



December 2025
Issue 2.4

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Dear Families and Friends of The Duke of Norfolk,

We are at the end of another amazing term here at the Duke of Norfolk Primary School. In this newsletter you have a taste of the fantastic range of learning opportunities and experiences which have engaged our children. There have been so many opportunities to celebrate, I have struggled to fit them all into this edition but importantly it is a delight to see how much we have achieved together. I am a great believer in the power of the community and reaching out to others for help and support for the benefit of the children and the strength this gives to everyone. Especially to allow the children to achieve their best too.

Many of you I am sure will have also read the Christmas dates letter that was sent out via parenthub, mid November. The children are looking forward to seeing you at a host of events across December and I am going to take this opportunity to thank the PTA for all their hard work and time last week organising the Christmas Fair.

So on behalf of the staff team, we wish you a happy and caring Christmas holiday and a peaceful New Year to all of the Duke of Norfolk CofE Primary School Community. Please remember school reopens to all pupils on Monday 5th January 2026.

Yours with warmest wishes,

Mrs. S Barker

Headteacher

Staffing changes

Recently school has undertaken part in a busy and successful recruitment process.

We have appointed a new School Business Manager called Miss. Moody to replace and fill the shoes of Mrs. Ford. Miss. Moody is very experienced and is excited to be joining the team, I know you will all make her feel very welcome in the New Year.

Ms. Williamson has been an asset to Willow class this term in Miss Wall's prolonged absence and has kindly agreed to continue supporting the children of Dukes until July, we are all delighted.

Mrs. Pickup has also decided to retire in the last few weeks to spend time at home with her family. The huge gap she will leave will be filled by staff in school that the children already know to make the transition a smoother process.

We have also appointed new staff to the Early Birds and Night Owls team and they have recently been getting to know both the school and more importantly the children. They are Mrs. Bullock (who is already a midday supervisor) and Miss. E Hadfield.



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OUR LEARNING AT DUKES



Year 6 Residential

Our Year 6 children had an amazing time on their residential at Willersley Castle where they took part in a range of activities including axe throwing, rock climbing and grass sledging. All of the children showed great resilience and team working skills being sure to encourage and support each other throughout. They were all impeccably well behaved and represented our school brilliantly.



Grandparents Tea Party

As part of their work in history, the Blossoms invited their grandparents into school for a tea party. They asked lots of questions about how Glossop has changed since their grandparents were younger. We all had the most wonderful time and we learnt lots about life in the past and how it has changed. Thank you again to all of the grandparents who joined us.



'Science Take Over Day'

Thank you to Mrs. Clark who arranged and set up our 'Science Takeover Day', it was a huge success. Excitement levels ran high all day, with 'awe and wonder', hands on activities and teamwork being our top priorities. The children and staff loved moving all round school, making spaghetti and marshmallow towers, parachutes, aeroplanes and balloon powered vehicles in the morning.

Further activities in class in the afternoon kept the energy running high; a memorable way to end our week. We were very proud of our children, with the older children thriving whilst helping our youngest, and enthusiasm, good behaviour and lovely manners clear to all. An extra shout out to our prefects, house captains and vice captains who took on extra responsibility effortlessly, helping with the smooth running of the morning. A final well done to Pankhurst house, who gathered the most house points during the day. "



Dukes Writers of the Month

We are excited to introduce our Dukes writers of the month for November. These children have shown exceptional creativity, effort and polish in their writing. Their work stands out for its imaginative ideas, thoughtful vocabulary choices and careful presentation. We are incredibly proud of their achievements. The teachers will be choosing our Dukes writers of the month for December at the end of this half term.



Global Citizens

Today, the year 6 children were able to be a part of history! They joined Robert Swan OBE (the first man in history to have walked to both the North and South poles) on the first live webinar ever from Antarctica. The children learnt about Sir Robert's adventures and why he has set up the 2041 School Champions of Antarctica. The children were amazed by the live images from Antarctica and hearing all of Sir Robert's stories.

"The 2041 Foundation was founded by Robert Swan who has dedicated his life to the preservation of Antarctica through the promotion of recycling, renewable energy and sustainability to combat the effects of climate change. The Foundation gets its name from the year in which the Antarctic Treaty System is up for renegotiation, when countries could try to claim a piece of Antarctica for exploration, drilling and poaching of wildlife et cetera. Robert Swan has been working to raise awareness and ensure that the treaty, once it is up for renegotiation, is re-ratified."

CLASS ASSEMBLIES SPRING TERM

To support you with planning ahead, here is advance notice of next terms class assemblies. Please note these could be subject to change due to the possibility of wintery weather.

Thursday 15th of January— Beech Class

Thursday 22nd of January— Oak Class

Wednesday 28th of January— Willow Class
(day change)

A huge thank you to Holly, Pine and Fir classes for their informative and entertaining class assemblies this term.



SPORTS NEWS

Thank you to all the parents and carers who have assisted Mr. English and Mrs. Whitehead, plus other staff and children to attend various sports events this term. There is always a real buzz of excitement from the children when they know they are off to represent school around the local area. During November pupils across the juniors have taken part in the cross country and the girls football team played in a local competition too. So here is a quick round up of the fabulous results achieved by the our sports super stars.

Girl's Football—First place in their League.

Phoebe finished second in her race a High Peak Cross Country Championship.

The Year 5 and 6 Boys Team came Second at the same High Peak Cross Country Championship.

The Boccia Team, came second overall during the High Peak Boccia Bonanza Finals.

ATTENDANCE

Our school target continues to be 97% and it is lovely to share that our whole school attendance figure is 96.4% and above the national average. We would like to thank all the children and families that strive to be in school, on time, everyday. Well done to Cherry class for the best attendance in the month of November at 99.4%

Please read the link below which gives guidance on illness and those that the children can attend school with, this includes symptoms such as a runny nose, sore throat or a slight cough. However children should stay at home if they have a high temperature, diarrhoea or vomiting.

[Is my child too ill for school? - NHS](#)

You may have seen the national news and the discussions about flu recently, with these cases on the rise, here are a few simple steps to help keep your children healthy this winter time. Please talk to and teach the children good hygiene habits, especially encouraging the children to wash their hands regularly and using a tissue to catch coughs and sneezes to stop the spread of germs.

KEY DATES

DECEMBER

Wednesday 10th December—
School Christmas Dinner

Thursday 11th December—Key
Stage One visit Buxton opera
House for the Snowman

Friday 12th December—
Christmas Craft

Friday 12th December—
Christmas Jumper Day

Monday 15th December—
Nursery and EYFS Nativity
Performance at 2.30pm

Tuesday 16th December Nurse-
ry and EYFS Nativity perfor-
mance at 9.30am

Tuesday 16th December—Years
1&2 Party Day

Wednesday 17th December—
Carol Service at Church at
9.30am

Wednesday 17th December—
Nursery and EYFS Party Day

Thursday 18th December—
Years 3&4 and 5&6 Party Day

No Night Owls on Friday 19th
December

Friday 19th December—School
closes for the Christmas break

Monday 5th January 2026—all
children return to school.

**Monday 5th January—The
History Van for Year 5&6
following the cancellation
earlier in the year. Tudor
Dress**

Next INSET Day

13th February 2026

