an INSET day, PE will take place on Wednesday instead. All classes will have a PE session, there will be no Forest School that week, but rest assured that the remaining sessions will be shared fairly between 3P and 3S.

Finally, thank you for your continued support with homework. It's fantastic to see that most children are now completing all tasks each week (Century, TTRS, spelling and reading) this is a great improvement. They're building excellent habits and really supporting their learning, so let's keep up the great work! Wishing you all a lovely weekend. **The Year 3 Team**

Year 5 The highlight this week has been our design and technology project, pupils thoroughly enjoyed developing their own recipes. They learned important food preparation skills, including how to safely handle and prepare ingredients. The best part was, of course, tasting the delicious final products.

In maths, we have continued our work on shape. Pupils have been developing their understanding of angles, including calculating angles around a point, on a straight line, and within different shapes. They have shown great progress in applying these skills to solve problems and explain their reasoning clearly.

In English, we have been exploring how Shakespeare describes the woods in *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Pupils made thoughtful links between Shakespeare's imagery and real-life countryside plants, as well as elements of English folklore. Next week we will be exploring the relationship between Oberon and Titania, and the impact this has on the rest of the story.

Looking ahead to next week, we are excited for our golf day on Tuesday. All pupils will need to come to school wearing their PE kit.

A reminder to please read the letter that has been sent out regarding Bikeability. If you have any questions or require further information, do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher. Please can we ask that you check your child's pencil case supplies, we have high numbers of pupils coming to school without the essentials (handwriting pen, pencil, ruler and glue stick). This really does make a difference when starting a lesson promptly.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Enjoy a sunny weekend, **the Year 5 Team.**

how the skills they are developing in school will support them in their adult lives.

Next week, we are also looking forward to welcoming Mr Ward-Jones into school. He will be sharing how persuasion is a vital part of his job and how the children can use specific language techniques to help persuade others.

We are also lucky enough to be taking part in a 45-minute golf enrichment session for each class on Tuesday. This will be run by a golf expert from Ignite Golf and should be a great experience for the children. Please ensure that children come to school in their PE kit on this day.

In maths, we are coming to the end of our first unit on decimals. The children have been learning about tenths and hundredths and how to write them. In our next unit, we will continue working with decimals, focusing on making a whole, ordering decimals, and partitioning decimals.

In science, we are continuing our work on sound, investigating whether sound can travel through liquids and solids, and exploring what happens as we move away from a sound source.

We hope you all have a lovely weekend in the sunshine.

The Year 4 Team

Year 6 We have had a very busy and productive week in y6! Our pupils have brought energy and enthusiasm to the task of writing a survival guide for a desert island - they are all ready for finding themselves washed ashore and knowing what to do first. We are mixing writing tasks in English lessons with revision for the next couple of weeks.

Homework will be different for different groups in the next fortnight, with some groups receiving paper-based test practice rather than Century Tech. Please ensure next week's homework is completed by Thursday.

In maths, we are having a final push through the units of shape and position/ direction. We have learnt many different angle rules and have applied these to problem-solving situations. It is still good practice to regularly use times table rock stars, as pupils with good tables knowledge can apply this readily to other areas of maths.

During our afternoons, we have been learning about the different parts of the lungs and how these work, completing our unit about about the heart and lungs. In history, we have finished our work about Mary Seacole, considering her legacy.

Borough Sports Club:

We are so pleased that so many pupils have signed up for Borough Sports club. If your child has signed up and is unable to attend a session, they should let Mrs Guevara or Mr Coley know - at the moment, we are having up to ten pupils per session not turning up, creating a safeguarding issue.

We would also request that pupils are collected at time from our regular meeting point by the KS2 teachers' car park. Please do not wait on the playground or other areas, as these are used by other clubs and Darby's.