



September 2024
Issue 1

WELCOME BACK

Dear Families and Friends of The Duke of Norfolk,

Welcome to our first monthly newsletter of the Duke's school year.

At this time of year we particularly welcome families who have just joined the Duke of Norfolk school community. We are always pleased to welcome not only our new pupils to Reception and Nursery but also those children who have joined us from other schools and are transferring into other year groups.

It gives me great pleasure to introduce myself as the new Headteacher of The Duke of Norfolk Primary School. I feel extremely honored and privileged to have been chosen to continue to develop this fantastic school onto the next stage of it's journey. I am a parent of two children and as a parent my goal has always been to ensure my children are happy in life and achieve their potential in a supported environment.

My ambition is to ensure all children who attend The Duke of Norfolk Primary School are happy and provided with all the necessary opportunities to be the best they can be both socially and academically.

I have worked in education for over 20 years. I have been a Headteacher for the last five years most recently as an Executive Headteacher supporting two Derbyshire schools. I strongly believe in providing our children with exciting, creative and meaningful learning experiences, which build their enthusiasm for learning and help them to grow and develop positively in a variety of ways. I know how vital working in partnership with parents really is in order for children to find school a positive and rewarding experience.

As a key educator in your children's lives, we will be opening the doors of the school for the first time this year on Tuesday 10th September, after school, for you to pop into your child's class and meet their class teacher on an informal basis.

We are truly lucky at The Duke of Norfolk to have a hugely committed and talented staff team, and of course our wonderful children, which is a great place for any Headteacher to start! It was a privilege to welcome all the children back into school last week for two days and also to meet a number of families both on the playground and at the school office. So, please do come up and introduce yourselves outside school – I aim to be on the school gate and playground as often as possible.

I would also like to introduce some new and returning staff to the Duke's staff team, Miss Sims supporting, Willow and Cherry Classes, Miss Bresciani in EYFS and Miss Hadfield in Holly Class. I know you will make them feel very welcome. We all also send our best wishes to Mrs Hargreaves, the former Miss Bynon, who got married during the summer holidays.

Yours with best wishes

Mrs. S Barker

Headteacher

INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER

Welcome Back
The Woodland
Attendance
Reminders
Key Dates
INSET Dates

Let your light
shine....it is good to
do Good



WOODLAND UPDATE

I know a number of you will have been shocked to read and hear about the damage to the school woodland and Forest Schools area during the summer holidays, caused by a fire, linked to an act of vandalism.

As a school the whole staff team would like to thank the school community for the overwhelming offers of support to correct the damage and make the area safe again for the children.

We are now in the very fortunate position say that although we have lost a number of resources and need to replace these, the woodland is safe for the children to return to and Forest School lessons will begin as normal this week. I am thrilled.

A huge thank you the staff, Mr. English and Mrs. Whitehead, for their hard work along with Chris and Jonny (old friends of the Dukes) to make the area safe again for the school community.

Thank you to all of you who offered time to help repair the area, and please do not feel disheartened that we did not take up these offers straight away. Mr. English, now has an outline and a plan of the areas which need to be re-resourced and the items which need to be replaced. The kind donations we have received will be put toward this plan of redevelopment.

I am now keen to work alongside the Governors this year, to improve the fencing to the school site in order that we can hopefully prevent this from happening again.

The shocking events have also encouraged the staff team to discuss how they too would like to further develop the outside areas around the school site. This is be an area I will be discussing during my first meeting with members of the PTFA later this week, so we can all move forward together for the benefit of the children.



INTRODUCTION TO Sportshall ATHLETICS



AGED 7 - 11YRS
4.15-4.55PM



STARTS TUESDAY 24TH SEPT

SIGN UP ONLINE:

WWW.GLOSSOPDALESCHOOL.ORG.UK/SPORT-AND-LEISURE

ATTENDANCE

The Department for Education (DfE) have introduced new guidance for schools and Local Authorities (LAs) for managing school attendance. They have also introduced a new national framework for penalty notices and amended the law. These changes took effect from 19th August 2024 and all schools and LAs across the country are expected to follow the new statutory guidance.

We will also be sending home the Derbyshire County Council update for parents, the poster (at the bottom of this newsletter) and the Penalty Notice Advice for Parents documents.

If you do need to request an absence from school which is going to effect your child's attendance, can we please kindly remind all families to notify school via the school attendance email address which is,

REMINDERS

If your emergency contact details have changed over the summer and/or your child has a medical condition/allergy that is not on the current data sheet or there has been a change in circumstances please would you let the Class Teacher and the school office know as soon as possible.

If I could remind parents that you **must not enter the school building except via the main entrance** and if you need to go beyond the foyer then you **must sign in and wear a visitor's badge**. I know this is an inconvenience, but it is an 'inconvenience' in order to safeguard all the children in our care.

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY 2024

Thursday 10th
October

To mark the day, we will be asking all children a staff in school to wear a small flash of additional yellow as a part of their school uniform. This might be yellow socks, a yellow hairband or a yellow T-shirt.

KEY DATES

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER

Tuesday 10th September—Meet the Teacher Drop In after school

Thursday 12th September—Football League at Glossopdale School with Mr English

Monday 16th September—After school clubs restart

Tuesday 17th September—Night Owls **closed** for whole school safeguarding training

Monday 23rd September—Reading Café for years 5 and 6

Monday 7th October—Musical Theatre Visit

Monday 7th October—Sunflower Group Restarts—Invitation only, please see Mrs Hadfield for further details

Wednesday 9th October - School Photographs

Thursday 10th October—World Mental Health Day

Tuesday 15th October—Seasonal flu vaccinations

Tuesday 15th October and Thursday 17th October—Parent Consultation Evenings

Thursday 18th October—INSET for whole staff training event

Friday 25th October—School closes for the Half Term Holidays

INSET DATES

Wednesday 4th September 2024

Friday 18th October 2024

Monday 24th February 2025





School attendance update September 2024



Attendance categories

95 to 100% - as expected

91 to 94% - at risk of persistent absence

80 to 90% - persistent absence

51 to 79% - at risk of severe absence

Less than or equal to 50% - severe absence

Support first approach

Missing school means children fall behind. This not only impacts on their future achievement, but also adds additional stress and worry as the pupil attempts to catch up. This can affect their mental health and that of their family.

Schools will always try to offer support to remove barriers to attendance before considering any form of legal intervention however they can only do this with the support of parents. If you do not engage with this support the school may feel that they have no choice than to request the Local Authority consider taking legal action against you for failure to secure your child's regular attendance at school under section 444(1) of the Education Act 1996



Penalty Notice Fines for School Attendance are Changing

With the introduction of the new National Framework for Penalty Notices, the below changes will come into force for Penalty Notice Fines for unauthorised absence after 18th August 2024.

Education Penalty Notices are issued to the parents of statutory school age children and can be issued to each parent or carer who is deemed liable for the child's absence from school.

• First Offence

The first time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

Reduced to £80 per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.

• Second Offence (within 3 years)

The second time a Penalty Notice is issued for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance the amount will be:

£160 per parent, per child paid within 28 days.

• Third Offence and Any Further Offences (within 3 years)

The third time an offence is committed for Term Time Leave or Irregular Attendance a Penalty Notice will not be issued, and the case will be presented straight to the Magistrates' Court. Magistrates' fines can be up to £2500 per parent, per child.

Can my child take a holiday in term time?

The simple answer is NO - pupils can only take leave of absence during term time if this is approved in advance by the school. Leave taken without permission may result in a penalty notice and or prosecution.