

Newsletter

Children in Need



We celebrated Children in Need this Year with our 'Spotty and Sporty' theme. Our Rights Respecting School Ambassadors and School Councillors held competitions across the day to help raise money. Thank you to everyone who donated and helped us raise a total of **£124.12**



Maths Showcase



Nursery to Year 6 parents and carers were invited to join their child in their Maths lesson. They all had a brilliant session. Thank you all for coming and for providing such lovely feedback.

Anti Bullying Week



The SMILERS team helped Mrs Collins to lead an assembly about anti-bullying.

They helped the children to understand that bullying is about an imbalance of power and the behaviours are repetitive. We all agreed to the Kindness Agreement and we will all use our power for good.



Bolsover Lantern Parade



On Saturday 29th November 2025, some of our amazing children, at Duckmanton Primary School had a wonderful opportunity to help light up the streets of Bolsover. We walked proudly alongside 100's of other lanterns during the Bolsover Lantern Parade 2025.

The children did such an incredible job and worked so hard in making them. Everyone had such a brilliant time, and we are so incredibly proud of them.



Tree Planting



On 27th November, our pupils worked with Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to plant 12 new trees and help create more space for wildlife in our school grounds.

Our Y6s also planted a Scots Pine as a legacy tree before leaving primary in the summer.



Christmas Arts Afternoon



Thanks to parents and children who joined us on our family wreath making sessions. It was a great day to start the festive session.

This was part of our Christmas Arts afternoon where we made decorations for our Christmas Tree – some of these can now be viewed at St John's Church in Staveley.

Easy Fundraising

Please sign up to EasyFundraising and when you shop online with your favourite retailers this Black Friday and Christmas, they'll donate to us.

It's free and your shopping won't cost you any extra - the retailers you shop with will donate, not you! You can support us through this link: [Duckmanton Primary - Easy Fundraising](#)

Support us
through

 easyfundraising

New School Uniform



We're excited to share that our new embroidered uniform can now be purchased through [myclothing.com](#) Parents who wish to purchase items with the new logo can do so from today.

Please note that there is absolutely no expectation for parents to replace existing uniform. We understand that many students already have perfectly good uniform items and we want to make a gradual transition which is affordable for everyone. Students are welcome to continue wearing uniform with our previous logo.

School Site

A friendly reminder that we do not allow the following on the school site:

- Dogs – any size or breed
- Smoking – any form of cigarette including E-cigarettes
- Electric scooters or bikes
- Bikes and scooters – please do not ride them on the site, but you are welcome to push them.
- Anti-social behaviour including swearing, intimidating or aggressive behaviour
- Parent cars between the hours of 8.00am and 4.30pm

If you or your child is registered as disabled, please contact the school office, who will be able to issue a carpark pass.

Bus Bay

The bus bay at the front of school should not be used by parents or the community for parking. It is a particular issue when we take the children out on trips, as the coaches are not able to get close enough to the school for collection and drop off. Thank you to Cllr Mick Bagshaw for installing a sign to make everyone aware.

Tuck Shop

Our school tuck shop runs every Friday from 8:30–8:45am. Children should be accompanied by a parent/carer, and we ask that purchases are limited to three items. Snacks may include occasional treats, which are allowed on Fridays only. While we aim to keep food in school nut-free where possible, some pre-packed items may carry “may contain traces of nuts” warnings, so please check labels carefully. If your child walks to school independently, you may wish to speak with them about checking packaging if needed. Thank you for helping us keep tuck shop safe and enjoyable for everyone. You can read our food policy in full here: [Duckmanton Food Policy](#)

Attendance


Our attendance target for this academic year is 96%+

Key

Attendance is at or above the school target of 96%

Attendance is between 92 – 96%, below school target and being monitored

Attendance is below 92% and significantly below the school target of 97%. Action to improve attendance needed

<u>Class</u>	<u>Attendance for November</u>	<u>WINNING CLASS</u>
NEST & Nursery – Mrs Orme	86.35 %	 WELL DONE YEAR 1
Reception – Mrs Pickering	91.10 %	
Year 1 Miss Smyth	96.11 %	
Year 2 Mrs Daysh	94.95 %	
Year 3 Mrs Siddall	89.35 %	
Year 4 Mrs Wright / Draper	92.71 %	
Year 5 Miss King / Miss Hill	94.74 %	
Year 6 Mr Beeden / Miss Hill	94.71 %	
Whole School	93.01 %	

Absence following a School Holiday

We regularly experience absences following a school holiday. Although many are valid, unfortunately we are having an increasing number of absences due to holidays, which run into the academic year. **Sadly, we have become aware that some parents are asking their child to lie to school staff regarding the reason for their absence.** This is uncomfortable for the child and promotes being untruthful, which goes against our school values.

For wellbeing reasons, we will carry out home visits for children who are absent following a school holiday.

Holiday requests during term time

Any requests should be an official school Leave of Absence Request form which is available on the school website or collectable from the school office. This should be handed into the school office for consideration prior to any holiday/leave arrangements being made.

In September 2013 the Education (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2013 came into force. The regulations make it clear that Headteachers should not grant approval for any leave of absence during term time, including holidays unless there are exceptional circumstances. These regulations also state that holidays cannot be authorised retrospectively. You may be issued with a Penalty Notice should leave be taken which is not authorised. If unpaid, this could lead to prosecution under section 444(1) of The Education Act 1996.

Upcoming Key Dates

You can find a comprehensive list on our website or at this link: [Duckmanton Key Dates](#)

Christmas Events

Christmas Jumper and Dinner Day – Wednesday 10th December

The children are invited to come to school in Christmas jumper or top and/or other Christmas accessories i.e. head wear. This is not a non-uniform day.

If your child usually has a school dinner, he/she will automatically receive a Christmas Dinner. On this day only, children who usually have a 'from home' packed lunch will be able to opt for a Christmas Dinner. Parents of these children will need to book this through ParentPay, this includes children in Nursery who usually stay for their lunch. This must be booked by Friday 21st November so that the catering team can order enough food. If you pay for your child's school meals, you will be charged after the event

NEST Songs Around the Tree

Children who attend NEST will be performing a 'sing along with parents' on Monday 15th December at 10am.

Nursery and Reception Christmas Performance

There will be 2 performances:

- Monday 8th December @ 2pm
- Tuesday 9th December @ 10:15am

Tickets can be purchased through ParentPay at a price of £2 per ticket. Tickets available until 5th December.

KS1 Nativity

There will be 2 performances:

- Thursday 11th December @ 9.30am for Y1 & Y2
- Thursday 11th December @ 2:15pm for Y1 & Y2

Tickets can be purchased through ParentPay at a price of £2 per ticket. Initially we are offering 2 tickets per child (this is per child, not per performance). Further tickets will be released if we find we have capacity.

Tickets will be available on ParentPay until Friday 5th December.

KS2 Christingle

There will be 1 performance on Monday 15th December @ 6pm Tickets can be purchased through ParentPay at a price of £2 per ticket. Initially we are offering 2 tickets per child (this is per child, not per performance). Further tickets will be released if we find we have capacity. Tickets will be available until Friday 1st December.

Class Christmas Parties and Pantomime – Friday 19th December

The children will be taking part in fun and festivities throughout the day and will include a travelling pantomime. The children are invited to wear non-uniform. Please ensure their clothing is suitable for cold weather and being outside, as breaktimes will take place as normal.

Shhhhhhh! But we are hoping for Santa Claus to visit us on this day!

The catering team will be offering a party style lunch for the food option on this day. If your child usually has a school dinner, he/she will automatically receive the Party Style option. On this day only, children who usually have a 'from home' packed lunch will be able to opt for the party style school dinner. Parents of these children will need to book this through ParentPay. If you pay for your child's meals, you will be charged after the event.

This is our final day of the term and will return to school on Tuesday 6th January 2026.

Governors of Duckmanton Primary School

Miss S Scarborough	Chair of Governors/ LA Governor
Mr C Martin	Co-opted Governor
Mrs E Levers	Headteacher
Mr J Beeden	Staff Governor
Mrs M Lane	Co-opted Governor
Mr D Barlow	Staff Governor
Mr M Copestake	Parent Governor

Contact: Miss S Scarborough

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