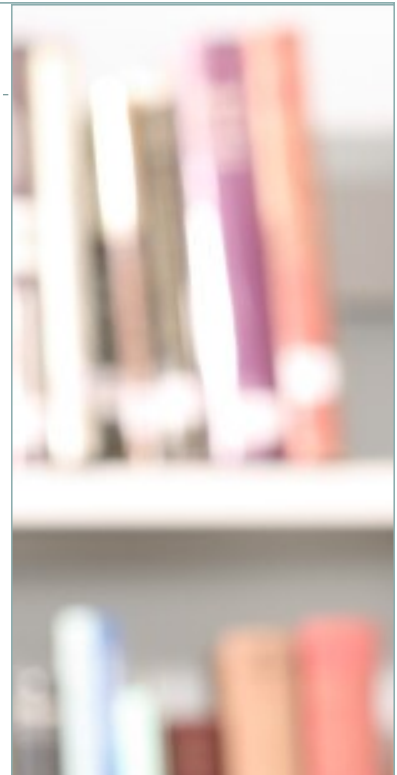




July 2025
Issue 1.9



Dear Families and Friends of The Duke of Norfolk,

As we move towards the end of this school year we wish to say THANK YOU for the support the families and local community has given to the school this year. What a year it has been!

As staff we cannot praise the children enough; their positive attitudes and resilience have been wonderful to see this year and their superb behaviour is often commented on by many different visitors to our school. I would also like to say Thank You to the staff who have worked hard to provide a safe, caring environment for the children throughout the year.

This term we have received our Key Stage 2 SATs results from the national tests. Myself, Mr Williams, Miss Rochitts, Mrs Pitchford Harrison and Miss Sims are proud of our Year 6 students and the results they have achieved this summer. I am proud to say a number of the children have surprised us with their achievements. We wish them all the very best as they transfer to their new secondary schools in September and all the very best for the future. The children have been amazing role models this year so go ahead and shine bright as you are capable of many great things.

We trust you have enjoyed reading the children's reports this week and thank you to those families who have returned the comment sheets to the class teachers.

One of the highlights of the term for myself was the number of our ex-pupils from last year who kindly and unselfishly volunteered their time to support sports day. I feel this is a huge reflection of the community feel the school and the whole staff team attempt to instill within the children. The staff team however have had a different highlight this week as they bask in the glory of their 5 rounders win over the children in the annual Dukes staff verses children rounders match. Well done to all the children who took part.

As is always, it is a sad time of the year as we not only are saying goodbye to Year 6 but also some members of staff which includes Mrs Minshull, Miss Heppolette, Miss Sims and Miss Thompson. We all wish them well for the future.

Which just leaves me to say, best wishes for the summer and we look forward to welcoming you back in September and hearing about the children's summer adventures.

Yours

Mrs. S Barker

Headteacher



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Review of the year 2024 to 2025

I do not need to remind you, but we as a staff team value many things here at Dukes, and importantly not all are measured by the National Standard and Testing Agency! So I would like to offer you a review of the year, it is no wonder at times I feel like the year is disappearing before my eyes.

So here are a collection of the events and opportunities the staff have remembered about this year, some of their highlights.

School trips and class events; the recent visit for year 5 pupils to Glossopdale to watch a performance, the Butterfly House trip, a visit to Yorkshire Sculpture park, a visit to Heaton Park, Blue Planet and the year 6 residential, plus the History Van across the school supporting learning about World War 2, the Victorians and the Romans.

Theme days such as Christmas craft morning and cafe, anti-bullying week, online safety day, World Book day, mental health and wellbeing day, Remembrance day, walk to school week, Rock your Socks and Comic Relief.

Parental events; reading cafes, sports day, class assemblies, parents evenings and church services, Christmas carol service, Mothers Day assembly and music concerts.

Sports events have included not just class lessons and lunchtime clubs but also after school clubs, sports competitions such as cross county, football, dodgeball, crown green bowls, gymnastics, rugby, Bike-ability, cricket including the cricket finals.

Music opportunities; community lunchtime choir, Young Voices school choir, music and singing program in years 3 and 4 together with after school ukelele, guitar, piano, and brass lessons.

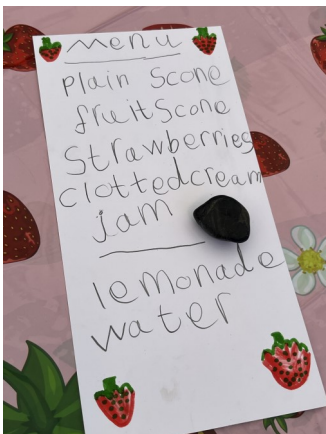
Fund raising; Comic Relief, Poppy Appeal, Willow Wood Bunny Hop alongside the valued and hardworking PTA.

Visitors such as a the PCSOs, Reverend Chris, the History Van and “Beryl and Ray” with their puppet assemblies.

All alongside Christmas parties, Christmas Jumper Day, walks to swimming, walks to the library and book shop, forest schools and local walks to learn about local history in Glossop not to mention transition visits for our new families and children!

What a wonderful year, thank you once again for working with us to ensure our pupils are happy and safe and encouraged to be aspirational and believe in themselves. We are always looking for ways to give the children new experiences and opportunities and look forward to welcoming visitors and volunteers to support school. If you or anyone know of who would like to give some time to support school and the wider curriculum we would love to hear from you. We always need support with trips, forest school, gardening, or have a talent for art activities, sewing, cookery, sports, or just to hear about your job. These aspects are often the children's best highlights of the year.

Strawberry Tea



What a beautiful sunny afternoon at the annual Early Years Strawberry Tea. It was lovely to see so many parents and grandparents joining our staff and children in the sunshine for scones and refreshments.

PTA Events

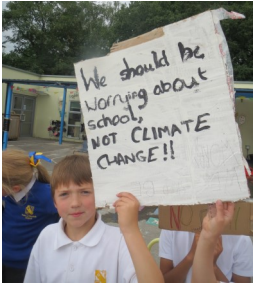
A special thanks to our PTA members who have worked hard throughout the year as volunteers to raise money for school when budgets are tight and pennies are much needed—you have been like a band of angels.

It was lovely to see so many families and former pupils of Dukes at the summer fair. Collectively we raised a super £3600 for the school which will be put forward towards projects to support the children. Thank you to everyone who gave up their time.

As the new school year starts, please don't forget STIKINS name labels for jumpers, lunch bags etc. which can be ordered from www.stikins.co.uk and use the following fund raising number of 6219 to support Dukes PTA.



What a protest at Dukes!



Children in years 3 and 4 have been looking at climate change as part of our geography work. We looked at what climate change is, the causes and what we can do to help. We were inspired by the activist Greta Thunberg to do our own peaceful protest and make our opinions clear about what we think about it.

End of Year Production

Finally I was actually allowed to watch the Year 6 children perform their end of year school production, the children have been so busy in their rehearsals, getting ready. Anyway, I can truly say it was worth the wait! What fabulous singing, dancing, acting and cheeky jokes. Year 6 you were amazing and well done on performing to packed houses on Wednesday afternoon and evening.

Animal Adventures at Heaton Park and Blue Planet

The children from Dukes have been out and about, years 1 and 2 recently visited Heaton Park to learn about a variety of creatures, whilst years 5 and 6 focused on the creatures of the sea at Blue Planet Aquarium.



Attendance

Our target over the year is 97% and we collectively nearly reached it. This year's attendance is 96.70% up to Friday 18th July – above national levels, but we'd like it to be much higher. Well done to all the families in Willow class you have set the bar high for next year with the best attendance across the school for the whole school year and a huge well done to Apple, Cherry, Holly and Fir classes for smashing the

Sycamores	96.27%	Chestnuts	96.97%
Apple	97.47%	Orange	95.98%
Cherry	97.59%	Holly	97.38%
Fir	97.14%	Eucalyptus	96.84%
Beech	95.16%	Willow	97.70%
Oak	95.29%	Whole School	96.70%

KEY DATES

School reopens to all pupils on
Monday 8th September 2025

More dates and information to
follow in the new school year

INSET DAYS for 2025/2026

Thursday and Friday 4th and 5th of
September 2025

Friday 13th February 2026

Monday 1st June 2026

Thursday 23rd July 2026

