



Newsletter



DUCKMANTON
PRIMARY SCHOOL

October has been a wonderful month filled with creativity, friendship, and discovery — from autumn art projects to outdoor adventures and special events. We are so proud of how hard our children have worked and all the joy they have brought to the classrooms. Here are some of the highlights and memories that made October so special!

Black History Month



We had a fantastic time celebrating black history month across school. This years theme is standing firm in power and pride. Each class chose a significant individual to learn about and presented their findings in assembly. Please ask us about what we have learnt!

Harvest

We loved having you join us for our Harvest Assemblies. The children always enjoy performing for their adults; they did an amazing job! Thank you for your donations of food, which will be taken to the Trussell Trust food bank. Our annual Harvest Market was great fun, thank you for coming along! We raised £141.25.



Y2 Coal Mining Trip



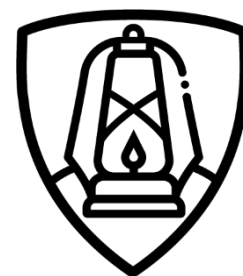
Halloween Disco

It was great fun to end the term with the Halloween Disco. We were amazed at how many children stayed to take part; it certainly was an hour of madness! There were some great costumes and outfits, from Mr Tickle to Wednesday from The Adams Family (with her very own 'Thing'!) Thankyou to the staff and parents who volunteered to help supervise; we couldn't do it without you!



New Logo

Well done to Caitlyn who was the winner of our logo design competition. Her design has been used by Strafe to create our new logo. Our school signage etc will slowly be changed over to the new logo. Please continue to wear clothing that displays the 'old logo'. Our clothing company will be changing to the new logo shortly!



Introducing Our New "Coffee & Conversation" Sessions!

We're excited to invite parents and carers to our new **Coffee & Conversation** sessions — a relaxed and friendly way to connect with other families and members of our school team and local community. These sessions will offer a chance to chat and ask questions, all over a warm cup of coffee or tea. Each session will include a short focus topic, followed by plenty of time for open discussion and questions. We have a private room for anyone who wishes to discuss anything in private. We look forward to seeing you there and building even stronger links within our wonderful school community! If you have any suggestions regarding the topics covered, please let **Mrs Collins** know or email enquiries@duckmanton.derbyshire.sch.uk

Month	Date	Focus	Speaker
September	Thursday 2 nd October @ 2.15pm	Parent Forum & Chesterfield Borough Council	Emma Levers & Wendy Blunt from CBC
October	Wednesday 22 nd October @ 9am	Anti-social behaviour	PSCO Sarah Partridge
November	Tuesday 25 th November @ 9am	Social Media	Compass Changing Lives
December	Tuesday 16 th December @ 9am	Christian Values	Fr Adrian
January	Tuesday 6 th January @ 3.15pm	Sleep	Compass Changing Lives
February	Tuesday 24 th February @ 9am	Managing Emotions	Compass Changing Lives
March	Tuesday 17 th March @ 9am	SEND	Joel Beeden/ISAT Team

E-Scooters

PSCO Partridge visited the school to talk with the children about E-scooters. Did you know that it is illegal to ride a privately owned electric scooter (also known as an 'e-scooter') in public, for example on pavements, on roads or in parks. For this reason, they are not permitted on the school site.

School Site

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. Thankyou to Cllr Mick Bagshaw for installing a sign to make everyone aware.

Wow Travel Tracker

In support of Road Safety Week (WC Mon 24th Nov) and Healthy Lives, our Community Ambassadors will be encouraging all of our children and parents to walk or wheel to school. More information will be sent out soon.



In order to keep West Crescent clear of traffic during busy times, we encourage parents/children to walk, scooter, bike to school or park away from the school and walk the short distance.

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 October</u>	<u>WINNING CLASS</u>
NEST & Nursery – Mrs Orme	89.05%	 WELL DONE YEAR 2
Reception – Mrs Pickering	91.96%	
Year 1 Miss Smyth	95.66%	
Year 2 Mrs Daysh	97.41%	
Year 3 Mrs Siddall	95.82%	
Year 4 Mrs Wright / Draper	97.29%	
Year 5 Miss King / Miss Hill	91.78%	
Year 6 Mr Beeden / Miss Hill	96.07%	
Whole School	94.40%	

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: [download.asp](#)

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

Duckmanton Primary School, West Crescent, Duckmanton, Chesterfield S44 5HD.