d'Auvergne Weekly Update 25.9.26

Dear Parents and Carers,

Head Teacher's Comments

We had a great turn out at our 'Meet the Teacher' event on Wednesday evening, thank you to those in attendance.

You will have heard my message about the importance of reading for pleasure, which is a significant focus for school for the coming year. There is very strong evidence that **reading for pleasure** has many benefits, both academic and social / emotional.

The declining numbers of children who are read aloud to is of significant concern: only 41% of 0–4-year-olds, 36% of 5–7-year-olds and 22% of 8–10-year-olds are read to regularly. Clearly, this is a worry and has lifelong implications.

Reading remains THE key to success.

- Set aside a regular time for reading at home. Read to succeed for 10 to 20 minutes each day. This is an investment for your child's life, and the positive impact cannot be underestimated.
- Read together, even with older children.
- Let children choose books, magazines, comics or information texts that interest them.
- Visit the library and celebrate it as a fun activity rather than a task.
- Be a reading role model by letting your child see you read.
- Read in your child's home language.

We shall be providing you with much information and support over the year to help us work together on this agenda.

I had a good chat with a parent on Wednesday evening, who is a keen reader themselves. However, they recognised that reading on a device (in this case a Kindle) isn't the same as picking up and sharing a book; we agreed that you can't beat the feel, or even the smell, of a book.

PTA Scavenger Hunt – Next Thursday 1st October

Forms will be coming home for you to book places at our first PTA event next week.



ADHD Community Glow Walk – A message from ADHD Jersey
The walk is taking place during ADHD Awareness Month and is about showing support for children, young people and families affected by ADHD across Jersey.
The Glow Walk will take place on **Friday 23 October**, meeting at **Le Frégate at 7pm**.
It is an Island community event focused on awareness, inclusion and letting families know they are not alone.
Here is the link ADHD JERSEY SPONSORED GLOW WALK – Fill out form.

JCG / VCJ
…would be delighted to welcome prospective families for a personal Tour, giving them the opportunity to see the school and gain a real sense of life at JCG.
Bursary support may be available for eligible applicants. JCG are committed to ensuring that a JCG education is accessible to students with the potential to thrive here, regardless of financial circumstances. Further information can be found at the link below:
https://jerseycollegeforgirls.com/jcg/admissions/financial-assistance

In October Victoria College will be hosting their **Annual Open Evening**
Thursday 1 October 2026 | 4.30pm–7pm
During the evening, you'll be able to explore the College, find out more about the education and opportunities they offer, meet their staff and hear, first hand, from their pupils about their experience of College life.
Highlights include:

- Co-curricular activities showcasing everything from Warhammer to skateboarding
- Pop-up performances from our Music and Drama Departments
- Science experiments in our laboratories
- Food prepared by our Food & Nutrition GCSE pupils
- An introduction to the Combined Cadet Force (CCF)
- And lots more activities across the College

For more details and to register please click here: https://www.victoriacollege.je/open-evening-2026

Victoria College has bursary support available to help families with school fees. Please visit the website, https://www.victoriacollege.je/vcj-admissions or contact their Admissions Registrar at admissions@vcj.sch.je for more information or for an informal chat about eligibility.

Have a great weekend everyone.
Kind regards,
Mr Cooper

Year Group Updates

Futures

This week our Core word has been 'no' (see Makaton sign and visual symbols below).





We have enjoyed listening to the story 'No!' By Tracey Corderoy, as well as practising our Makaton signing to the song 'Oh No' by Capone.
We've added some crazy hair to our self portraits and are using pictures of our favourite things to help us with counting.

During the afternoons we have been adding tissue paper to our 'My Special Things' boxes, enjoyed soapy water in the sensory tray to help us learn about washing and drying our hands and have stuck our parents' photographs into our 'My Family' books.

Friday was also our first swimming session of this school year. It was so good to be back in the water!

Nursery

We have been blessed with **sunshine** this week and the Team have resultingly come together well and continued to explore the more extensive reaches of Nursery life. It is awesome to see embryonic friendships forming, giggles being shared and relationships blossoming. If your child mentions The Meadow; it is the lovely grassy area at the front of the school that we visit on Mondays. If they talk about Futures; it is the play equipment at the back of the school that is perfect for gross motor development. These will become constants as part of Nursery life at d'Auvergne.

Thank you for your help and support at the **gate** in the morning. You guys are doing great! We are constantly trying to find lost coats or jumpers and labelling them doesn't always mean we can locate them immediately - but we make a note and search!

The bedtime story **books** that have been sent in are much appreciated - please do drop me a quick message with your child's favourite if you haven't already please.
l.dufeu@dauvergne.sch.je

Tapestry. We will get there! It takes a little time and effort to clear last years children and to get your little learners up and running. If you haven't received a "My First Week" style post yet it means there is a barrier. I am working behind the scenes to clear these barriers, and your patience is much appreciated. Apologies to those parents whom I am messaging constantly!

Finally: **Choose it, use it, put it away!** There are a core few children are BRILLIANT at tidying and another 20 who are 'working on it'. Please support at home by encouraging their tidy skills and complimenting them when achieved.

Have a fabulous weekend and enjoy your time with your awesome little legends!

Reception

What a wonderful week of learning we have had in Reception!

This week we have been reading the wonderful story *Stick Man*. We talked about the characters and events in the story and discussed what happened to Stick Man on his adventures. We explored some new vocabulary from the text, including 'weary' – feeling very tired, 'tumbling' – falling or rolling over and over and 'chuckle' – a quiet or gentle laugh, and we used actions for each word too. Why not see if your child can remember these at home? You might also find a stickman hiding in a book bag this week too!

We also talked about our families and how every family is special and unique. The children drew pictures of their families and had time to talk with an adult about their family and themselves.

Our maths learning has focused on shapes, patterns and repeating patterns. The children have been busy creating repeating patterns with paint, threading, multilink and magnetic shapes. We have been encouraging the children to talk about the shapes they use and to explain the patterns they have created.

A huge thank you to all the parents and carers who joined us for Meet the Teacher. It was lovely to see so many of you, and we really enjoyed having the opportunity to share a little more about life in Reception.

We look forward to building a strong home-school partnership with you throughout the year. Your support and involvement make such a positive difference to your child's learning and development.

🍁 Autumn at Home: If you go on an autumn walk with your family, please can you collect some natural objects together. You could look for things such as conkers, acorns, leaves, sticks and pinecones. Please bring in any interesting autumn treasures you find, as we would love to use them for our learning and exploring in school.

Reminders:

- We'd like to see some more family photos please
- PE day is Thursday

Thank you for your continued support, it has been wonderful to see the children grow in independence this week and become successful completing morning jobs and chatting to their friends!

Mrs Lutkin-Clarke and Mrs Wilkinson (The Reception Dream Team)
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Year 1

What a wonderful start to the term we have had in Year 1! The children have settled brilliantly into their new routines and have shown great enthusiasm for learning. We are very proud of how hard they are working and the positive attitudes they are bringing to the classroom each day.

In Maths, we have been focusing on numbers to 10. The children have been practising counting, recognising numerals, comparing quantities and exploring different ways to represent numbers. We have enjoyed using practical resources, sorting objects and developing our confidence with number facts through games and hands-on activities.

Our writing lessons have been inspired by the story *Kassim and the Greedy Dragon*. The children have loved listening to the story and discussing the characters and events. They have been developing their writing skills by describing characters, retelling parts of the story and creating their own exciting ideas.

To make our learning even more special, the children received a mysterious letter from Kassim himself! In the letter, Kassim thanked the children for their help and left each child a beautiful pearl as a gift. The children were amazed to discover the pearls and had lots of wonderful ideas about where

they might have come from. This exciting experience has inspired some fantastic speaking, reading and writing throughout the week.
Please remember that our PE days are Monday and Thursday. Children should come to school wearing their PE kit on these days and ensure they have appropriate footwear for physical activities.
We are excited about our upcoming **Zoo Trip on Wednesday 18th November**. We are looking for parent volunteers to help accompany us on the day. If you are available between **9:00am and 2:00pm**, please let a member of the Year 1 team know.
On the day of the trip, children will need:

- A **packed lunch** and a **snack** that they can eat independently.
- **No hot lunches**, as these will not be available during the trip.
- Suitable **waterproof clothing**.
- **Wellies**, if possible, as we may encounter wet or muddy conditions.

Thank you for all your support.
The Year 1 Team

Year 2
What a busy and exciting week we have had in Year 2!
Our Learning This Week
This week in Year 2, we have continued developing our place value knowledge in Maths using concrete resources to support our understanding. In Writing, we have continued our *Talk for Writing* story, *Kassim and the Dragon*, focusing on using adjectives to make our sentences more exciting and descriptive. In Topic, we have explored castles in more depth, learning about the different parts of a castle and what each was built for. Our RWI sessions are now well underway, and your child should have a new set of books coming home today, so please ensure last week's books are returned. In PSHE, we have been learning about responsibility and discussing which activities help us to become more responsible. In PE, we have continued developing our throwing and catching skills through netball and our kicking skills through football.

Meet the Teacher
A big thank you to all of the parents who were able to attend our Meet the Teacher evening this week. We really appreciate your support and the opportunity to share more about life in Year 2 and your child's learning. If you were unable to attend, or if you would like a copy of the PowerPoint slides from the evening, please feel free to email us directly and we will be happy to share them with you.

Reminder: Mont Orgueil Castle Trip
Just a reminder that we will be visiting **Mont Orgueil Castle next Tuesday**! Please check the weather forecast before coming to school and, if rain is expected, make sure your child comes prepared with a **raincoat**. The children should also bring a **disposable snack in a bag**. We will be eating our snacks at the castle, and unfortunately we won't be able to carry snack pots around with us during the morning. Thank you for helping us to make this as easy and practical as possible.

My Story, Our World
We are also very excited to be starting our 'My Story, Our World' initiative. This is an opportunity for the children to prepare something at home that is special or meaningful to them and then share it with the class. It could be something that represents an interest, a family tradition, a special memory or something else that means a lot to them. Parents will receive an email the week before it is your child's turn to let you know that they are due to take part. The email will include more information about what your child can prepare and how they can share it with the class.
Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Have a lovely weekend!

Year 3

What another fantastic week we have had in Year 3!

In writing, we have been working incredibly hard to learn the story of *Kassim and the Dragon* by heart using text mapping. The children have been enthusiastically adding actions as they retell the story, which is helping them to remember key events and build their confidence. We have also been using creative vocabulary and similes to write an outstanding class spine poem. Our poem vividly describes the features of a fierce red dragon and a terrifying green hydra, and the children came up with some wonderfully imaginative ideas.

In reading, we have been thoroughly enjoying *Beasts of Olympus*. It was certainly tough for Demon when he first started his job of cleaning and caring for all the beasts on Mount Olympus, but things are beginning to improve. The beasts are slowly starting to warm to him and even Arnie the griffin is only biting him half-heartedly now! We are all eager to find out what happens next in the story.

In maths, we have been learning to count in 50s and exploring number patterns. We have also been completing LOTS of practice on our 3 times tables and the children are making fantastic progress. It has been wonderful to see their recall becoming quicker and more confident each day.

On Tuesday, eight children proudly stood up in front of the whole of Key Stage 2 and shared a summary of our classes amazing ideas about what they would do if they were a States Member for the day. They all demonstrated excellent oracy skills, confidence and maturity when presenting their thoughts, and we were incredibly proud of them.

In science, we carried out an exciting investigation and went on a push and pull hunt around the school. WOW! We discovered so many examples of pushes and pulls in our everyday environment and had great fun identifying them.

In RE, we have been learning about the Creation Story. The children created fantastic wheels to show what was created on each of the seven days, helping them to sequence and remember the events of the story.

In PSHE, we have been reflecting on our achievements and discussing what we are proud of. We have also been thinking about our goals for the year ahead and the steps we can take to achieve them. It was lovely to hear the children talking so positively about themselves and their aspirations.

Thank you for your continued support. We hope you all have a wonderful weekend and look forward to another exciting week of learning next week!

Miss Morris - t.morris@dauvergne.sch.je

Mrs Davies - r.davies@dauvergne.sch.je

Year 4

This week in Year 4, we have begun our weekly music lessons with the Jersey Music Service, where the children are learning to play a musical instrument. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed their first sessions and have shown great enthusiasm and excitement for the weeks ahead.

In Writing lessons, we have been focusing on developing and using powerful vocabulary to enhance our storytelling. The children have been working hard to make their writing more engaging, descriptive and gripping for their readers.

On Tuesday, we celebrated Democracy Day, learning about the role of the States Assembly and having the wonderful opportunity to meet and ask questions to Deputy Max Andrews. The children took part in thoughtful debates about important current issues before voting on the topic they felt was most significant. Class 4H voted to focus on helping the environment, while 4AB chose making the internet safer for young people. The children then worked collaboratively to generate ideas for improving these areas and proudly shared their suggestions during Assembly.

We also enjoyed our first netball lesson with Megan, a coach from Jersey Netball. Megan taught us about the importance of footwork in netball and the rules associated with it. The children also practised a variety of netball passes and worked hard to develop their skills throughout the session.

It was lovely to meet so many of you at our Meet the Teacher event on Wednesday. We look forward to working in partnership with you throughout the year and creating many wonderful memories together in Year 4.

Reminders

- PE Days: Tuesday and Friday for 4AB; Monday, Tuesday and Friday for 4H.
- Musical Instruments: Please ensure that 4AB children bring their clarinets to school on Mondays and 4H children bring their violins on Wednesdays.
- Laptops: Please ensure that laptops are brought to school every day and are fully charged before arrival.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Many thanks,

Mrs AB and Mrs Hyde

Year 5

Another great week in Year 5!

In Makerspace, we continued exploring entertainment from the Victorian era. The children have been working hard on their myriorama and have now begun creating moving myriorama. These are looking fantastic, and the project provides a wonderful hands-on experience that helps bring Victorian life to life for the children.

In Maths, we are finishing our Place Value unit and will soon be moving on to Addition and Subtraction. Rounding numbers has proved challenging for some children, so any extra practice at home would be greatly appreciated. In particular, please focus on rounding numbers up to 100,000 to the nearest 10, 100 and 1,000.

On Tuesday, we took part in our **'If I Were a Politician...'** day. We were fortunate to welcome local politicians into school, who spoke about their roles and answered the children's thoughtful questions. Year 5 showed a particular interest in the debate around electric and petrol cars and which option is better for the planet. This sparked some excellent discussions, and it is a topic we may revisit when we hold debates in the States Chamber in February.

We have also put together our Victorian history books, which we will use throughout the term. The children drew portraits of Queen Victoria and used a variety of techniques to give their books an authentic Victorian appearance.

On Thursday, we had our second swimming session, and the children are doing great. It has been lovely to see their confidence increasing in the water, and they have approached each lesson with enthusiasm and positivity. Well done, Year 5!

In PSHE, we reflected on our goals for the year and discussed how we would like Year 5 to unfold. It was wonderful to hear so many positive thoughts and aspirations. We are all feeling excited, motivated and ready for the year ahead.

Although home planners have not yet arrived, we have sent home the spellings for our first spelling test, which will take place next Friday.

Spelling Unit 1: Words with a Silent b

- numb
- climb
- tomb
- crumb
- limb
- doubt

Year 5 Curriculum Words

- accommodate
- accompany
- according
- achieve

Thank you to everyone who attended our **Meet the Teacher** session on Wednesday. It was lovely to see so many families there. As always, please do not hesitate to email us if you have any questions or concerns.
Finally, thank you for all your support with reading at home. Please keep encouraging your child to read regularly. The more they read, the more confident and successful they become across the curriculum.
Have a wonderful weekend!
Mrs French and Mrs Harris

Year 6
This week, 6B have had the privilege of adventuring Jersey's West Coast, from L'Etacq (meaning 'stack') to Le Braye and the dunes; Corbiere (where the bad-tempered Grosnez giant threw the granite from Grosnez in a fit of rage, creating Corbiere's perilous islet) to La Rosiere (a secret beach we discovered); d'Auvergne School to Vallee de Vaux, where we discovered some hidden woodland gifted to the National Trust. The children have been *exemplary* and have truly exhausted themselves daily, immersing themselves into nature and the mission of John Muir: to conserve the wilderness. We have discussed some poetic themes, such as Muir's insistence that 'going out' into nature is really 'going in'. Of which, the children perhaps most enjoyed their 2 minutes of silence, staring out at the climbing sun over the horizon from La Rosiere. I asked them three questions, to which all hands were raised:

- Did these two minutes of silence feel *important* to you?
- Did you *enjoy* being silent, being swallowed by the nature in front of you?
- Do you think you don't get to do this very often?

I am hugely proud of 6B this week. What a superb precedent this has set for the year ahead of us. 6C, you're next! Make sure you're looking at the forecast to dress appropriately. Huge lunch with snacks, and lots of water! Let's go!

In other news, on Thursday morning the children were invited to take part in Jersey's *Festival of Words* at the Freedom Centre. Not only was Jack Meggit-Phillips hilarious, he encouraged the children to experiment with their writing to create monstrous characters. He even gifted all children a signed copy of his book, *Jekkyl Vs Hyde: The Potion of Doom*. This comes at a remarkably good time, with Mr Cooper's recent address during the Meet the Teacher event. It is incredibly important that children are reading for pleasure as often as possible. Hopefully the excitement surrounding this new book will encourage your children to love what they read!

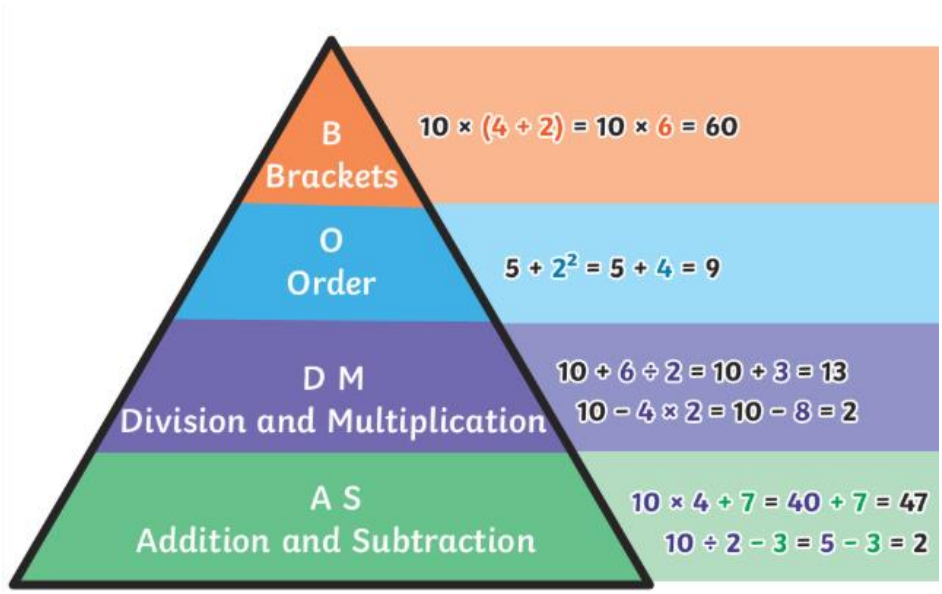
We hope children are beginning to complete their arithmetic practise at home. Please do bear with us as we await the delivery of Home Learning Diaries. We expect, too, that children are practising their spellings each evening. (Don't forget to read, too!)

Writing moves towards *mastering* skills as an author. We are going over *Kassim and the Dragon* again, and again, so that the author's tools have become rehearsed and we are able to manipulate them for our own writing.

Skellig is ever-exciting as we start to make connections between 'Dr Death' and the creature in the garage. What does this mean for the unnamed baby? What can Mina's expertise bring to this mission of discovery?

In Maths, we move to mixed operations, which will then progress to addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. With mixed operations, children are required to solve an equation in the

correct order. Brackets first, then follow the order of multiplication and division, lastly solving addition and subtraction. As ever, fluency with the four operations is paramount to success.



Have a wonderful weekend.

Mr George - t.george@dauvergne.sch.je
Miss Crocker - e.crocker@dauvergne.sch.je
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