



This has been a busy and enjoyable half term at Dorset Road, with each class enjoying some special experiences to enhance their learning (photographs and details over the page). As a whole school, we have all taken part in an art project to make the 6 images reflecting the new school values; Independence, Tolerance, Respect, Perseverance, Excellence, Friendship. Year 1 have also been creative, joining an art project at Eltham College. We hope you like the willow screening, very kindly installed by Layla's dad; it makes the playground feel more secure. Hopefully the playground will be bursting in to life over the next few weeks, as the various flowers and vegetables planted in the tubs, tyres and wellies by the children, start to flourish. Thank you to Helen Inman for supporting this project.

As always, thank you to our parents and wider families who support the school, whether by helping your children with reading and homework at home, coming in to school to listen to reading or accompanying us on visits or helping the PTA.

Wishing you all a happy and restful half term break. We look forward to welcoming the children back in to school on **TUESDAY 6th JUNE.**

Please note that on Thursday 8th June, the whole school will be taking part in a "Fit4Life" session, run by our after school club provider, Progressive Sports. The children will be learning about the importance of exercise and eating sensibly, to keep healthy and well. Children may come to school in sportswear and pay £1 to school funds.

A few "housekeeping" items...

- Earrings –please do not wear earrings to school. They can be dangerous, particularly during PE activities, so we ask the children to remove or cover earrings.
- Dropping off at school – if driving to school, please park considerately in the road and walk your child in to the gate to school staff. Do not double park or park over neighbouring driveways.
- Birthdays – as we have achieved the "Healthy Schools" silver award, please do not send in cakes or sweets to mark your child's birthday.
- Pride Postcards – watch your letterboxes in the holiday... 2 children per class will receive a Pride Postcards in recognition of their good work.
- Sunny weather – now that summer has arrived, please ensure your child has a water bottle and sun hat with them every day, and you apply sunscreen before school.
- Packed lunches - we have noticed that some contain unsuitable foods, such as chocolate biscuits and chocolate spread sandwiches. Please ensure that you send in a healthy balanced meal, such as sandwiches with a piece of fruit or yoghurt.

PTA

A sponsor form will be in book bags for the forthcoming Sponsored Scooter Ride. Please ask family and friends for sponsorship during the half term holiday. The Scooter Ride is the "big" annual PTA fundraiser, providing a real boost to PTA funds, helping to subsidise school visits and provide lovely treats, such as the Christmas pantomime. A prize for the child who raises the most! A PTA newsletter will also be coming home with a list of events.

Thank you to all who contributed to last week's "Furrytastic" walk to school day. This raised £58 for PTA funds and helped promote the benefits of walking to school.

The PTA are still collecting items for the Fathers' Day sale... unopened toiletries, gifts etc gratefully received.

Well done Huey!



We always like to hear about the exciting things the children do outside of school. Huey, in Year 1, has recently acted as Gaston, in "Beauty and the Beast" at the Brit School! Fabulous!

Year 1 "Moon Zoom" day



Our Moon Zoom! topic in Year 1 got off to a firing start. The costumes were amazing, thank you for all your efforts. The children enjoyed playing space games with the parachute, drawing alien friends on pebbles, making Intergalactic passports, creating a class rocket and creating space pictures. An exciting day was had by all.

Year 2 "Tales of Plague and The Fire of London" workshop

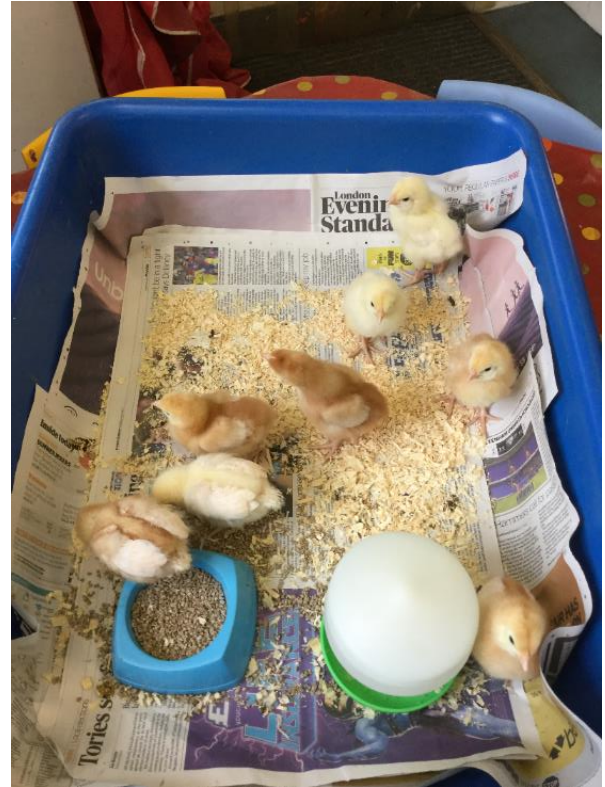
Year 2 started with term with a fabulous drama workshop to learn about these 2 historic events. Lots of dressing up and storytelling made for a memorable day.



We are proud of our year 2 pupils who have worked very hard this half term, and over the last couple of weeks taken a variety of assessments in maths, reading and spellings. Well done to you all! The class have some lovely treats to look forward to after half term...swimming lessons, a visit to Horton Kirby Environmental Centre, the leaving assembly.

Reception chicks

The children had a lovely couple of weeks learning about chicks. It was magical coming into school on the Wednesday morning and watching three of them hatching from their eggs. We loved looking after the chicks, feeding them, cleaning their box and holding them. Over the time we had them, the children were able to observe the changes which took place as they grew and developed their feathers. The chicks are roaming free now on the farm, but the farmer has promised to send us some photographs.



I am pleased to inform you that the recent Ofsted visit to Castlecombe was extremely successful and I am sure you would like to join me in congratulating the staff on the significant improvements that have taken place this year. Building work for the Dorset Road children to transfer to Year 3 has now begun and we look forward to welcoming our first Year 3 class in September. I will be arranging a meeting for Year 2 parents after half term, to talk about transfer arrangements.

Mrs Jo Brinkley