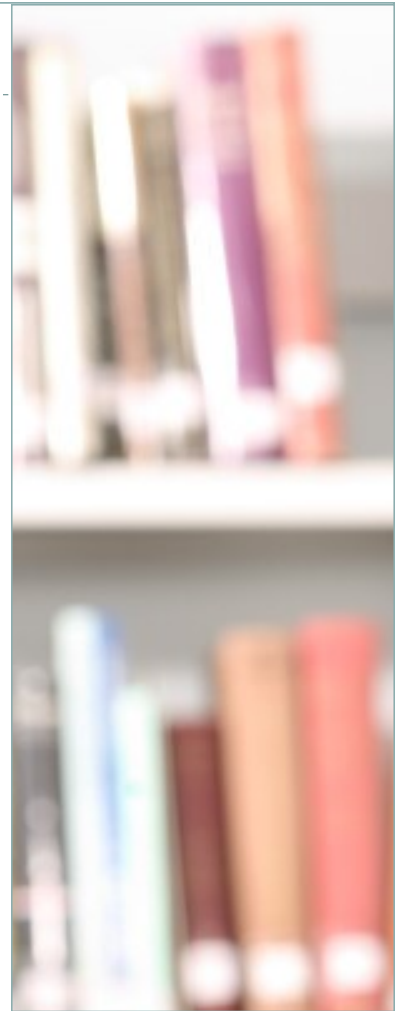




May 2026
Issue 2.9



Dear Families and Friends of The Duke of Norfolk,

Our amazing Year 6s have completed their SATs this week. We are so proud of them for all of their hard work; their dedication to their homework and displaying positivity throughout. It was an honour to watch them approach each test with such perseverance and resilience. SATs are not the making of a child but how they are approached by the children is a reflection of their characters - our 47 children are amazing in every way and have progressed so much this year. They are kind, caring, respectful and ultimately wonderful young adults.

Next term we will be gearing up to Sport's Day, our Leavers Service and all the excitement that comes with it. We will also be having our transition day with our new class teachers. I cannot believe we are approaching the end of another school year already! But before we get there next week we will be hosting the Reading Café for EYFS and Nursery, also fingers cross, welcoming the History Van into school to work with the year 3 and 4 children belatedly, plus Year 5 and 6 are out at Magna. Plus, it is Travel Smart week next week and Miss Redican would like all the children to take part in a competition, to draw their favourite fruit, give it arms and legs and make it look like it is walking, wheeling, cycling or scooting/ skating. Bring your entries into school by Friday 5th June. Winners will receive a £5 book voucher.

The final term is always jam packed with exciting events and sporting fixtures. All event information is posted to our website so please take a look at what is coming up. As always, if there are any queries or questions please direct communication to our office email where Ms. Moody or Mrs. Wild, are always, on hand to help.

New to the school website, we have added a copy of the parental consent form for medicines in school. So if you are in a rush you can print at home to complete and handover with your child's medication when you bring this to the school office. Medication must be named and in the original packaging, please do not send your child with the medication on their own, please hand in via the school office.

With Best Wishes

Mrs. S Barker Headteacher

Night of Music

Most recently a packed school hall of Dukes families enjoyed a Night of Music. It was a delight to watch a range of Dukes junior children play and perform. The children played a range of instruments; the ukulele, guitar, French horn, keyboard, saxophone and clarinet. We also listened to a lively performance from our dedicated school choir who sang popular hits from across the ages. Each child put on their best performance, well done to all who took part. I was delighted to be able to welcome Emma Dixon from the Derbyshire Music Service to find out more about the wide ranging music offer here at Dukes which we are very proud of.

If any families would like their child to learn to play an musical instrument and are interested in extra curriculum music lessons, please contact the school office for more information via info@dukenorfolk.derbyshire.sch.uk.

INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER

- Updates
- Night of Music
- PTA Events
- Reading
- Attendance Matters
- Reading Questions for Home
- Dino Visit
- Trips to Higher Plainsteads Farm
- Key Dates
- INSET Dates



PTA Events



Members of the PTA have been in school this week, supporting the Year 6 pupils and the staff, for the ever popular SATS breakfast. It has created a calm environment each morning for the children and we thank the team for their continuing support of the school. In addition they also helped school with Fish and Chip Friday, which the children really enjoyed.

The PTA are hosting the Annual meeting on Wednesday 20th May at 8pm at the Commercial Inn. Join them to hear great updates on everything they are doing and maybe enjoy a glass of Prosecco with the team.

The Blue Tole campaign is also ongoing at Tesco, please support Duke of Norfolk PTA whenever you visit the store.

Reading

Learning how to read and understand what has been read remains one of our key priorities. It is therefore very important that your child reads every day. Books can be borrowed from the school library and reading books are sent home. Do use the thinking and understanding questions in this newsletter after you have listened to your child read. Evidence shows that asking questions about what has been read further supports understanding. Please be advised these are for children that no longer access the Read Write Inc phonics reading books as in the back of the phonics reading books there are questions supporting the text that match the text.

Reading volunteers are always welcomed, if you are interested in becoming a volunteer please leave your details with the office.

Swimming Lessons

School has been contacted by Jane, the swimming coordinator at Glossop Swimming Pool. Jane is promoting swimming lessons as an important life skill in the run up to the summer holidays as many families choose to book holidays as the weather warms. If you wish to enrol your child for lessons or if you would like more information, you can call the pool on 01457 842262.

Attendance Matters

Sycamores	69.6%	Chestnuts	95.7%
Apple	96.1%	Orange	96.7%
Cherry	96.9%	Holly	97.5%
Fir	93.1%	Pine	96.7%
Beech	96.1%	Willow	97.2%
Oak	96.5%	Whole School	96.3%

We would like to share our most recent attendance information that covers the whole school year so far. At present attendance for the whole school sits at 96.3%, just above the DfE target of 96%. The staff team are really pleased by this as it means the children are in school making the most of every opportunity. However we do also ask that you please continue to work with us on attendance, especially over the next week weeks whilst some children take part in their assessments. This is also a polite reminder that holidays during term time cannot be authorised as we are asked to follow the guidance from Derbyshire County Council.

KEY DATES

MAY AND JUNE 2026

Monday 18th May—Travel Smart Week at Dukes.

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

Tuesday 19th May—PSCO visit to school for Nursery, EYFS, Year 1 and 2

Tuesday 19th May—Year 1 and 2 parent event. At 2.45pm.

Tuesday 19th May—Cheerfest at New Mills

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

Wednesday 20th May—Year 5 and 6 trip to Magma Science Centre

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** pupils - Multiplication Check from **Tuesday 2nd June 2nd to Friday 12th June.**

For all **Year 1** pupils - Phonics Screening Check **Monday 8th June to Friday 12th June.**

Thursday 18th June—Class Photographs.

INSET DATES

Monday 1st June

Thursday 23rd July
2026





Question Stems to Support Reading at Home

THINKING QUESTIONS

Remember Recognising and recalling
Describe what happens when _____.
How is (are) _____?
How would you define _____?
How would you identify _____?
How would you outline _____?
How would you recognise _____?
List the _____ in order.
What do you remember about _____?
What is (are) _____?
What would you choose _____?
When did _____?
Where is (are) _____?
Which one _____?
Who was (were) _____?
Why did _____?

UNDERSTAND QUESTIONS

Interpreting, exemplifying, classifying, summarising, inferring, comparing, explaining
Elaborate on _____.
How can you describe _____?
How would you clarify the meaning _____?
How would you compare/contrast _____?
How would you differentiate between _____ and _____?
How would you express _____?
How would you generalise _____?
How would you identify _____?
What can you infer from _____?
What can you say about _____?
What did you observe _____?
What is the main idea of _____?
What would happen if _____?
Will you restate _____

Dino Visit in Sycamores and Chestnuts

There was great intrigue and excitement in EYFS last week when there was an evening sighting of a dinosaur in our outdoor area! 'Dino' also visited the classrooms overnight, leaving footprints, some knocked over chairs and left a letter. She had set up a hunt for lots of clues to the activities that the children could choose to do during the day. We had a wonderful time being palaeontologists in the sandpit, rescuing baby dinosaurs that were trapped in ice, making moving dinosaur pictures and stomping like dinosaurs, making sure to avoid the volcano on the obstacle course!



Trips to Higher Plainsteads Farm

Over the past two weeks, Fir, Holly and Pine classes all visited a local farm run by Farmer Sally Hodgson and her family. The children had a fantastic time learning about the animals kept on the farm and how they are an important part of where we get food from. Sally provides education visits free of charge thanks to the funding she receives to provide these sessions. We have been visiting Higher Plainsteads Farm for many years now and we really appreciate the opportunities that Sally and her team provide.

