DORMERS INFORMER

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A MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD

Dear Parents/Carers,
November has been another busy month! I continue to be immensely proud of our school community, our great learning and behaviour for learning. This month, we welcomed an Ofsted inspection team into school over two days (17th-18th November). During the inspection, inspectors spent time visiting lessons, speaking with pupils, staff, governors and senior leaders, reviewing pupils' work and considering a wide range of evidence about school life. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the 9 parents who took the time to complete Ofsted's Parent View survey and share their feedback. We are grateful for your support and engagement. Ofsted will now finalise its report, which is expected to be published within the next few weeks, and we look forward to sharing the outcome with our school community as soon as we are able to do so.

Attendance Awards
We want all our pupils to achieve 97% and be in the 97 Club! A big shout out to our amazing children who continue to show a love of learning by coming to school every day. A Special Well done to the TOP FIVE classes, our attendance champions: Y6 Johnson - 98%, Y6 Turing - 96%, Y5 Zephaniah - 98%, Y2 Latimer - 97.7% and Y3 Farah - 97.4%, for their excellent attendance, so far.

Position	Class attendance
1st =	Y6 Johnson **98%** ☺
1st =	Y5 Zephaniah **98%** ☺
3rd	Y2 Latimer **97.7%** ☺
4th	Y3 Farah **97.4%** ☺
5th	Y6 Turing **96%** ☺
6th	Y4 Attenborough **95.7%**
7th	Y1 Earhart with **94.8%**
8th	Y5 Blackman with **94.6%**
9th	Y3 Tendulkar with **94.2%**
10th	Y4 Wangari with **93.3%**
11th	Y2 Curie with **93.1%**
12th	YR Pollock with **92.2%**
13th	YR Mahlangu with **92%**
14th	YR 1 Seacole with **87.7%**
15th	Nursery Raza with **81.3%**
Whole school attendance	**95.7%** Target of 25-26 (96%) almost met

Attendance and Punctuality
Good Attendance = Great Results!
Attendance remains a key priority for our school. Our current whole-school attendance is 94%, which is below our school target of 96%. Whilst many pupils attend regularly and achieve excellent attendance, we know that attendance remains an area for improvement across the school.
This week, we have experienced a significant increase in cases of the vomiting and diarrhoea bug. Thank you for supporting us in reducing the spread of infection. Please continue to encourage regular handwashing at home and remind children about the importance of good hygiene habits. If your child has experienced sickness or diarrhoea, they should remain at home for 48 hours after their last episode before returning to school. During our recent Ofsted inspection, attendance was an important area of discussion, particularly around persistent absence. Inspectors recognised the actions we are taking but also challenged us to continue improving attendance rates, especially for pupils who are regularly absent from school. This remains a key focus in some year groups, and we will continue to work closely with families to ensure every child benefits from attending school every day.
A child is classed as persistently absent when their attendance falls below 90%. Missing just one day every fortnight can place a child into this category and can have a significant impact on academic achievement, friendships, confidence and wellbeing.

Let's Reach Our Target Together
We know that good attendance leads to better outcomes for children. Every lesson matters and every day missed is learning that cannot be fully replaced. We ask all families to support us by ensuring children attend school every day, unless they are genuinely unwell. We would also like to remind parents and carers that holidays should not be taken during term time. Term-time leave will not be authorised except in exceptional circumstances, as even short periods of absence can disrupt learning and make it harder for children to keep up with their peers. Thank you for your continued support. By working together to improve attendance, especially for those pupils whose attendance falls below 90%, we can ensure that every child can achieve their full potential. Every day really does count.

Nursery Places available for January 2027 and April 2027
If your child was born between 1 September 2023 and 31 December 2023, s/he can start Nursery in January 2027.
If your child was born between 1 January 2024 and 31 March 2024, s/he can start Nursery in April: a fun environment where the children learn through play and develop social skills. Please come to the school office for an application pack and we will start them as soon as possible.

SAFEGUARDING: ONLINE SAFETY MICHELLE
To further help you keep your children safe online, this summer's Parent Guide is: Grand Theft Auto 6.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS: Too many children are still missing out on a free delicious nutritious school lunch. We want all children to be eating a HOT FREE school lunch, so do encourage your child to try it out and save yourself money! If you are eligible for free school meals, please provide the school with your National Insurance Number or click on the link below, on how to claim, in case your child is eligible for extra funding for their school from the Government, worth £1,300 per year. That's extra money to spend on enrichment activities, teacher development and targeted support. To see if you qualify, please click on the link and inform school as soon as you receive your notification: http://fsm.bslforum.com/ealing/Dseat.jsp Don't miss out, apply today!

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEPUTY HEAD

Winter Fair and Fireworks Display
Thank you for all your donations, so far as we prepare for our Winter Fair next Thursday! And a huge thank you to Heston Lions Club for their donation, of toys for the Elves workshop. Tokens are on sale for the fireworks display and to the Fair on School Comms (these will be handed to the children on the day of the fair). Tickets will be available up until Wednesday the 2nd December. All tickets are non-refundable; we will also collect cash on the day. We also welcome any more donations or gifts from you or local businesses. We look forward to seeing lots of families at the Winter fair, as we prepare for Christmas together and raising funds for the school. Detailed here are this year's Class Representatives, who will work in partnership with parents to support our fundraising events. With our Winter Fair taking place next week, we would be grateful for your support, in helping make these events a success for our children and school community.

Class reps

Class	Parent of
Pollock	Iffah Naseer
Mahlangu	
Seacole	Asiya Omar Yashu Gupta Ayzal Rashid
Earhart	Gaurang Naik Shanaya Godinho
Curie	Mohsin Mohamud Ayreen Rashid
Latimer	Ayeza Nawaz Ashwin singh Aathesh Nirojan Mohammad Saad
Farah	Adila Sohail Aasiya Ismail Delicia Viegas Shlok Naik
Tendulkar	Abhirut Arun Kumar Lullu
Wangari	
Attenborough	Ayman Mohammed
Blackman	Aiza Butt Daniela Caiza Sidharth Arun Kumar Lullu
Zephaniah	Safa Nawaz
Turing	
Johnson	

Christmas Post Box
If pupils would like to send Christmas cards (can be homemade) there is a school post box. Our youngest pupils should be helped to write the recipient's name (and class) on the envelope, so they can be sorted appropriately!

Saturday Club @ Dormers- exciting opportunity!
We are excited to announce that Sports Play Motion who deliver high-quality PE lessons and clubs in our school are launching & a Sports Development Centre with Motion4Kids at Dormers Wells Primary School, starting Saturday, 5 December 2026.
The sessions will be running on a fortnightly basis, look out for the promotional flyer. Session details:

- Start Date: Saturday, 5 December 2026
- Frequency: Fortnightly (every other Saturday)
- Time: 9.45 am – 11.45 am
- Venue: Dormers Wells Primary School
- Age Group: 4–16 years
- Cost: FREE

Booking Link: https://bookwhen.com/sportsplaymotion-dc Their aim is to encourage as many children as possible to get involved, stay active, develop their sporting skills and build confidence through fun, inclusive multi-sports activities.



Other support available-Cost of living
Ealing Council offers a range of support, benefits, grants and money-saving discounts for children and families, including help with the cost of living.

- Cost of Living Support & Advice – benefits, grants, money-saving discounts, food support and family support: Cost of living support and advice | Ealing Council
- Free Mobile Data / SIM Cards – information about eligibility and how to get a free SIM through Ealing's Community Hubs: Get free mobile data | Get free mobile data | Ealing Council
- Financial Support & Help with Bills – includes Council Tax Reduction, Housing Payments, Crisis and Resilience Fund, Free School Meals and support for families: Cost of living support: Living costs: bills, housing and health - GOV.UK
- Benefits Calculator – check what benefits or financial support you may be entitled to: Check benefits and financial support you can get - GOV.UK
- Crisis and Resilience Fund – support for residents facing financial difficulties, including help with money, bills, debt and essential costs: Crisis and Resilience Fund: Guidance for local authorities in England (1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029) - GOV.UK
- Getting Online – information about free Wi-Fi, digital support, free SIM cards and social tariffs: Get online | Get online | Ealing Council

End of term Arrangements-Friday 18th December
The timings for the last day of the Autumn term on Friday 18th December is 1pm. Nursery last day of term is on the same day. The first day back to school for pupils is Monday 4th January 2027.

With best wishes,
Mrs Toni George
Headteacher

DORMERS WELLS PRIMARY SCHOOL

UPCOMING DATES

02/12/26:
- Y5/6 Athletics event for selected pupils only
- Christmas Post-box opens

03/12/26:
- NHS Flu Vaccination (2nd visit)
- 3.15 pm Winter Fair & Fireworks Display

04/12/26:
- Y5 Space Dome workshop
- Y1 Gunnersbury Park Toy Museum trip

07/12/26:
- KS2 Send Kurling event for selected pupils only

08/12/26:
- 2.45 - 3.15pm Reception Christmas concert

09/12/26:
- 11am Nursery Christmas Concert

10/12/26:
- Y3 Gunnersbury Park Stone Age Workshop

11/12/26
- 1pm Choir singing at local Nursing Home

14/12/26:
- Pollock class visit the Post Office

15/12/26:
- Mahlangu class visit the Post Office
- 9am Y1-3 attendance award assembly
- 2.45pm Y4-6 attendance award assembly

16/12/26:
- Christmas Theme Lunch & Winter Wear Day
- 2.30pm Y2 Nativity to parents

18/12/26:
- Non-uniform day for classes in 97% club
- Last day of term for All Pupils (pupils finish at 1pm)

04/01/27
- Start of Spring term (All Pupils return to School)





This November, we have been learning about the importance of kindness, inclusion, remembrance and supporting others. We have celebrated Children in Need, recognising the importance of helping children and families who may be experiencing challenges and ensuring that every child has the opportunity to thrive. We also took part in Odd Socks Day as part of Anti-Bullying Week, celebrating individuality, embracing differences and recognising the importance of treating everyone with kindness and respect. Through Remembrance Day, we reflected on the importance of peace and remembered those affected by conflict, including children around the world. These activities link to Article 2 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, which states that every child has the right to enjoy their rights without discrimination, regardless of their background, identity or circumstances. We recognise the importance of creating an inclusive school community where everyone feels valued, accepted and supported, and where we celebrate our differences and show compassion towards others.

WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO?

Nursery

The children have settled in well after the half term break. So far we have been learning about Diwali, fireworks and Autumn through stories and songs. At the beginning of term everyone made and took home a beautiful Diwali diya that the children made out of clay! Lots of children are picking up leaves that have fallen from the trees in our garden. We like to look at their colours and add them to the Autumn Tray display inside! The children have started learning how to write their name in Nursery. Please help your child to practice writing their name at home (just five minutes a day). They will feel so proud when they can eventually do it!







Reception

Our Reception children have been exploring autumn in nature, noticing the fallen leaves and their beautiful changing colours.



Year 1

This month children in Year One have been preparing for many special events at school. We made poppies to decorate our school hall for Remembrance Day and we celebrated Anti-Bullying Week by wearing odd socks. The children also went on a trip to the cinema to see a film.



Year 2

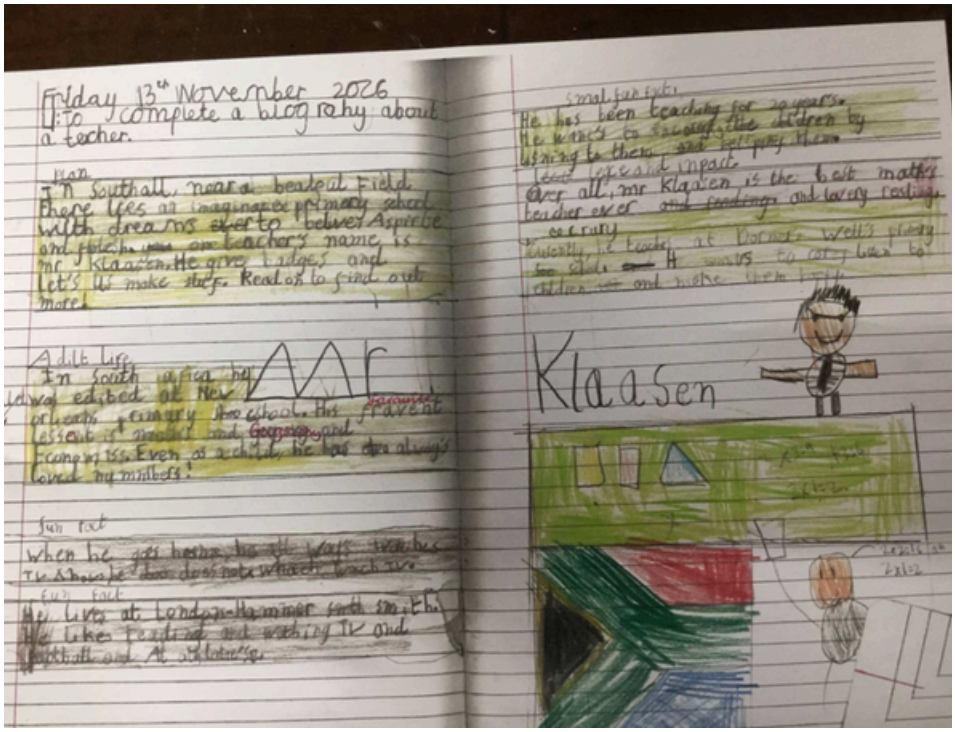
Art - In Year 2 Art, the children have been focusing on the artist Esther Malangu. They explored the beautiful colours, patterns and shapes found in her artwork, taking inspiration from her unique style. The children then used their creativity to develop their own ideas and create a final piece of artwork inspired by her work. We are so proud of their fantastic creations!



WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO?

Year 3

Recently, Year 3 have been producing non-fiction writing in the form of a biography and their chosen subjects were the staff of Dormers Wells! They had a fantastic time interviewing their teachers and finding out about their lives, before producing their biographies. The children have been extremely dedicated throughout this writing and worked hard to impress the adults they had written about, which has resulted in some extremely high-quality writing.



Year 4

Year 4 went to the British Museum to look at different artifacts relating to their History topic of 'Ancient Egypt'. Layal and Ayat in Wangari said 'We saw real mummies! There were mummified humans, cats and even a snake!'. We also saw They enjoyed their trip.



Year 5

As part of Year 5's Hook Day to launch their exciting new English topic, the children were transported into the magical world of Hogwarts for a very special Sorting Hat experience! Each pupil eagerly awaited their turn to discover which of the four famous Hogwarts houses they would be sorted into. The environment was filled with excitement, anticipation and a little bit of suspense! While some children were thrilled, with their new house, others were perhaps a little less convinced by the Sorting Hat's decision. But, as we all know, the Sorting Hat has a mind of its own... and its decisions aren't always final! Could there be a few surprises, unexpected twists and even some house changes along the way? Only time will tell...



Year 6

Year 6 visit to the Tate Modern Museum as part of our Art curriculum work on Pop and Modern Art.



WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO?

Cindarella Pantomine

Children enjoyed a wonderful performance of Cinderella at the School Pantomime. They were clapping, cheering and singing along, and their excitement and enjoyment could be seen throughout the show.



Diwali

We celebrated Diwali with a special theme lunch. The children were very excited and couldn't wait to try the food.



Anti-Bullying

Amazing posters created by Nilani and Lana Year 4 Attenborough for Anti-Bullying Week and Children in Need! They have put so much effort, creativity and thought into their work, and the best part is that they completed them all by themselves. We are incredibly proud of their hard work and the important messages they are sharing.



Y6 ROAR Competition

The Octovac, a machine that creates a healthy environment for the sea life and humans. The winners were Ani, Mohona, Emaan, Daksha, Faryal, Hasna and Balquis who said "We made Octovac, a product that collects pollution from the ocean for the Roar competition and we won."

"It has been a privilege and a pleasure to visit this afternoon and learn of the stunning inventions created by the Y6 teams, all with the purpose of helping and enabling others. All of the judges have been hugely impressed by the detail, beauty and vision of the ideas and the practical relevance and application of every design. There were several, we would have liked to obtain immediately. I have great joy in knowing these young people will be taking their amazing skills forward and contributing so much in the future" Geraldine Cauthorne Heston lions.



At The National College, our Wake Up Wednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about GRAND THEFT AUTO VI

Grand Theft Auto 6 (also stylised as GTA VI) has been one of the most highly anticipated games of this generation, following GTA V, one of the best-selling video games of all time. Set in the fictional state of Leonida, including Vice City, it follows criminal partners Jason and Lucia as they become embroiled in a wider conspiracy. Although GTA VI is intended for adult audiences, its enormous popularity means that younger people may still encounter gameplay footage online or express an interest in playing it.

AGE RESTRICTION PEGI 18

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EXTREMELY VIOLENT CONTENT

GTA VI is rated PEGI 18 for a reason. Players may encounter weapons like guns, knives and explosives, with violence portrayed in highly realistic ways. As in previous GTA games, players may also encounter violence involving vehicles and other characters. The game is categorically not for younger audiences, with blood, gore, and intense violence clearly identified in its official content

SENSITIVE SOCIETAL TOPICS

Like other games in the Grand Theft Auto franchise, GTA VI uses satire to explore aspects of society and contemporary culture. Its exaggerated characters and situations are fictional and may be intended to challenge or mock particular attitudes rather than endorse them. Younger viewers, however, may struggle to recognise this context and could misunderstand jokes, stereotypes, or social commentary without guidance from a trusted adult.

TALKING TO STRANGERS ONLINE

GTA Online, the multiplayer experience associated with GTA V, allows players to communicate with others online. GTA VI has been announced as a single-player experience at launch, so the same in-game chat risks should not yet be assumed. Children may still discuss the game through other online platforms potentially encountering strangers, inappropriate language and adult themes.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL USE

Throughout GTA VI's storyline, drugs and alcohol form part of the game's criminal world. The official content rating identifies the use of both, while Rockstar's character descriptions reference drug runners and dealers. Earlier titles also showed substance use affecting how characters see and move around the world. Younger viewers may struggle to understand these portrayals in the context of a fictional crime story, particularly without guidance from a trusted adult.

NUDITY AND SEX

Relationships and sexual themes feature in GTA VI, while previous GTA titles have allowed players to visit strip clubs and solicit sex workers. It should also be recognised that GTA VI's graphics aim to be realistic, meaning depictions of nudity and sexual content may be explicit. Official ratings confirm nudity and strong sexual content, although details of specific scenes should not be assumed from earlier games.

OPTIONAL IN-GAME PURCHASES

As with its predecessor, GTA VI includes optional in-game purchases that use real-world money. While these purchases are not necessary to play the game, the appeal of additional content may encourage some players to spend more. Younger players may not fully appreciate the cost or how quickly small payments add up.

Advice for Parents & Educators

PARENTAL CONTROLS

Parental controls can block age-restricted games, but they won't remove GTA VI's adult themes from elsewhere online. On PS5, go to Settings > Family and Parental Controls > Family Management, select the child and choose your restrictions. On Xbox Series X|S, use Settings > Account > Family settings, or the Xbox Family Settings app, to manage age restrictions and screen time.

LIMIT ACCESS TO BANK DETAILS

Limiting access to banking details helps prevent accidental or unauthorised purchases. Avoid storing payment details on a child's account and require approval before spending. On PS5, parents and carers can set a monthly spending limit through Family Management. On Xbox Series X|S, the Ask to Buy feature can request adult approval for purchases, helping children and young people understand their real-world cost.

COMMUNICATION RESTRICTIONS

On PS5 and Xbox Series X|S, parental controls can restrict voice chat, messages, friend requests, and communication with other players. Parents and carers can limit interactions to approved friends or prevent communication altogether, depending on the available settings. These restrictions are especially helpful for reducing children's exposure to strangers, inappropriate language and adult themes through console chats or other multiplayer games.

MAKE THIS A CONVERSATION

Even if a child is not playing GTA VI, they may still watch gameplay clips, livestreams or trailers shared by friends and content creators. It's important to talk openly with children about why GTA VI has an adult age rating and discuss its violence, crime, strong language, sexual themes, satirical lens, and other mature content. Ask what interests them about the game and what they already know. Talk about the difference between fictional behaviour and real-world consequences.

Meet Our Expert

Mark Foster has worked in the gaming industry for 12+ years as a journalist, editor and social media expert. He's travelled the world playing video games and working with publishers and developers to fine tune their audience messaging. When he's not gaming, he can be found watching horror and sci-fi movies, TV series, listening to music or deciding which world marathon to plod around.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website

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