

— October Issue 2026 —

Dukes Newsletter

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Dear Parents/Carers,

What a fantastic first term of the school year. It has been busy and we have hit the ground running with activities and opportunities for the children. It has been lovely to get the children out and about, visiting Quarry Bank Mill, Whitehall, to All Saints Church for Harvest, getting involved in sports events or welcoming a theatre company to Dukes. A massive thank you to the staff who have made these events possible. There is also still more to come before we break up for the half term including World Mental Health Day and a drumming workshop as a part of our Black History work. As I visit classes in school the children are settled and working positively in their classrooms. It has been lovely to also welcome so many families to SEND parents evening this term and to hear the positive feedback about the strong starts that so many children have made to this school year.

I am pleased to announce that for the second year Dukes has been awarded with the Music Mark to recognise our commitment to music by advocating the importance of music education in the curriculum. The award also recognises the creative life of our school and the ambition to providing an equitable, diverse and inclusive music education for every young person.

On a very happy note, we also send our best wishes and congratulations to Mrs Hargreaves who has recently welcomed her baby boy to the world. In addition, I am delighted to introduce Miss Armitage to the staff team, she will be working with the children and staff in Chestnuts and Sycamores classes and it has been wonderful to see her so involved already.

Please remember you can always drop in, call or email if you have any questions at all.

Yours with best wishes

Mrs Barker
Headteacher

Around the school site

We know that drop-off and collection times can be busy and that parking around school is not always easy. However, we have already had a number of incidents this year which have caused concern for residents and families and complaints from families who live within our catchment.

- Please drive and park legally, safely and considerately on Royle Avenue, King Edward Avenue and Riverside Close and the surrounding streets.
- Please remain calm and respectful towards other drivers, parents and residents. We have had reports of verbal aggression and swearing during collection time, in full view of children.
- We would encourage all families to try and leave their cars at home as much as possible and allow children to walk to and from school. Please also ensure that you model to the children how to cross the road safely, looking left and right before they cross. Children on bikes and scooters should dismount before crossing the road carefully and slowly.

We are very fortunate to be part of a residential community and ask everyone to help us maintain positive relationships with our neighbours. Please remember that the way we behave around school is seen and heard by our children.

Parents Evening Reception to Year 6

The booking system for Parents' Evening which is on Tuesday 13th October and Thursday 15th October is now live for bookings. **It will close on Tuesday 13th at 12pm.** The time slots will be 3.40pm onwards. There will be no after school clubs or Mighty Oaks due to parents evening on the Thursday evening. If you need your child to go to Emergency aftercare please ring Miss Moody in the school office and she can book this for you. Night Owls for both evenings will run in the Blossom Classrooms. Please also collect from the Blossoms infant entrance on the Infant playground. Please do not access Night Owls via the corridor from the school hall. If you have already attended the SEND parents evening you do not need to rebook to see your child's class teacher.

Snacks

Morning Snacks—Fruit only please Please can you ensure that if your child is bringing in a morning snack to have at playtime that is restricted to a piece of fruit. Any other food items should be kept to have with their lunch and any packaging disposed of in the dining room. This will also support us with our commitment with allergy awareness. Thank you.

Relief Midday

A valuable role in school is that of our Midday Staff. Without them being a part of our staff team, some activities and events may not be able to take place. If you would like to join our dedicated team please contact the school office for more details as we have a relief midday position available here at Dukes.

Year 6 Residential at Whitehall

Our Year 6 pupils recently returned from an exciting residential visit to Whitehall, where they spent three days and two nights enjoying a packed programme of outdoor adventure activities.

The Year 6 residential trip is a cherished event for students, offering a chance to explore new places and engage in various activities. It is also an opportunity for the children to show resilience and take on new challenges.

This year the children embraced a range of challenges, including the zip wire, caving, a night hike and canoeing all designed to help them develop their confidence, independence and problem-solving abilities. It was particularly pleasing to hear about so many children stepping beyond their comfort zones and approaching each activity with enthusiasm, determination and a positive attitude.

The experience created many lasting memories and provided a valuable opportunity for personal growth as they prepare for the next stage of their educational journey.

But none of this would have been possible without the staff team of Mrs Pendlebury, Miss Rochitts, Mrs Morton and Miss Breani, who worked tirelessly to make sure that the children had the best possible opportunities and experiences, often working late into the night. I thank them whole heartedly for their dedication to year 6 and this experience.

Musical Theatre

The children have recently enjoyed a performance of Dr Dolittle and a linked workshop. It was wonderful for everyone to be involved in and captured the children's imagination. Thank you to the PTA for supporting this.



Bikeability for Year 6. It is that time of year again for Year 6, Mr English has sent a bikeability link to the classes involved in this term Please access the link for the information you need.



Dukes PTA

Greetings from Duke's PTA!



If you're new to Duke's, we'd like to tell you a little bit about ourselves and what we do. We are a group of parents who plan and run events in school and fundraise for resources and experiences that enrich school life.

Last year, we raised a whopping £11,000! We also ran many fantastic, fun events including: Toasty Friday; Scoot n Skate; Mothers' and Fathers' Day, Christmas Fair; SATs Breakfasts; and our bi-annual Colour Run!

We are a friendly group and anyone can join us and would be welcome. We currently have 4 vacancies. We have each joined the team for a variety of reasons and all bring something different to the team. What could you bring to the PTA? Want to get more involved?

You can chat to any of us if you see us on the school run, or get in touch by reaching out through the school office or you can email PTA.chair@dukenorfolk.sch.uk to find out more. We also have information on the school website. Hope to see you soon!

From the PTA team: Sarah, Laura, Louise, Emma, Rachel, Katy, Kat and Jo

Harvest Festival

Thank you to all families who have donated towards our harvest collection, which was recently collected by Glossop Food bank, who were thrilled with the volume and variety of the donations.

The children have also taken part in our traditional Harvest Festival at church, supported by Father David. A special thank you goes to each of the children who spoke as a part of the service and the staff team who organise the service.



Governors

Dukes like many schools cannot run and function without the support of volunteers. The roles and the demands within school means that at times we need to ask for the support of volunteers so that our children can have the best experiences and support.

This includes the Governing Board at Dukes, who play an important role in the life of the school. They are asking for some support and are looking for a new member to join them this year.

A separate letter will be soon be sent from school for nominations for a new parent governor, please look out for this and if you have any questions please come and see myself or pop into the school office for more information.

Key Dates



Monday 12th October - Book Fair opens after school each night

Monday 12th and Tuesday 13th Bikeability - Group One (details from Mrs English)

Tuesday 13th October - Parents Evening

Wednesday 14th and Thursday 15th October - Bikeability Group Two - (Details from Mr English)

Thursday 15th October - Parents Evening

Friday 16th October - Last Book Fair after school

Monday 19th October Drumming Workshops start in school

Friday 23rd October - 9.30 to 10.30 EYFS Show around for September 2027 Reception Intake

Friday 23rd October - School closes for the Half Term Holiday

Monday 2nd November - Inset Day

Tuesday 3rd November - All pupils return to school.

Results Success

For those of you that follow the news, you may have seen the news that there had been problems releasing results to schools last summer term. This meant I was unable to share our successes in a timely manner.

As a school last year we achieved above national results in Reception for our Good Level of Development outcomes. We were also above national for both the year 1 and year 2 for the Phonics screening test and also for reading at the end of Key Stage Two. We were also close to the national standard for writing at the end of Key Stage Two. As a school we are proud of these results and the achievements of the children supported by the commitment of the staff team to give the children of Dukes the best possible start.



Football Success

Our Year 5 and 6 football team have been representing the school over the last couple of weeks at the Glossopdale Primary School Cluster Football Competition.

The team showed some unbelievable skill, teamwork, determination and passion to come away as champions of the Glossop area.

They played 7 games, winning 6 of them and only conceding 1 goal throughout. The team will now go on to represent the school and the Glossop area at the High Peak School Sports Games championship.

We are very proud of the team, well done!

