



November 2025
Issue 2.3

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

Dear Families and Friends of The Duke of Norfolk,

As the mornings get darker, colder and frost starts to sparkle on the pavements, we know just how tricky it can be to get out of the door on time! These autumn mornings certainly bring their challenges.

That's why we want to say a huge thank you for everything you've done to keep things running smoothly. We're thrilled to share that our school attendance has reached an amazing 97%, the highest it's been in three years for this time of year! This is a real achievement and shows just how committed you are to your children's education. That's no small feat, and we're so grateful for your efforts to get everyone here on time. It makes such a difference to their day and their learning. So huge congratulations to Sycamores Class who had the highest attendance in October at 99.37%.

We need to inform you due to important staff training the school office will be closed on Monday 10th November from 11am to 12.30pm and again on Thursday 13th November from 9.15am until 10.45am. Please be patient during this time.

As we head into the busy run-up to Christmas, we've got plenty of events planned to celebrate the season and this November is proving to be a busy month too. Make sure to pop these dates in your diary so you don't miss out. Once again, thank you for all your support this year. Together, we've achieved so much, and we couldn't do it without you. Let's keep working as a team to finish the year on a high! We look forward to seeing you at our parent and family events this term. A further message will be sent home soon that contains the information you will need for the month of December.

Yours with warmest wishes,

Mrs. S Barker

Headteacher

Staff Changes

We are saddened to announce that Mrs. Ford will be retiring on Friday, 19th December, after an incredible 25 years of service to the Duke of Norfolk School. Throughout her time at the school, she has made an extraordinary difference, providing unwavering support to children and their families. Whether offering guidance, lending a listening ear, or helping with practical matters, Mrs. Ford has been a constant source of care and compassion. Her dedication has touched the lives of so many, and her positive impact will be felt for years to come. While we will truly miss her warmth, kindness, and commitment, we wish her all the very best for the future as she begins this well-deserved new phase of her life. We will also be saying a fond farewell to Miss Wall, who has made the difficult decision to leave teaching for a career change starting in the New Year. We understand the impact these changes will bring and we will introduce the new members of the staff team to you once the appointment processes have drawn to a close.



INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER

Staffing Changes
Parking
September Starters 2026
House Points
Ant-Bullying Week
PTA News
Prefects Assembly
Early Years Play and Stay
Going the Extra Mile
Key Dates



PARKING

Residents from Royle Avenue, have expressed their upset that parents are continuing to use their private drive-ways for drop off and pick up and as a turning space. Please take this in to consideration. Thank you.

SEPTEMBER STARTERS 2026

Do you have a child starting school September 2026?

Please apply using the online application form found on the Derbyshire County Council Website . The closing date for applications is 15th January 2026.



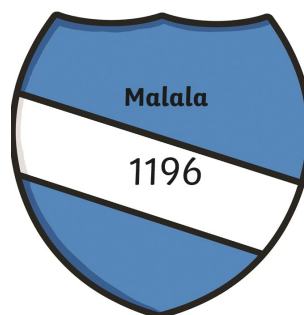
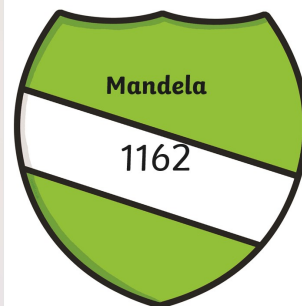
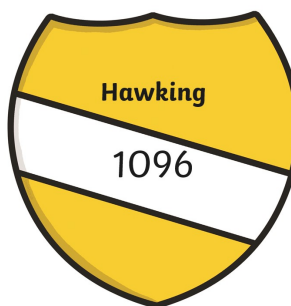
HOUSEPOINTS

All the children challenged themselves last half term, demonstrating lots of our values to earn their well deserved house points. Malala at the end of the half term put themselves in the lead – but as we all know – this can change. Well done to everyone who has earned their team a house point.

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

What is Anti-Bullying Week?

Anti-Bullying Week is a special event organised by the Anti-Bullying Alliance. This year, the theme is “Power for Good” and the aim of the week is to raise awareness about the negative impacts of bullying, encourage us all to stand up against discrimination and promote the importance of individuality. It's a week dedicated to celebrating the values of inclusivity, respect and kindness. The children will be taking part in some class based activities around this theme and to support the messages of inclusivity, we would invite the children to wear mismatched socks to school on Monday 10th November as a sign of support.



Dukes PTA

You may have already seen the PTA newsletter updating you on the up and coming events until the end of 2025 and the posters that are displayed around the school grounds.

The contribution the PTA make towards school and the pupils learning experience is priceless and as school staff we thank them in advance. We know they are always on the look out for extra helpers especially for the Christmas Fair to help both on the evening and the set up of the event, which this year is on Friday 5th December.

PREFECT ASSEMBLY

As we welcomed the children back to school, we also welcomed our 7 prefects into their new role and how proud we are of each of them. They certainly proved in our assembly to celebrate them, why they have been chosen for their leadership roles. They look so smart in their new Prefect jumpers.



EARLY YEARS STAY AND PLAY

Our EYFS Stay and Play session was a great success. We had lots of families who joined us and the children loved having their parents in class. The children had the opportunity to show them what they liked to play with and made some great bonfire craft.

YEAR 5 AND 6 RAILWAY JOURNEY

This week the children in Year 5 and 6 took part in a great railway journey to Hadfield and back. The purpose was to allow the children to write from experience as they took notes and collected emotive language to support their poetry writing as a part of Glossop Bookfest. Thank you to our parental volunteers as we could not do this without your support.

GOING THE EXTRA MILE

We are always proud of the pupils at Dukes and all that they do, especially those pupils that go the extra mile when school has finished for the day.

Cole in Year 4 has had his design for a Manchester Bee turned into reality. I hope you agree it looks fabulous.



Peggy in Year 3 took part in the local schools "Design a Sausage" competition and won! Well done, Peggy—they taste amazing! Peggy's sausages are presently on sale at Merricks on the High Street.

Blake in Year 5 has competed internationally during half term in Canada at Kickboxing and achieved 4 bronze medals and 1 gold medal to become the World Champion, what a super return for his efforts, hours of training and sportsmanship.

Having spoken with a number of proud parents this week, I know we also have gymnasts, ballroom dancers and actors performing over the next few weeks too. Good luck!



KEY DATES

NOVEMBER 2025



Sunday 9th November—Dukes will be forming part of the Remembrance parade.

Monday 10th November—Odd Socks day for Anti-Bullying week

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

Monday 10th November—School office closed for training 11am - 12.30pm

Tuesday 11th November—Remembrance in school

Thursday 13th November—Class Assembly for Holly Class

Thursday 13th November—School office closed for training 9.15am—10.45am

Friday 14th November—Andy Tooze for a day of Poetry

Monday 17th November—The Blossom Classes walk around Old Glossop.

Monday 17th to Wednesday 19th November—Residential Trip for Year 6 to Willersley Castle

Thursday 20th November—Class Assembly for Fir Class

Monday 24th November—The Blossoms Grandparents tea party

Thursday 27th November—Class Assembly for Pine Class

Friday 28th November—Science Take Over Day

Monday 1st December—Sunflower Group

Thursday 11th December—The Blossom Classes visit to Buxton Opera House for the Snowman