

—September Issue 2026 —

Dukes Newsletter

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Welcome Back to a New Academic Year!

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to our new look newsletter. I hope you have all had a wonderful summer break and that our pupils are feeling refreshed and ready for the exciting year ahead. Our teaching staff are genuinely excited about the new academic year and are looking forward to working with their new classes. We are excited to be welcoming new pupils across the school and also into our EYFS classes; we all know how important these early years are in a child's school journey and we can't wait to get to know each of our new families and welcome them to Dukes. Please remember you can always drop in, call or email if you have any questions at all.

I am delighted to introduce Miss Lawton and Ms Wicks, who both join our dedicated team as teachers alongside Miss Jones and Miss Robson as Teaching Assistants this term. Mrs Baker and Miss Chatterton join the extended Wrap Around Team. I know they will all be fantastic additions to our Dukes' family. Please join me in giving them a warm welcome to our school community.

Yours with best wishes

Mrs Barker
Headteacher

Termly Reminders

Below are a few reminders for everyone about our routines and expectations...

Absence: If your child is ill or going to be missing school for any reason, it's very important that you let us know. You can do this phoning school and select Option 1 to report an absence. This will put you through to a member of the school office or the voice mail system. Or you can email absence@dukenorfolk.derbyshire.sch.uk to report an absence that way. Staff will record your child's absence in the register and will come back to you if they have any queries. You need to report your child's absence every day they are off school please.

Medication: If your child needs medication, whether prescribed or over-the-counter, please call the school office to collect a form which gives school staff consent to administer the medication. If your child has regular medication which they keep in school, please could you check that it is still in date (this is your responsibility, not the school's) and let us have a new batch if it's expired. Medication is kept in the school office or staff room fridge – it must never be left with your child.

PE Kit: Please remember your child should have their PE kit in school every day. Our PE kit forms part of our uniform policy and we expect all children to have the correct items in school so that they can take a full and active part in PE lessons, both indoors and outside, throughout the year. Please also remember that the only jewellery your child should be wearing are small ear ring studs and those should be either removed or taped up for PE lessons. Your child should not be wearing necklaces, rings or other items of jewellery or smart watches. We will also ask children to tie long hair up in PE lessons; it's really useful if they have a hair elastic in with their PE kit. Thanks you for your support with this.

Parking Outside and on Surrounding Roads

Please can you ensure that you park safely around school if you are driving to drop off/pick up. Some parents and neighbours this week have made reports of double parking and cars parked on the pavements meaning the children have to walk in the road due to a lack of pavement access. It is important that all pupils are safe coming and going from Dukes and we appreciate your support with this

National Updates Mobile Phones and Allergies and Uniform



Over the summer a number of updates and changes came into place for schools.

I am delighted to announce that the whole staff team have completed Allergy and Anaphylaxis Training for schools as a part of the annual safeguarding training package. We are now an allergy aware school.

As a school team we also respect the Children's Wellbeing and Schools Act 2026 that introduces a cap on compulsory branded items of school uniform, including PE kits, to three items for primary schools. Unfortunately each term we find ourselves with a large pile of lost property which the staff regularly check through to reunite children with their belongings. Please ensure all belongings are labelled clearly and any hand me downs are renamed too.

There has been much media interest regarding mobile phones this summer. As a school for a number of years mobile phones have not been allowed during the school day or whilst on the premises. The children, staff and children in Year 5 and 6 have all been asked to sign the mobile phone and smart watch devices code of conduct. There are a very few exceptions to this for very specific reasons, and where these happen parents will have had a discussion with me about how we manage the phone whilst it's on our site.

Dukes Values

We are delighted to share our focus on our new school values. At the heart of our school is the belief that education is about much more than academic achievement alone. Values guide our children to reflect on the world around them, understand themselves and others and grow as whole people.

Through our values, we remind children that the most important thing they can ever be is kind, to have an awareness of others and to believe in themselves. By exploring values together, children learn how to make thoughtful choices, build positive relationships and develop the confidence to face challenges – skills that will support them wherever life takes them.

Our new school values connect to Dukes motto of
‘From tiny acorns great forest grow.’

Gracious, Resilience, Ownership, Well-being

Gracious – Appreciating what we have and recognising the kindness of others through our actions and manners, by showing care, compassion and respect for ourselves and those around us in the school community and our surroundings.

Resilience – being brave enough to try new things, be determined and show flexibility and tenacity to give a task our very best. To believe in ourselves.

Ownership – all about being honest, making good choices. To show leadership, integrity and independence whilst being responsible for our actions and our learning, even when no one is watching.

Well-being – to understand how we may feel and how those around me may feel and respond.



There is a packed sporting calendar this term. Mr English will be communicating details of events and dates to those children who will be representing Dukes.



Key Dates



Tuesday 15th September – Swimming restarts for Oak Class.

Wednesday 16th September – Year 6 Parents Residential meeting at 5pm in Willow Classroom

Wednesday 16th September – Sunflower Group Restarts by invitation only

Thursday 17th September – Return of Mighty Oaks

Thursday 17th September – Football League at Glossopdale School with Mr. English.

Friday 18th September—Cauliflower Cards home to families

Friday 25th September – Last day for return of Cauliflower Cards to school.

Tuesday 29th September Harvest Festival at All Saints Church

Monday 28th September—Musical Theatre Visit for Doctor Dolittle

Wednesday 30th September – SEND Parents Evening

New Chapters

It is with much sadness that we are saying goodbye to Mrs Wilmot this term. Mrs Wilmot has been with us at Dukes for many years and is an integral part of the Dukes' family. She has taken the difficult decision to leave Dukes and pursue another avenue in her career, and we all wish her so much luck. She will be sadly missed by all staff and children.

Another farewell is for Mrs Wild in the office. Mrs Wild has also decided to pursue another avenue in her career and we wish her luck in her next chapter.

Harvest Festival

We will be celebrating Harvest Festival at church on Tuesday 29th September, this will be an inhouse school event with just the children due to space. Like in the past we will be collecting donations, to be taken to the local foodbank in Glossop.

We will be dropping off any donations after the service. If you would like to make a contribution, please bring items into school from Monday 21st September onwards.

