



February 2025
Issue 1.6

Dear Families and Friends of The Duke of Norfolk,

Another great month in school with so much going on to start the year and lots of positives to share throughout this newsletter.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Year 3 and 4 class assemblies. Roman day was a huge success and Mrs Parker, even declared it to be her favourite day at Dukes ever!

Included in this months newsletter are a number of school highlights this half term from Young Voices to sporting events.

A massive thank you to all the families that have supported reading skills by kindly donating books to school, the school librarians from years 5 and 6 have been thrilled by the volumes of books we have received.

February is all about Internet Safety and Children's Mental Health to support our children to be citizens of the future.

Some of the more eagle eyed among you might have noticed the return of Miss Wall following her maternity leave. She has rejoined the Key Stage One staff team to support Cherry Class each Wednesday and will be with Apple Class on a Friday. Miss Wall is already getting to know a number of you and getting back in the swing of our school routines. I am sure you will all make her feel very welcome. We are also welcoming back Mrs Minshull to the Dukes Team this month, following her recent time off to mend. It is a pleasure to see her back in the classroom supporting the children.

A final reminder, WhatsApp is not an official communication channel for our school and the information that is posted is not always factually accurate. School staff might contact you directly about these messages. Our staff are committed, dedicated professionals who deserve to be treated with respect. We believe it's important for our pupils to learn how to treat others with respect, including when they're online. Parents/carers have an important role to play in modelling this for their children. As always, if you have a problem or need to raise a concern, please reach out to school and the staff team, who will be happy to help.

Yours with kind regards

Mrs. S Barker Headteacher

Reading Round Up—World Book Day 2025

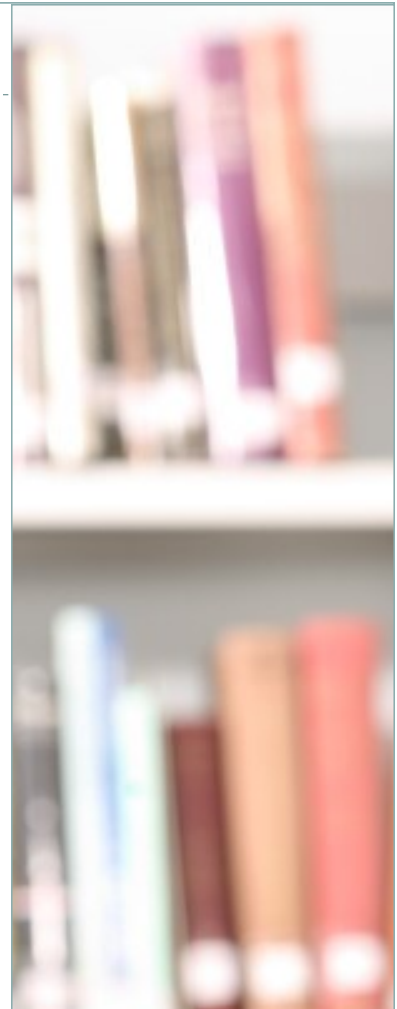
This year we would like to celebrate 'Reading your way'.

Our Year 6 librarians have conducted their own research to find out how the Children of Dukes wish to celebrate World Book Day this year and they have chosen to dress as a character or object from their favourite book. If your child wishes to dress up, remember that at Dukes we are passionate about sustainability and will be encouraging you to get creative by reusing and recycling to create your costumes! Please do not feel pressured to buy new!

In addition to this, all children will have the chance to take part in our 'in school' drop everything and read session where every class in the school and all members of staff will take 45 minutes to sit back and enjoy reading in 'their way' - this could be a magazine, story book, audio book etc. Children will also be creating art around their favourite books that will be displayed around the school.

We are looking forward to the day!

Mrs Hargreaves—Literacy Leader



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Young Voices

The children had a fantastic time at Young Voices last night. They sang their hearts out and their behaviour was impeccable. We are very proud of them and hope next year will be another success.



PTA Events

Next event—A silent disco—please note the dates for these events have changed slightly from what was added to the school website,.



11th February Years 1 and 2, 3.30pm to 4.30pm

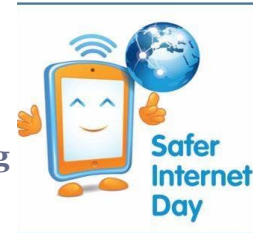
11th of February Years 3 and 4, 5.00pm to 6.00pm

12th February for Years 5 and 6, 5.00pm to 6.00pm

We can't run the PTA without your support - every little helps! The PTA will be holding their annual AGM on information related to this was shared via parent hub. Please check your messages as the super supportive team would love you to join them for the benefit of all the children at Dukes.

Internet Safety Day— Tuesday 11th February

This years theme is “Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online”



The children across the school will be taking part in activities to support an understanding of how we can all work together to make the internet better. This includes, how to stay safe online, learning about age limits for apps and social media, thinking about their own digital footprint and finding out about the impact of scammers.

Mental Health Awareness Week

10th to 14th February

Next week at Dukes we will be focussed on Mental Health Awareness. Linked to this I have attached links to the Action of Happiness Calendar, Friendly February.

This week also welcomes Safer Internet Day, see above for more information.

The theme of Mental Health week is in association with The Place 2 Be ‘Know Yourself, Grow Yourself’.

During the week the children will be talking about what makes them feel proud, and sharing tips on how they can look after their mental health.

To mark the end of our school focus on mental health and in line with Valentines Day the children are invited to wear something they love on Friday 14th of February (the last day), this can be non-uniform or uniform if this is what they love!

Friendly February 2025

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY							
1 Do an act of kindness to make life easier for someone	2 Ask a friend how they have been feeling recently	3 Do an act of kindness to make life easier for someone	4 Invite a friend over for a 'tea break' (in person or virtual)	5 Make time to have a friendly chat with a neighbour	6 Get back in touch with an old friend you've not seen for a while	7 Show an active interest by asking questions when talking to others	8 Share what you're feeling with someone you really trust	9 Thank someone and tell them how they made a difference for you					
10 Look for good in others, particularly when you feel frustrated with them	11 Send an encouraging note to someone who needs a boost	12 Focus on being kind rather than being right	13 Smile at the people you see and brighten their day	14 Tell a loved one or friend why they are special to you	15 Support a local business with a positive online review or friendly message	16 Check in on someone who may be struggling and offer to help	17 Appreciate the good qualities of someone in your life	18 Respond kindly to everyone you talk to today, including yourself	19 Share something you find inspiring, helpful or amusing	20 Make a plan to connect with others and do something fun	21 Really listen to what people say, without judging them	22 Give sincere compliments to people you talk to today	23 Be gentle with someone who you feel inclined to criticise
24 Tell a loved one about the strengths that you see in them	25 Thank three people you feel grateful to and tell them why	26 Make uninterrupted time for your loved ones	27 Call a friend to catch up and really listen to them	28 Give positive comments to as many people as possible today									

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

Happier · Kinder · Together



Autism

Are you a family member or carer of an autistic child or adult? Are you looking for support, but not sure where to start?

As parents and carers of autistic children, young people and adults, it can be hard to find help when you're trying to get the right support. Autism Central aims to make it easier to learn more about autism and services available to you.

[Autism Central for Parents and Carers | Autism Central](#)

Parking Issues

We continue to receive regular complaints from our neighbours and some families of Dukes about inconsiderate parking across drives at key times of the school day, particularly on Royle Avenue. Please be mindful of the whole school community.

In addition we would like to politely ask parents not to park in the school car park at key times such as at the start and end of the school day and during after school club collections, as this is a pedestrian route for many families as they access both ends of the school site.

Attendance for January 2025

Sycamores	96.82%	Chestnuts	97.8%
Apple	98.21%	Orange	96.72%
Cherry	99%	Holly	98.3%
Fir	95.95%	Eucalyptus	97.11%
Beech	94.91%	Willow	98.05%
Oak	96.39%	Whole School	97.17%

Congratulations to **Miss Hampson and Cherry Class** for leading attendance in the school for January with **99%** attendance. As a special treat they will choose the music for the next celebration assembly next Friday.

Thank you to all those parents who managed to get their child to school on time every day! As a reminder, if your child is absent from school, please call 01457 852635 or report the absence via the following email before 9.00am.

absence@dukenorfolk.derbyshire.sch.uk

Buxton Opera House

Staff from Buxton Opera House will be coming into school next week to work with the children in Year 5 and 6, related to musical theatre and their story telling skills in literacy. This is a fabulous opportunity and was a very pleasant surprise to hear that Dukes had been selected to take part.

PCSO

Some of you might have noticed a Glossop PCSO on site at the end of school on Monday evening. The PCSO team from Glossop are interested in visiting school more often in the future to work with the children as a part of the Dukes wider PSHE curriculum. They will be visiting school after the half term break to deliver an assembly, please say hello if you see them on site.

KEY DATES

FEBRUARY 2025

Wednesday 12th February—Buxton Opera House visit to school to work with Year 5 and 6

Monday 10th to 14th February—Children's Mental Health Week at Dukes

Tuesday 11th February—Safer Internet Day

Thursday 13th February—Cherry Class Assembly

Friday 14th February—Wear Something You Love to school day

Friday 14th February—School Closes for the Half Term Break

Monday 24th February INSET day
Children return to school on Tuesday 25th February

Thursday 27th February—Orange Class Assembly

Monday 3rd March—Sunflower Group

Thursday 5th March—Apple Class Assembly

Thursday 6th March—World Book day

Thursday 6th March PTA AGM at 8pm

Friday 14th March—Comic Relief (a week early)

Friday 21st March—Rock Your Socks Day

INSET DATES

Tuesday 22nd April 2025

Monday 2nd June 2025





PREM Award

Evidence tells us that children born preterm are at higher risk of Special Educational Needs (SEN) than children born at term. As 2 or 3 children in an average sized primary school class may have been born preterm, being Prem Aware is important for all teachers.

As a school we would like to go for the Prem Awareness Award and would appreciate any information if your child was pre-term. We hope to improve awareness and understanding of the lasting effects preterm birth can have on education and learning.

Mrs Hadfield SENDco

Comic Relief—Red Nose Day 2025

This year, Comic Relief is celebrating 40 years of fundraising. Therefore, to join in with their celebrations, we are going to fundraise by rolling back the years to the 80s!

Children are invited to come to school in outfits inspired by the eighties. This could be anything from 80s neon rasta skirts, to 80s sports, film and music legends, to anything 80s memorabilia - Rubik cube anyone?! Donations to Comic Relief will be able to be paid via a link on ParentPay which will be set up nearer the day itself.



EYFS Plea—We are trying to get our outdoor grass area fit for purpose. At the moment the children can't access this space as the drainage is really poor meaning it is too muddy to use. The PTA have kindly given us some money to try to rectify this issue. I am hoping that we could either, add some drainage, remove the grass or add some bark. If you can help or know of anyone who could help with this area, please email the school office or speak with Miss Harvey.

Roman Day with the History Van

Thank you to the staff in Years 3 and 4 for arranging a successful Roman Day for Fir, Holly and Eucalyptus classes. The children looked wonderful in their Roman outfits for the day. Each class was joined by a historian, built Roman structures and investigated Roman artefacts.



Sporting Success Parental help is invaluable to the children and staff here at Dukes, so a massive thank you to those parents who supported the transport for pupils taking part in the recent Cross Country event at New Mills. Mr English has expressed how polite the pupils from Dukes were during the event and encouraging of one another which has helped the team gain some excellent results.

Stanley was 1st in year 3/4 boys and has qualified successfully for the Derbyshire finals. A huge well done to Theo who came 3rd in the year 3/4 boys, plus the Dukes boys team came 2nd overall for the year 3/4 boys and 3rd overall for the year 5/6 boys.

