



March 2025
Issue 1.7

Dear Families and Friends of The Duke of Norfolk,

We have had a brilliant start to the second half of the Spring Term at Dukes and the sun is shining, so it feels like Spring is just around the corner! All the classes have been busy, such as taking part in local walks to the book shop as a part of World Book Day. We have been involved in local sports events with Dukes success too, alongside all the exciting activities in class and the Blossoms Classes Assemblies to parents. As always the children make us proud every single day with their fun, kindness and excitement for learning.

Staff Update—after a very long and dedicated service to the Dukes school community in Glossop, Mrs Simm, has decided that she is going to retire this Easter. I know the members of the Duke Community that work with her each week, pupils and staff alike, are going to miss her. However I am aware she has many projects planned for the future so on behalf of everyone we wish her all the very best for her next adventure.

Yours with kind regards

Mrs. S Barker Headteacher

World Book Day 2025

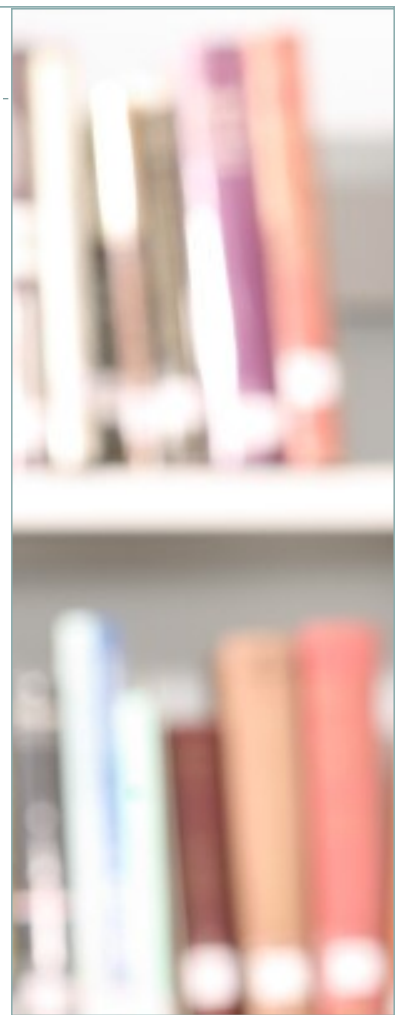
What a wonderful World Book Day we had last week at Dukes. We love to read and we all love books! The children had a great day celebrating, reading, sharing, illustrating discussing books and reading to each other. There were some wonderful costumes around the school and I was thrilled to see how books can really bring out the children's imagination and creativity.

Also during the week, Dukes came third on a parental reading competition via Facebook linked Usborne Books, thank you to those of you in the community that voted to say how wonderful our school reading is. Plus a special thank you to the parent who put the school forward for this competition We have received some beautiful books that have been placed in the school library.



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Night of Music

On Wednesday 12th March children from across the school performed to a packed audience at our first 'Night of Music'. This was a special event for children who have music lessons from our fantastic music tutors or who are members of our Dukes' Community Choir.

Children performed solo and ensemble pieces showcasing their dedication, talent and enthusiasm. We were so proud of the children for creating a wonderful concert with memories to cherish. Thank you to all the staff and parents who supported this event.

If you are interested in your child attending private music lessons, we have spaces available with:

Gavin Barass teacher of guitar and ukelele; Woodwind specialist Frances Callaghan who offers lessons in piano, flute, clarinet and saxophone and Jeff Snowdon our brass specialist. Please contact Mrs. Pitchford-Harrison who can provide you with letters detailing timings, pricing and offers.



PTA Events



For Mother's Day the PTA will be arranging flower gifts for a £1 fee which will soon be payable via ParentPay. Please keep a look out for further information.

Travel Plan and Parking Issues update

Thank you to all the parents who have followed our recent request from the last newsletter to not access the school car park with a vehicle. Some days this space can be particularly busy, especially if additional support services are also accessing the site to work with pupils and staff.

Please can I take this opportunity to request that if you are driving your children to school that you consider the residents that live around our school site and park a short distance away from school and walk the remaining distance. As part of eco sustainability in school, some of the pupils have been working with Miss Redican to measure traffic and parking along Royle Avenue over the last few weeks.

Miss Redican has also been working alongside a number of local representatives such as Move More Glossop, Glossop Action for Sustainable Travel and the PCSOs with the aim of introducing a trial road closure during Walk to School Week in May.

I am hopeful that as a community we can all get behind this scheme to support the local environment and the health and well-being of our pupils.





Birthday Treats

We love to celebrate your child's birthday with them in the classroom. Birthday treats are welcomed to be handed out at the end of the school day, however not all families wish to share in this tradition due to allergies and dietary choices. Here are some good examples to share as an alternative, pencils, rubbers, pens, stickers, a class book for the class library, bubbles, snap bracelets, poppets for example. If you do choose to send in food, we kindly ask that it is pre-packaged and nut free so that it can be easily gifted at the end of the school day.

Comic Relief

It may have been a week early, but today in school we all celebrated Comic Relief by going back to the 1980s. Thank you to everyone who took part. I am not sure who has enjoyed the day more, the children or the staff who have been reliving their school days and childhood memories in some cases! The children have looked stunning in their 1980s film inspired outfits, bright clothes or sports wear.



Sports

Our children have recently competed in a number of events in the local area. These have included Tag Rugby (despite the weather), Gymnastics and dodgeball. I am proud to say we finished 3rd at Tag Rugby at the recent Glossopdale competition.

The children who took part in local Gymnastic competition at Glossop Gymnastics Centre came a superb second!

And we secured a 1st place in the recent dodgeball competition at Glossop Leisure centre.

The children at Dukes are fantastic athletes and we cannot wait to see what they do next.



KEY DATES

MARCH AND APRIL 2025

- Friday 14th March—Comic Relief
 - Tuesday 18th March—Parents Evening
 - Thursday 20th March—Parents Evening
 - Friday 21st March—Rock Your Socks Day
 - Thursday 27th March—EYFS and Nursery Mother's Day performance
 - Monday 31st March—KS1 Showcase afternoon
 - Thursday 3rd April—Easter Service at Church
 - Friday 4th April—Whole School Bunny Hop
 - Friday 4th April—School closes for the Easter holidays
 - Tuesday 22nd April — INSET
 - Wednesday 23rd April— All children return to school.
 - Tuesday 29th April—History Van for the Blossom Classes
- Advance Notice**
- Week beginning Monday 12th May—SATs week for Year 6 , more details related to this from Mr. Williams to follow in the next few weeks.

Attendance for February 2025

Sycamores	94.47%	Chestnuts	98.07%
Apple	97.58%	Orange	97.39%
Cherry	96.56%	Holly	97.45%
Fir	98.28%	Eucalyptus	97.49%
Beech	95.94%	Willow	98.21%
Oak	93.97%	Whole School	96.84%

Congratulations to **Fir Class** and **Mrs Parker** for leading attendance in the school for February with **98.28%** attendance as a class overall. As a special treat they will choose the music for the next celebration assembly next Friday.

INSET DATES

- Tuesday 22nd April 2025
- Monday 2nd June 2025

