November Issue 2026

Dukes Newsletter

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Dear Parents/Carers,

The term is flying by, the weather is getting colder. We have a busy end of term planned, including Children in Need, Class Assemblies for Years 3 and 4, Reading Cafe and Nativity performances, and the Christmas Fair. Please see the list of dates at the back of the newsletter so you can keep track of everything that's going on in the weeks ahead.

As part of Anti-Bullying Week we invite the children to wear odd socks to school on Monday 16th November, for Odd Socks Day. This is a day when schools, workplaces and individuals join together to show that it's okay to be different and to stand up against bullying and discrimination.

We have also take two huge deliveries at school over the last two weeks. We are pleased to annouce that the outdoor classroom for the forest has arrived, supplied by Balfour Beatty. It is not quite ready but at least it is on site and this week we have taken delivery of an outdoor classroom on the playground too. Thank you to the PTA for the fund rasing towards the outdoor classroom on the playground.

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

Yours with best wishes

Mrs Barker - Headteacher

African Drumming Workshops



This month, pupils across the school enjoyed a vibrant series of African drumming workshops. The sessions introduced children to traditional rhythms, call-and-response patterns, and the cultural significance of drumming in African communities. The children showed excellent engagement, teamwork, and plenty of enthusiastic percussion!



Bikeability Sessions

Throughout this term a number of Year 6 pupils have taken part in Bikeability training, developing safe cycling skills and road awareness. The instructors have guided our pupils through balance, signalling, junction safety, and responsible cycling habits. These sessions help children build confidence and independence, and families are encouraged to continue practising safe cycling at home.

WhatsApp Reminder

Whilst WhatsApp can be a convenient communication tool for adults, pupils should not be using WhatsApp, as the platform's minimum age requirement is 16. We ask parents to monitor device use at home and ensure children are not added to group chats. This helps us maintain a safe, respectful digital environment and prevents issues such as message overload, late-night notifications, or unkind comments. Thank you for your cooperation in supporting positive online behaviour.

Children in Need

The school council have recently started to meet and their first task has been to quickly organise Children in Need. They would like all pupils to bring in loose change this Friday, 13th November, so that each class can make a Pudsey Bear from the coins they have collected. We are looking forward to seeing their team efforts and creativity shine.

All the monies collected will go directly toward supporting children and young people across the UK.



Reception Intake September 2027



We were delighted to see so many families at our Show Around Tours for Reception and Nursery starters for September 2027. If you were unable to make it, or know someone who may be interested in a place for September, please pass on your details or give us a call on 01457 852635 or email info@dukenorfolk.derbyshire.sch.uk, and I will be happy to give them a guided tour of our school at another convenient time.

The process is now open to apply for a Reception place for September 2027. You can apply for your child's place on the Derbyshire County Council website: https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/school-places/primary-admissions/primary-infant-and-junior-school-admissions.aspx

Switch Off Fortnight

Over the next two weeks, 9th-20th November, we will be taking part in Switch Off Fortnight.
Switch Off Fortnight is a UK-wide energy-saving campaign run by The Pod, encouraging schools to switch off lights and electrical appliances for two weeks each November to cut energy use—typically saving around 10% of a school's electricity consumption.

The Eco Committee will be monitoring energy usage in school by completing audits and logging meter readings over a month. We are teaching the children about switching off instead of using standby. It helps the children think about energy use, climate change, and sustainable behaviour which is linked to our Climate Action Plan.

Reading Cafe and EYFS Stay and Play

Thank you to everyone who attended the first Dukes Reading Cafe of the school year. It was amazing to see so many year 5 and 6 parents join us at the start of this week to read with their children. We also enjoyed welcoming our parents to the Early Years Stay and Play afternoon last week. The children really enjoyed having you there. Thank you.



Key Dates

Monday 9th November - Switch off Fortnight begins at Dukes

Wednesday 11th November - Remembrance in School

Thursday 12th November - Pine Class Assembly at 2.45pm

Friday 13th November - Children in Need

Friday 13th November - Reception Show Around for for schools places in September 2027

Monday 16th November - Anti-Bullying week starts and Odd Socks Day

Thursday 17th November - Holly Class Assembly at 2.45pm

Thursday 17th November - World Prematurity Day

Tuesday 24th November - Individual Photographs

Wednesday 25th November - Diwali Dance Workshops

Thursday 26th November - Fir Class Assembly at 2.45pm

Monday 30th November - Reading Cafe for Years 1 and 2

Remembrance Day

On Wednesday 11th November, the whole school gathered for a thoughtful Remembrance Day assembly. Children learned about why we have this day, and why it is important to commemorate it. We held the two-minute silence at 11 o'clock and the children were sensible and respectful. Thank you for supporting the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal again this year.

A thank you also goes to three of our Year 6 Prefects, Florence, Rowan and April who represented the whole Dukes Community by laying the school wreath at Norfolk Square as part of the Glossop Service of Remembrance on Sunday. It was also lovely to see so many Dukes children on Sunday morning taking part in the service through their participation in Brownies, Guides, Cubs, Scots, Football and with charity organisations. Well done to you all.



World Prematurity Day

The Duke of Norfolk Primary School holds the Prem Aware Award and World Prematurity Day is celebrated each year on 17th November. We are shining a light on the subject throughout the month and on this day, 'The Smallest Things' charity will highlight the realities of neonatal intensive care and use the opportunity to shine a light on an otherwise hidden world and a journey that lasts long after you bring your baby home from hospital. A small percentage of our school population were born prematurely and we always keen to know if this is the case so that research guides our practice.