



May 2025  
Issue 1.8

Dear Families and Friends of The Duke of Norfolk,

Welcome back to the summer term! I hope everyone had a restful and enjoyable break over the Easter holidays. It's been lovely to see the children return with such enthusiasm, already diving into their new summer term topics. There's certainly a feeling of summer in the air—helped along by the recent beautiful weather. Congratulations to Mrs Pendlebury (the former Miss Maltby) who recent got married over the Easter holidays, we send her our very best wishes for the future.

The summer term is always a special one full of opportunities, achievements, and celebrations. From sports days, school trips and end-of-year celebrations, there's so much to look forward to, especially as this is such a short half-term. The school staff have been working hard behind the scenes to update the school website. You might notice a few changes over the next week. Please be patient if some information is not there as the changeover happens. I have certainly learnt a range of new IT skills!

Presently we are on the lookout for a volunteer to help us maintain the school gardens. If you know of anyone would be willing to support school in this way and help us to enhance the flower beds around the grounds and do some other gardening jobs we would be very grateful.

As always, we are grateful for your ongoing support and involvement in helping with homework, attending events, and encouraging your child to do their best each day.

Wishing all of our families a happy and enjoyable Summer Term!

Yours with kind regards

*Mrs. S Barker*

Headteacher

## General reminders

- Please do not send in any snacks or food containing nuts - we are a nut free school.
- If your child is going on a playdate with another parent after school please make sure to let the teacher know directly. Do not rely on the other parent to tell us.
- If you change phone numbers or addresses please let us know immediately. We need your current contact details.
- Please make sure your child wears the correct summer school uniform during the warmer weather with the appropriate footwear, not trainers or open-toe sandals. Thank you

**YEAR 6 SATS WEEK – Monday 12<sup>th</sup> May – Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

During the week of SATs the Year 6 children are invited to join us in Willow classroom from 8:00am to enjoy our SATs breakfast. There will be time to get some well-needed brain food, as well as hanging out with their friends. A great positive way to start each day and be prepared for the challenges of the week.

**YEAR 2 PHONICS WEEK – Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

**YEAR 4 MULTIPLICATION CHECK WEEK – Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2025**

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## History Van WW2 and VE Day

On Tuesday, Year 1/2 children went back in time to 1939 to find out how the Second World War impacted our life in Britain. The children and staff participated in role play activities about life in an Anderson Shelter, they learnt how to use a Morse Code machine, they also learnt about rationing and made their own evacuee labels using a dip pen and ink.



On Thursday 8th May, we will be celebrating the 80th anniversary of VE Day. As part of our celebrations, we would like to invite all children and staff to come to school dressed in red, white and blue; just as people did back in 1945.

## The Big School Clean

The Keep Britain Tidy 10th Annual Great British Spring Clean took place from 21 March - 6 April 2025. The main theme this year highlighted that the environment belongs to everyone, and encouraged everyone to love where they live.

At Dukes, we took part in the week after the Easter holidays to tidy up our grounds and do a big litter pick. EYFS tidied their grass area, KS1 tidied their playground, LKS2 did a litter pick on the playground and area around the King Edward Avenue entrance and UKS2 did a litter pick on the field. It was a huge joint effort to show how much we care and how proud we are of our school.



## PTA Events



Thank you for your continuing support. The Easter Egg competition was a huge success and was a challenge to judge, as the entries across the school were of such a high standard and highlighted the creativity and artistic skills of the children. Thank you to everyone who took part. All entries are currently on display outside the school office.



## Kind Donation

Thank you to High Peak Comps, who recently visited school to donate games and equipment for breakfast and after school clubs, I know Mrs Wilmot and the children are pleased with the games they received and are already putting these to good use.



## What is Walking Wednesday?

As a part of our Travel Smart Week, we are trialing a Walking Wednesday. During school drop off and collection on Wednesday 21st May, can you please consider parking in an alternative location to Royle Avenue, such as Talbot Road or at Manor park. We would love the street to school to be a calm environment for pupils and families to access as they start their school day. Miss Redican and the Dukes Travel Committee have written a letter to the residents of Royle Avenue to also involve them in our initiatives. On the Wednesday you might spot Miss Redican and her volunteers in their hi-vi jackets out and about.



## New Playground Trim Trail and Sandpits

The children at Dukes will soon be able to play on their new ‘Trim Trail’ equipment which has recently been installed on the school field. This will be a project that we hope to grow and develop over time and add new additions as we manage to fundraise for each section. We are hoping the new equipment helps to bring break times to life and keep the children fit at the same time. As a community our thanks go to the PTA, as without their support and fundraising we would not have been able to get this project off the ground (literally).



## Deaf Awareness Week 5th to 11th May

The theme for this year is ‘Beyond Silence’, emphasising the importance of breaking barriers and advocating for accessibility for deaf individuals, while also celebrating the rich culture and contributions of the deaf community.

**Attendance** At our school, we know that every day matters. Consistent school attendance is vital for your child’s success. Missing school means missing out on valuable learning opportunities, which can affect academic progress and confidence. Well done to all the classes for attendance over 95% last month. Special mention to Holly class who can pick the music for our next celebration assembly.

Sycamores	96.43%	Chestnuts	95.58%
Apple	96.25%	Orange	97.69%
Cherry	96.30%	Holly	98.04%
Fir	94.66%	Eucalyptus	96.46%
Beech	95.52%	Willow	98.04%
Oak	96.21%	Whole School	96.46%

## Governor Vacancy

We have a vacancy for a parent governor to join our Governing Body. This is a valued role in school whereby the governors work alongside the staff to support the wider school community. If you are interested in the role, please complete the nomination form (which is attached to this message).

## Sporting Success

Well done to the Dukes Cricket Team! First place in the Glosopdale Cluster Cricket Finals. Some brilliant skills on show and performing under pressure!



## KEY DATES

### APRIL AND MAY 2025

Tuesday 29th April—History Van for the Blossom Classes

Monday 5th May - closed for the Bank Holiday

Tuesday 6th May—Deaf Awareness Week

Thursday 8th May VE Day (afternoon) in school.

Friday 9th May—year3/4 trip to Yorkshire Sculpture Park

Monday 12th May—SATs week for Year 6

Monday 19th May—Reading café for Nursey and Reception classes

Monday 19th to Friday 23rd May—Travel Smart Week in school

Wednesday 21st May—Walking Wednesday

Wednesday 21st May—STEM Day in school

Friday 23rd May—School closes for the half term

## INSET DATES

Monday 2nd June 2025

### Advance Notice

### INSET DAYS for 2025/2026

Lots of families have been asking for next year's INSET days. They have been set as the following.

Thursday and Friday 4th and 5th of September 2025

Friday 13th February 2026

Monday 1st June 2026

Thursday 23rd July 2026

