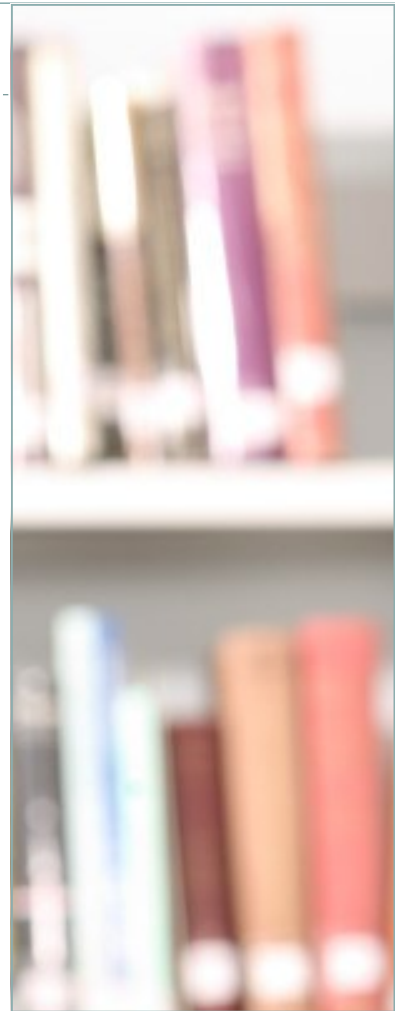




July 2026
Issue 2.11



Dear Families and Friends of The Duke of Norfolk,

It has been another very busy, yet successful year at Dukes. We are immensely proud of each and every one of our Dukes superstar pupils. They all coped particularly well with changes to the school building this term with the on going electrical work and also with lots of new pupils also settling into school routines and becoming part of the Dukes family.

Later in the term, staff and children will be celebrating the friendships they have made and reflecting on the learning they have done together as they get ready for the summer holiday and a new academic year ahead.

This term finishes on Wednesday 22nd July at 2.00pm

All children return on **Monday 7th September**

With Best Wishes

Mrs. S Barker

Headteacher

Classes for September

I am also writing to let you know of the new classes for September. As Mrs Hargreaves will be taking maternity leave we will be welcoming Miss Lawton to the staff team. Ms Williamson is also leaving Dukes this summer as she travels to teach abroad so we will be joined by Miss Wicks two days a week from September. Mrs Whitehead will continue to support classes across the school as will Mr English with Forest Schools and PE when he is not in Apple Class.

Year	Classes	Teacher/s in the team	Teaching Assistants in
Nursery and Reception	Sycamores	Miss Hartley & Mrs Romero	Mrs Wilmot, Mrs Blower, Miss Nolan
	Chestnuts	Miss Harvey & Mrs Hadfield	
Year 1 & 2	Orange	Mrs Parker	Miss Bresciani, Miss Deakin, Miss White
	Apple	Miss Taylor & Mr English	
	Cherry	Mrs Clarke & Mrs Romero	
Year 3 & 4	Pine	Miss Redican	Miss Blair, Miss Jones, Mrs Hughes, Mrs Carter
	Holly	Mr Williams	
	Fir	Miss Pitchford-Harrison & Miss Wicks	
Year 5 & 6	Oak	Mrs Pendlebury	Miss Jones, Mrs Morton, Mrs Barrow, Miss Hadfield
	Beech	Miss Rochitts	
	Willow	Miss Lawton	

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Changes to FSM

Changes to FSM eligibility from September 2026

The government have announced that Free School Meals (FSM) eligibility rules will be changing from September 2026 so that all families who are in receipt of Universal Credit will be entitled to Free School Meals for their child. This is regardless of year group or whether your child is presently receives a universal free school meal as they are in Key Stage 1 or Reception, you may find you are eligible for funding.

If you think this might be relevant to you, please look at the postcard below from Derbyshire County Council, which explain how to apply for FSM for your child. We will be containing all families who will be at Dukes next year and currently in receipt of FSM directly to explain more about the changes and how they might affect you.

All Families in Receipt of Universal Credit can get Free School Meals

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 already receive free meals.

Children in Year 3 and above may also be eligible.

Three ways to check if you qualify:

- Use the free school meals checker online - simply scan the QR code
- Contact the team by email or telephone, details overleaf
- Ask at your school for further information

Good to know:
Once registered, you don't need to reapply each year. Your eligibility is checked automatically every month.




All Families in Receipt of Universal Credit can get Free School Meals


If school meals are free for reception, year 1 and year 2 - why do I still need to apply?

Eligible pupils attract Pupil Premium, additional funding for the school. This enables the school to support families in appropriate ways, for example this could include help with:

- residential school trips
- travel costs to school
- school uniform costs
- Holiday Activity Funded (HAF) Places
- music lessons



www.derbyshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals
email: checking@derbyshire.gov.uk
telephone: 01629 536481



SCAN ME

Move up Day

On Friday 3rd of July, all children will begin to get to know their teachers and classrooms for September 2026.

Our staff have carefully considered and reviewed class structures in advance and classes have been organised on a range of factors which include individual needs, friendships, wellbeing and other important factors to ensure the best possible environment for their continued growth and success.

We look forward to working with you and your child in the year ahead. If you have any questions or would like to discuss the arrangements further, please contact the school office.

Medication in School

If your child has medication that needs to be stored at school such as an inhaler or EpiPen. Please can you double check that this is still in date. Please also bear in mind will this medication also be in date when the children return to school in September and does it need to be replaced? We aim to send all medication home at the end of the school year. Alternatively, please update us if your child no longer requires medication or their medical details have changed. Many thanks.

Year Six Families and Events

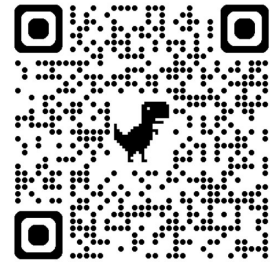
Mrs Pendlebury has sent out a separate letter to all families of year six pupils about the activities the children will be involved in to draw their time at Dukes to a close. Please check this letter with care and possibility attach it to the fridge so you have all the dates and time for easy reference. We realise that there is a lot to take in. As always any questions about these events and performances, please contact the school office, where we will do our best to help you.

Did you know ? Private Music Lessons

As part of our enrichment opportunities offer for music, we currently have experienced teachers, three of who are accredited with the Derby & Derbyshire Music Partnership, that visit school to deliver private music lessons.

If you are interested in your child learning to play, we have lessons available for: saxophone, piano, clarinet and flute; a range of Brass instruments such as french horn and trombone; guitar and ukelele and from September we now have a teacher who can provide lessons for the violin -great for the children in LKS2 who have just completed a year with their string instruments. Please see the school website for the contact details and further information for the music tutors. Please fill in the form and bring it to school marked for Mrs P-H, our Music Lead. She will ensure it is passed to the music tutors, who will then contact you directly to arrange lessons.

<https://www.dukenorfolk.co.uk/page/?title=Enrichment+Opportunities&pid=105>



Or use the QR code provided, a real Dukes first.



Sports Day—Friday 10th July

We are looking forward to our rearranged sports day on Friday 10th July. Please read the key information below so you know what to expect. The children will take part in their House Teams and will also sit in their house teams during the event.

The morning session will be for Key Stage One (the blossom classes) plus Sycamores and Chestnuts. This will start at 9.30am and run until around 10.45am, when children will return to classes. Parents of these classes are welcome to stay on site in the morning after class drop off.

The afternoon session for Key Stage Two will start at 1.30pm until 2.45pm. Children will return to class for dismissal. Parents and families please allow teachers to take their children back to class after the field activities end so that the children can collect their belongings, before being dismissed. You will be able to collect children earlier and their siblings following the afternoon session.

At each session there will be a carousel of activities followed by the sprint races. Year Six students will be leading sports stations at both sessions. Activities will include the obstacle race, Egg and Spoon race, basketball, target throw, golf, long jump, javelin and penalty shoot out.

What to Wear—all children should come to school wearing their House colours and suitable sports clothing and footwear. A sunhat and suncream are recommended in line with the present weather forecast. Please ensure that your child has a water bottle in school on sports day.

First aid and water will be available during the event. All equipment and activities are carefully organized and supervised by the staff. Staff will inform the children in advance about their House teams and where to go. We hope you can join us, it is always a day full of fun, teamwork and encouragement.

House Colours—Malala—Blue, Pankhurst—Purple, Hawking -Yellow, Mandela—Green

Attendance Matters Up to the 26th June from September

Sycamores	96.5%	Chestnuts	95.6%
Apple	95.6%	Orange	96.1%
Cherry	96.5%	Holly	97%
Fir	93.2%	Pine	96.6%
Beech	96%	Willow	96.8%
Oak	96.2%	Whole School	96.2%

We know that good attendance has a positive impact on learning and outcomes. Thank-you for supporting your child to get ready each day and being prepared for school. We appreciate that this is not always easy, but we know that good routines help our pupils. Whole school attendance for this year is 96.2% with 3 and half weeks to go weeks to go. Please continue to try and ensure that your child attends school every day. Details about individual attendance will be in your child's end of school report.

KEY DATES

JUNE AND JULY 2026

Thursday 2nd July - Little Bikers for EYFS

Friday 3rd July—Last day for class photograph orders return

Friday 3rd July—Move Up Day

Friday 3rd July PTA Colour Run

Monday 6th July—Sunflower Group

Wednesday 8th July—Year 6 performances at 2pm and 6pm

Thursday 9th July—Strawberry Tea for Chestnuts and Sycamores

Friday 10th July—Sports Day

KS1 9.30am to 10.45am

KS2—1.30pm to 2.45pm

Monday 20th July—Night of the stars, Year 6 families only please.

Tuesday 21st July—Leavers Service at Church at 9.30am. Year 6 families only please.

Wednesday 22nd July school closes at 2pm. Guard of Honour for all Year 6 pupils at 2.15pm

INSET DATES

Thursday 23rd July 2026

Friday 4th September 2026

Monday 2nd November 2026

Monday 4th January 2027

Friday 28th May 2027

Monday 26th July 2027

