

Newsletter

Preloved Uniform

Did you know that school have a small supply of preloved uniform? We are really proud of our uniform and work really hard to make sure our children have the best chance at being 'Smart Start' ready. If families are struggling with the cost of uniform, please pop into the school office. If you have any unwanted uniform in good condition, we are always happy to accept donations.

Uniform discount from Myclothing.com

Here's a new 10% discount code for your parents to save money on uniform from MyClothing.

To continue supporting families we are pleased to be able to offer another discount period that runs until the end of March.

Code: **MYCQ110**

Expires: **31st March 2026**

PCSO Visit



Thank you to PCSO Parker who came to visit nursery and reception classes. They talked about the different ways the police service help in our community. They bought their very special police van which they all had the opportunity to explore!

Congratulations

Well done to the Year 5/6 basketball team who last week took part in a competition and finished in 2nd place. There was some brilliant play on show as well as teamwork, passion, self belief and determination. The children were all so supportive of each other and worked well together to do their best. Special well done to Joey in Year 5 who was voted as the 'Spirit of the Games' award winner for showing the values of good sportsmanship. They will be taking part in the area finals next half term.



Create Music Session

Year 2 and Year 4 have enjoyed exploring new musical talents. Year 4's had an incredible opportunity to take part in a violin workshop and Year 2 had a Ukulele lesson! We can't wait until our next sessions! Children's Rights, Article 29: Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full.



Chesterfield Observatory visit

Year 5 had an exciting visit to Chesterfield Observatory, where they learned all about space through interactive talks, a lively Q&A, and hands-on time using real telescopes.



Redhill Chess Festival

Some Year 5/6 pupils stepped into their first chess festival buzzing with excitement, having only recently learned the game through their school's chess club. They had a great time exploring and celebrating a new skill!



YoungVoices2026

Some of our KS2 children had an unforgettable experience attending **Young Voices** at Sheffield Arena. They joined thousands of other children to sing together as part of the world's largest school choir, performing a fantastic mix of songs in an electric atmosphere. The children represented the school brilliantly and returned buzzing with excitement from this truly inspiring event.



Year 1 Kings and Queens Day



Year 1 have had a lovely Kings and Queens Day. They started the day by learning all about Queen Elizabeth II. They then made some crowns and talked about what their royal names would be, why they would make a good king or queen and what rules they would make. They spent the afternoon learning about Queen Victoria and her life.

Morning Drop Off

To help us keep mornings calm and safe for all children, please remember that drop-off should take place at the second gate. A member of staff is always there to greet you and pass on any quick messages. Our teachers also meet and welcome every child at the classroom door to help them settle in happily and confidently. Thank you for supporting us in making the start of each school day smooth and positive for everyone.

Attend to Achieve

Good attendance at school is super important. We have high expectations and aim for all children to achieve 96% or above. You can find out more about the expectations around school attendance here: [School attendance - Derbyshire County Council](#). As a UNICEF Rights Respecting school, we recognise a child's right to an education and attendance is a significant part of this.

If your child is ill and you are unsure whether your child can attend school, this document may provide you with some answers [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS](#). You can also contact the school attendance team, who are happy to assist.

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](#)

Duckbrook Pantry

Our school is taking donations of food items for the Duckbrook pantry, which is a community pantry ran by Community Development Chesterfield (CDC). It offers quality food at lost cost, open 10am – 4pm every Thursday. If you have any donations, please pass them to a member of staff on the gate or bring them to the school office.

Communication

From February half term, we will no longer use Teachers2Parents as our SMS provider. Our new system, Arbor, will be used instead. Text messages may look a little different on your mobile device.

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

Class	Attendance for January	Winning Class
NEST & Nursery – Mrs Orme	87.74%	<p>WELL DONE</p>  <p>Year 1</p>
Reception – Mrs Pickering	94.15%	
Year 1 Miss Smyth	95.81%	
Year 2 Mrs Daysh	95.6%	
Year 3 Mrs Siddall	93.03%	
Year 4 Mrs Wright / Draper	92.38%	
Year 5 Miss King / Miss Hill	94.89%	
Year 6 Mr Beeden / Miss Hill	92.79%	
Whole School	93.32%	

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](#)

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

