



April 2026
Issue 2.8

Dear Families and Friends of The Duke of Norfolk,

Welcome back after the Easter holidays. I hope you enjoyed the time with your families and friends and managed to get away and have some relaxing time off work.

As we start the summer term, the sun has started to come out again and it is a wonderful opportunity for the pupils to be learning outside and having a great experience of school life here at Dukes.

Congratulations to Mr. Williams who has welcomed his first child to the world over the Easter holidays.

Yours with kind regards as always

Mrs. S Barker

Headteacher

SATS week and other assessments in school

It is that time of year again, were we all nationally approach assessment season.

The Year 6 pupils will be taking part in the National Assessments from Monday 11th May. On our school website you can find the information power point that Mrs Pendlebury sent out in January as well as a letter detailing the arrangements. The Year 6 staff will be in touch with SATs breakfast information, this tradition is for the Year 6 pupils only. Thank you to members of the PTA who support Dukes with the SATs breakfast during the week of SATs.

The children have been working incredibly hard towards these tests, and we know they are going to do us proud. Whilst we know this is only one measure of a child's achievements we really want every child to their personal best. Please help by ensuring children attend school every day and are well rested.

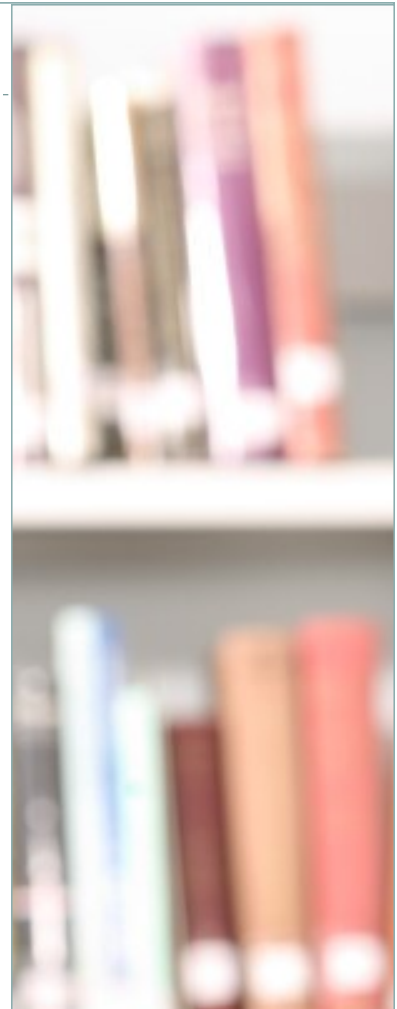
This term Year 4 pupils will also access the statutory multiplication check after the May half term holiday, between the 2nd to the 12th of June. Year 1 will complete the phonics screening check from the 8th to the 12th of June.

Play at Dukes

We have started the half term with an amazing delivery. Two fabulous mud kitchens and a reading nook. A huge thank you to everyone who donated pallets, objects and items. These have all been put together to make a mud kitchens and a reading nook for the children to use at playtimes.

Massive thanks to Chris and the whole Riley family for making this happen and building these fabulous items for the children to enjoy.

To support the upkeep of the Key Stage One mud kitchen we need some paving slabs to elevate the mud kitchen off the grass. If you can support school with this please make contact with the school office.



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PTA Events



The PTA will be hosting a Skate and Scoot event on Tuesday 28th April from 3.30pm until 4.15pm. Information can be found via ParentPay.

Well done to Owen who won the Easter Trail for Key Stage 2 and Rowan who won for Key Stage 1.

The PTA AGM will take place on the 20th May at 8pm at the Commercial pub. More information to follow via Parenthub soon.

Art Day

As always at Dukes we started the term on a busy note. We have held our first Art Day across the whole school, organised by Miss Rochitts. The children have made Mexican hearts from clay, Kohi Carp kites and Aboriginal art. At the end of the day the children shared their work in assembly and it was fantastic to see the results of the children's vast creativity and imagination. The day was enjoyed by everyone. I hope you enjoy the examples below from each activity.



Attendance Matters Celebrating March

Sycamores	93.8%	Chestnuts	93.8%
Apple	97.3%	Orange	98.9%
Cherry	97.6%	Holly	98.7%
Fir	93.3%	Pine	96.5%
Beech	95.4%	Willow	97.7%
Oak	98.1%	Whole School	96.08%

Congratulations to **Orange Class** and **Mrs. Hargreaves** for leading attendance in the school for March. Whole school attendance for March was **96.48%** and since September is **96.08%** overall, which is down on the whole school target of 97%. Well done to the 94 children who achieved 100% attendance for the Spring term, so far 46 pupils have 100% attendance for the whole school year, which is amazing!

KEY DATES

APRIL AND MAY 2026

Thursday 23rd April—Apple Class Assembly at 2.45pm

Tuesday 28th April—PTA Skate and Scoot after school—all details on ParentPay

Tuesday 29th April—Night of Music

Monday 4th May – Bank Holiday SCHOOL CLOSED

Tuesday 5th May—Deaf Awareness Week

Wednesday 6th May—Dental Nurse Visit for EYFS pupils

Week beginning 11th May – KS2 SATs Week

Friday 15th May—Fish and Chip Friday for Year 6 pupils only

Monday 18th May—Reading Café for Nursery and Reception pupils and families

Tuesday 19th May—Cheerfest at New Mills

Wednesday 20th May—Viking Day for Year 3 and 4

Friday 22nd May – School Closes for Half-Term

Monday 1st June—INSET Day

Tuesday 2nd June – SCHOOL RE-OPENS to all pupils

For all Year 4 Multiplication check from 2nd June 2nd to 12th June.

For all Year 1 pupils Phonics Screening check 8th June to 12th June.

INSET DATES

Monday 1st June 2026

Thursday 23rd July
2026

