



Strength in difference, together we are one,
together we fly high.

Dunbury
Church of England Academy

Weekly communication

Week beginning 19th January 2026

Whole School Reminders

“Strength in difference, together we are one, together we fly high.”

We are really pleased with how the children have settled back into learning. At Dunbury we use our Learning LARRCs to help the children know what good learning behaviours look like: Literate Larks talk about their work and the challenges they have; Aspirational Avocets want to aim high and do well; Ready Wrens are ready for learning; Resilient Robins keep trying even when it's tough and Curious Crows show curiosity about learning.



Attendance: Whole school attendance: 96%.

Reading: As well as hearing your child read between 3- 5 times a week, don't forget to read to them too! There are lots of exciting books out this year; check out [Waterstones' must read books of 2026](#).

Things to remember:

Monday 19th January 2026: Parents' Maths Workshop KS2 9:00 – 9:30

Wednesday 21st January 2026: Parents' Maths Workshop: KS1 9:00 – 9:30 / EY 11:00 –11:30

Please ensure your child has a warm waterproof coat in school every day!

Beech Class Reception

This week we have started preparing for the Big School Birdwatch. We have been learning to identify Robins and identify their features. The children have produced some lovely watercolour painting of these little birds.

Curriculum

Phonics: I have been reading with the children this week to review their phonics knowledge and confidence. I am concerned that there are some children that have no reading entries in their diaries yet this term. I will be in touch where I am concerned, as this seriously affects progress. It is essential that parents listen to their child read and we recommend at least 3 reads per week.

Maths: This week we have been learning that sequential numbers look like a staircase pattern when built with cubes. We have also been practising counting to 20. Please check that your child can count to 20 and practise where necessary.

Things to remember: We hope that as many parents as possible can make our maths workshop next week. Please book in with the office if you can make it. Have a nice weekend.

Oak Class Year 1 and 2

We have been getting stuck into our new topics and really enjoyed being architects, explorers and meteorologists this week with lots of practical learning.

Phonics: Year 1 have learnt 'ew' and 'oa' while Year 2 are continuing longer words and place names.

Writing: Using 'The Storm Whale' we are generating adjectives to describe characters/settings. Year 2 are exploring deeper to write expanded noun phrases.

Maths: Year 1 are investigating 2D shapes with lots of reasoning and debating, while Year 2 are subtracting single-digit numbers past the 10s boundary, ready for 2-digit numbers next week.

Things to remember: Your child needs to be safely dressed for outdoor learning and winter weather. Show & Tell is an amazing opportunity for your child to showcase an item or artifact that is special to them, no more soft-toys please. **If you have any questions, please use the class email address: oak@dunbury.dsat.org.uk**

Cherry Class Year 3

The children have been full-on enthusiasm this week. We have enjoyed swimming and our science experiment.

Curriculum

Reading: The children have loved reading Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and retelling it with a story teller's voice.

Writing: In writing, we have been planning our very own variation of King Midas and the Golden Touch. Ask your child what story they will be writing.

Maths: Cherry are exploring angles and have made their own angle checker to decide if a shape has a right angle.

Things to remember: Reading record books and reading at home.

Elm Class Year 4

Elm class all enjoyed their second swim this week and were very enthusiastic about it.

Curriculum

Reading: We have been reading Charlie and the Chocolate Factory and answering questions about it.

Writing: In writing we have started planning our own version of King Midas and the Golden Touch.

Maths: We have been learning the 9 times table. We have also been learning other tables on our golden number facts. This week was 5x7 and 4x8. Please keep up practice at home using hit the button.

Things to remember: Keep up with regular reading and recording in the reading record. Homework is on Century. Class email address: elm@dunbury.dsat.org.uk

Golden Willow Class Year 5

This week has seen some great learning in history where we focused on life in rural Dorset in 18th & 19th centuries. We also continued our art lessons on Georgia O'Keeffe and began some macro-micro sketch work.

Reading: We continued reading our model text called 'Journey to the River Sea' which links to our focus on voyage and return narratives.

Writing: This week we have introduced the story Gorilla by Anthony Browne. We touched on the 'story mountain structure' and did a deep dive into powerful vocabulary and impactful grammar structures. Spelling was a focus on words ending with –ible and -able.

Maths: We finished looking at short division and have moved on to learning about area in geometry.

Things to remember: Please continue to encourage your children to read. Homework has been set, which includes spellings, division practice (using partitioning with no remainders) and a grammar task on Century related to conjunctions. If you need anything, do not hesitate to get in touch at goldenwillow@dunbury.dsat.org.uk. **Our PE days will be Monday and Thursday.**

Scots Pine Class Year 6

We have had a busy week learning about rural Dorset during the 18th & 19th centuries. The class have also enjoyed our art lesson focusing on sketching.

Curriculum

Reading: We have been focusing on a 'Journey to the River Sea' text in line with our writing, using a range of our reading strategies to help us understand the text.

Writing: This week we have learnt our model text based on the story 'Gorilla' by Anthony Browne. The class have broken down the text and identified key vocabulary and grammar features.

Maths: We have been continuing to look at long multiplication, using our formal written method and breaking down problem solving questions to identify the equation.

Things to remember: Homework is due every Monday and PE is on Mondays & Thursdays.

If you have any questions, please use the class email address: scotspine@dunbury.dsat.org.uk