



October 2025
Issue 2.1

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

Dear Families and Friends of The Duke of Norfolk,

It's hard to believe we're already into October—time certainly flies when we're busy learning and growing together. A special shout-out goes to our Nursery and Reception pupils who are embracing life at Dukes with such enthusiasm and confidence.

Before we dive into October, I'd love to share my top three highlights from September:

- Sporting successes at cross county, netball, rugby and football— A joyful way to end the week with dancing, laughter, and community spirit.
- Celebration Assemblies – A chance to recognise and applaud the achievements of our amazing pupils.
- Pupil Leadership – A record breaking number of children volunteered to be a school representative as a school council, play leader, prefect, or house captain. Well done to all of you who were successful but I am humbled by the number of children who were willing to dedicate their time to support the school community in so many ways.

I would also like to thank all the families who have purchased Cauliflower Cards or donated items to school for the library, the well-being curriculum or Night Owls and Early Birds. These donations have already been put to good use and are being enjoyed by the children. Alongside this we are also thank for the Harvest donations, which have been sent to church to be part of their community collection, supporting the local food banks.

October is shaping up to be a busy and exciting month, so please do check the diary dates at the end of this newsletter.

Yours with warmest wishes,

Mrs. S Barker

Headteacher

Parents Evening

On Tuesday the 14th and Thursday the 16th of October we will be holding our annual Autumn Parents Evening. This term we are looking to try out a parent booking system using our school website. Fingers crossed. This means class teachers will not be arranging your appointment times. A letter outlining how and when you can access this will be sent to all families via ParentHub this week, please look out for it. Can I please take this opportunity to remind all families to make sure contact details, especially any email addresses are up to date.



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PUPIL LEADERSHIP GROUPS

We're delighted to announce that the following pupils were duly elected to represent their peers. As a school we received the highest number of applications for school councilor roles, play leaders and prefects. School Council positions were selected via a voting system in class, allowing the children to experience democracy first hand. Congratulations to all the candidates for their fantastic efforts and to our newly elected representatives—we can't wait to see the positive impact you'll make.

Prefects—Cameron, Larna, Belle, Nina, Logan, Rosie and Pippa

School Council—Anna, Felicity, Charlotte, Harriet, Nova, Rowan, Isabel, Isabella, Jemima, Violet, Flo and Cole

House Captains and Vice House Captains—**Hawking** Joseph and Ted **Malala** Aubrey and Jack

Pankhurst William and Indie **Mandela** Oliver W and Zeke

Collective Worship Leaders — Lucy, Elliott, Audrey, Thomas, Stanley and Fleur

WORKING TOGETHER : Resolving Concerns Through Positive Partnerships

Each week at Dukes we celebrate that the vast majority of our pupils who are incredibly well behaved. The pupils are well aware of our behaviour expectations and conduct themselves in an exemplary way throughout the school, each and every day. For this we are very thankful and proud. Pupils are rewarded through leadership roles, classroom recognition, certificates, praise, and house points or through their representation of Dukes at community events. However, on occasion, we have to address poor behaviour choices. As a staff team we endeavour to deal with these issues with clarity and consistency, encouraging children to take responsibility of their own behaviour. Sanctions are only ever issued once a verbal warning has been given and pupils are offered the opportunity to address their behaviour.

At Dukes, we place great importance on building and maintaining positive relationships with our families. We know that strong partnerships between home and school are key to ensuring the best outcomes for our pupils. Naturally, there may be times when concerns arise, and when they do, we are committed to working together in a proactive and respectful way to resolve them.

As a family if you have any issues linked to behaviour in school your first port of call is always your child's class teacher.

SPORTING SUCCESS



At Dukes we pride ourselves on the sporting success of the children and the commitment and dedication that goes into this. This Autumn term has been no exception to that vision from both the children and the staff. The children from Dukes have taken part in cross country, netball and football competitions with other local schools. The football team have made a superb start to their fixtures list and the netball team should be proud of their performance and results despite having no subs to support them. I know Mr. English is also proud of the results achieved at the cross country. The children in each competition have return with top placings, therefore a massive thank you goes to all of those pupils who have represented the Duke of Norfolk recently .



All pupils are entitled to an education where they are protected from disruption.



Behaviours that are preventing effective teaching and learning from taking place are not acceptable. For our success as a school to continue, we need to ensure that every learning opportunity is respected.

PUPIL PREMIUM ALLOWANCE

We wanted to draw your attention to the online **Free School Meal Application Form**. Whilst all children in reception, Year 1 and Year 2 receive universal free school meals we wanted to highlight that it is still important that you complete this form. Registering for Free School Meals helps us at Dukes to see where support is needed most and helps the Local Authority to determine certain aspects of Duke's funding.

We have attached some information below which might be helpful and will encourage you to register for Free School Meals at,

[Free school meals - Derbyshire County Council](#)

If you need any support with this please speak to Mrs. Cousen or Mrs. Pendlebury via the school office.

Eligibility

Free school meals are available to eligible learners who attend school full-time. This includes:

- younger children who attend nursery provided by a school for full days
- sixth form school pupils

A pupil may be able to get free school meals if their parent receives one or more of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (as long as parents do not also get Working Tax Credit and their annual income is £16,190 or less before tax)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after parents stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit)
- Universal Credit (as long as the annual net earned household income is less than £7,400, not including benefits)

Learners who receive any of these benefits in their own right (not through a parent) can also get free school meals.



MANOR PARK

The Blossoms out and about

All of Key Stage One went on a local walk to Manor Park to use their fieldwork skills to spot human and physical features as part of our work in geography.

They were lucky enough to enjoy a free ice-cream courtesy of the kindness of the people at the park shop.

WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

This Friday the 10th of October

To mark the day we would like the children to add flash of yellow to their school uniform. It could be a badge, hair bobble, pair of laces, a wrist band, pair of socks, or a t-shirt. However if they don't want to, they always have their Dukes school badge. During the day the children will be discussing how they can look after their mental health and activities that promote good mental health.

MUSICAL THEATRE

On Monday the children from across the whole school were visited by a musical theatre group. They all have watched a performance and some have taken part in musical workshops for the classic story of the Jungle book. It was a magical start to the school week and has caused great excitement. The children were a super audience too.



HEALTHY SNACKS AND PACK LUNCHES

As part of our ongoing commitment to promoting healthy lifestyles, we are renewing our focus on encouraging pupils to bring healthy snacks into school. We believe that good nutrition plays a vital role in supporting children's learning, concentration, and overall wellbeing. We kindly ask families to support this initiative by providing snacks that are both nutritious and enjoyable.

Here are some healthy snack ideas to consider:

- Fresh fruit (e.g. apples, bananas, grapes-cut up, berries)
- Vegetable sticks (e.g. carrots, cucumber, peppers) with hummus
- Rice cakes or oatcakes
- Plain popcorn (unsalted and unsweetened)
- Wholegrain crackers
- Dried fruit (in moderation)

Together, we can help our pupils develop positive habits that will benefit them both in and out of the classroom. Please also remember we are a nut free school due to nut allergies within our school community.

ATTENDANCE

At Dukes we are committed to providing a happy, caring, and safe school environment where every child is encouraged to develop a positive attitude towards school and learning. That's why we are dedicated to closing any gaps in attendance and attainment for all our pupils.

Our goal is for every child to attend school regularly, arrive on time, and make the most of the learning opportunities available to them.

We ask all families to work with us by:

- Ensuring your child arrives at school on time every day.
- Booking holidays during school breaks only.
- Informing us promptly of any absences and the reason.
- Reaching out if you need support from the school community.
- Absences due to illness or religious observance are recorded as authorised.

Absences due to holidays during term time are recorded as unauthorised, in line with Local Authority policy.

Well done to Holly class for the best attendance in the month of September at 99.35% and to the whole school working together to achieve 97.82%.

KEY DATES

OCTOBER & NOVEMBER

Monday 6th October—Musical Theatre Visit for The Jungle Book

Monday 6th October—Sunflower Group Restarts—Invitation only, please see Mrs. Hadfield for further details

Tuesday 7th October—Residential Parents meeting at 6pm in the school hall

Wednesday 8th October - Individual School Photographs

Friday 10th October—World Mental Health Day—wear a flash of yellow

Tuesday 14th October and Thursday 16th October—Parent Consultation Evenings, booking via the school website

Thursday 23rd October—Flu Vaccine in school

Friday 24th October—School closes for the Half Term Holidays

Monday 3rd November—School reopens to all pupils

Monday 3rd November—Sunflower Groups

Tuesday 4th November—Stay and Play in EYFS and Nursery

Monday 10th November—Reading Café for Year 3 and 4

Tuesday 11th November—Remembrance in school

Next INSET Day

13th February 2026

