



December 2024  
Issue 1.3

Dear Families and Friends of The Duke of Norfolk,

Well here we are at the end of December...and despite strange weather this month, we are ending it with seasonal joy from all the festive fun over the past few weeks. We have certainly managed to decorate the school with glitter and make it sparkle.

The children thoroughly enjoyed their Christmas lunches whilst wearing their Christmas jumpers. I was thrilled to see so many of you join us for some Christmas Craft earlier in the month too.

The Nursery and EYFS children did a fantastic job performing their nativity 'It's a Baby' to a full house of families on both occasions!

All of our children in Year 1 to Year 6 gave their all in learning the songs for our school performance of Babushka, which they performed in a packed church this week. Thank you to those families who joined us and made the afternoon magical.

I have attached some photographs below for you to enjoy and my thanks go to staff team who continue to work hard to make sure these events happen for the children.

Mrs Nolan has returned from maternity leave this week - welcome back to school!

Thank you all for being an integral part of our school community and I wish all our Dukes families a wonderful break reflecting on the past, present and future and a very Merry Christmas if you are celebrating! I look forward to welcoming you all back in January for the New Year.

Yours with best wishes

*Mrs. S Barker*

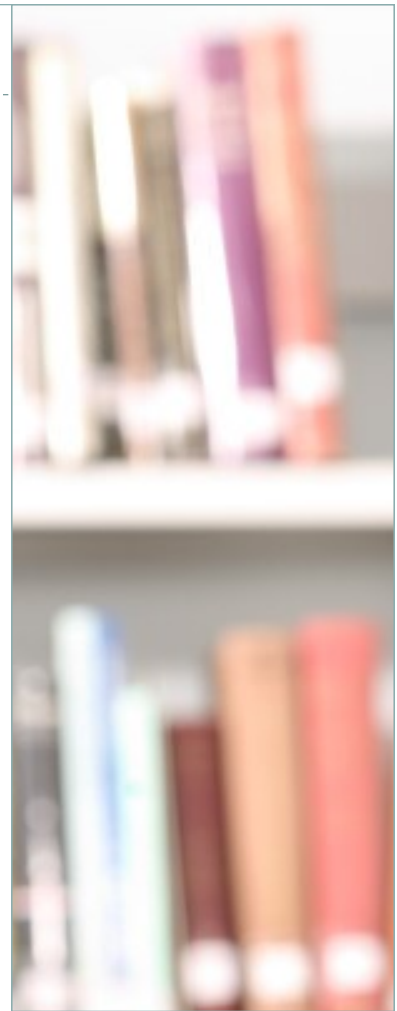
Headteacher



## INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER

Updates  
Forest Schools classes for the Spring Term  
Swimming update  
PTA  
School place applications  
Attendance  
After school clubs

Key Dates  
INSET Dates



## School Community Choir

The children of the very dedicated school community choir have been out and about around Glossop this term. They have performed their Christmas hits at the PTA Christmas fair, Tescos and also at Glossop Primary Care Centre. The children were well received and even spotted a few familiar faces in the audience. They managed to raise some extra funds for the school by collecting just over £45.00 whilst at Tescos. Well done to you all, we are very proud of how well you represented school and a thank you to Mrs Pitchford-Harrison for all the rehearsals and the support.



## PTA Events

A huge thank you to the members of the PTA at Dukes for all of their hard work and dedication this term.



The Christmas fair was a huge success, raising a fabulous £2700 for the school and the children. Thank you to all families that donated items towards the fair and of course the families and friends of Dukes past and present that also joined us on the evening to support school. The money raised will be put towards educational resources and equipment for the children.

Details of up and coming PTA events will be a part of the January newsletter.

## Reception 2025

### Primary School Admissions

If your child is due to start primary school in September 2025, please remember that online applications for a Reception place are now open.

Further details can be found at [Primary, infant and junior school admissions - Derbyshire County Council](#)

All applications must be made by the closing date of 15th January 2025

## Forest Schools Spring Term at Dukes

Year 5 and 6 for Willow and Oak Classes

Your child will need to come into school on their allocated day with appropriate clothing for outdoor activities: long sleeve tops, high socks and long trousers. They will be getting changed into their forest school clothing for an afternoon session. Please ensure your child also has wellies/walking boots and a waterproof coat. As the weather will be potentially very cold, they should also have a hat and gloves. Wearing layers is important so that your child is comfortable during Forest School and for the rest of the day. Willow class will be in the forest on a Wednesday afternoon and Oaks on a Friday afternoon.

## Swimming

As many of you are aware, the children in Years 5 and 6 swim at Glossop Swimming Baths as part of their PE curriculum each term. From January until Easter this will be Beech class. Mr English has sent a letter out to families to explain about swimming lessons with school. Please return as soon as possible so that your child can take part.

It was fabulous to learn that Dukes came second in the recent Glossop Swimming Gala. Well done to the eight children from years 5 and 6 that took part and represented Dukes. I know Mr English is very proud of each of you for the role you played.



## Class Assemblies

It has been lovely to welcome so many families of our year 5 and 6 children into school this term to watch class assemblies for Oak, Beech and Willow classes. The children impressed each audience all with their humour, acting, facts and story writing.

One parent commented that they did not realise how much the children actually learnt during their day at school and what a wide ranging curriculum we have here at Dukes.



## After school clubs

From Friday 20th December, all after school clubs will be available for booking for the Spring Term. We have made a few changes to our after school clubs offer including some new clubs so please have a look on ParentPay, where clubs can both now be booked and paid for. Mrs Cousen will add information about each of the clubs on ParentPay. Mighty Oaks will continue as normal on a Thursday after school. Please note we will no longer be holding clubs on a Friday evening.

## Attendance

It has been lovely to see so many classes win the weekly attendance award this half term.

This year has been particularly challenging with illness across the school, but a huge congratulations to the 79 children with 100% attendance this year- that is a huge achievement. As a school our aspirational target is to have over 97% attendance. Unfortunately, we are slightly below this at 96.1%. However, we really appreciate all the effort our pupils have made to come in every day. Thank you, parents, for all the support you have given to try and make this possible.

If your child is absent from school for any reason, please let school know. You can do this by phoning the school office or by emailing

[absence@dukenorfolk.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:absence@dukenorfolk.derbyshire.sch.uk)

## Medical Forms



Asthma cards and details need to be updated every year, or whenever there is a change to your child's care requirements or medication. Please ensure you (and your child's doctor if required) sign any medical forms that are sent home and return them to school as soon as possible so we can ensure the correct care is given to your child.



## KEY DATES

### JANUARY &

### FEBRUARY

Monday 6th January—All children return to school.

Friday 10th January—Roman Day for years 3 and 4

Monday 13th January—Sunflower Group

Thursday 16th January—Class assembly for Eucalyptus Class

Monday 20th January—Reading Café for Year 1 and 2

Thursday 23rd January—Class assembly for Holly Class

Thursday 30th January—Class assembly for Fir Class

Monday 3rd February—Sunflower group

Thursday 6th February—Young Voices

Tuesday 11th February—Safer Internet Day

Thursday 13th February—Cherry Blossom class assembly

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

Thursday 27th February—Orange Blossom class assembly

## INSET DATES

Monday 24th February 2025

Tuesday 22nd April 2025

Monday 2nd June 2025

