

# Newsletter

### Egyptian Workshop

Our Y3s had a brilliant day during their Egyptian Day, dressing as Ancient Egyptians and taking part in lots of activities to learn more about this term's History topic. They had a chance to explore Ancient Egypt using VR headsets, created Art pieces and explored code cracking using Hieroglyphics. And they all looked amazing! Thank you to our families for supporting this.



### NSPCC Number Day

It was great to see so many We entered the national Timestable Rockstars NSPCC Rocks Competition, we took part in Might Maths Movers activities, created our own number blocks and played Maths games across the day. Thanks to everyone for taking part and thanks to everyone at home for supporting us to do so!

### Y5/6 Athletics Competition

After training hard all year, our Year 5 and 6 Athletics team took part in a competition against other local schools. They showed brilliant teamwork and determination to do their best, growing in confidence through the event. They finished in the top 3 in all the races and won both throwing events, finishing in 2nd place overall - a fantastic result! Huge thank you to all the parents and staff who helped us get the children to the event, they had a great time.



### EYFS Paramedic & Fire Service visits

Mrs Pickering and Reception class had some very special visitors. We learned all about how Paramedic's help people. We got to see her special uniform and helmet. We also saw some equipment that Paramedics use like a stethoscope. Thank you to Mrs Taylor for giving up your time to visit us! We

also got a chance to learn about what firefighters wear and the equipment they use to help keep people safe. Thank you to the Staveley Fire Crew for visiting – one of them is even a Duckmanton Primary School former pupil!



### National Storytelling Week

We celebrated National Story Telling Week with our 'Secret Reader' event. Classes were treated to a surprise reader from around school to share their favourite story or take over their end of day read. Mr B made his way down to Nursery to share a story, Mrs Orme enjoyed reading to Year 5, Miss Smyth found herself back in KS2! It was lovely to see how excited everyone was to see who their secret reader was each day!





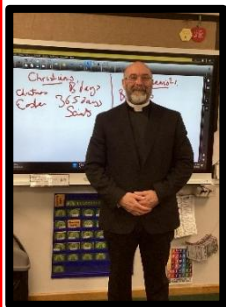
### **A visit from Toby Perkins**

MP Toby Perkins has visited our school today to find out about all the wonderful things we are doing in school. Our school Council Representatives met with and asked him some really insightful questions. They found out about his job, his plans for the future and his time at school.

Thank you for visiting us!

### **Valentine's Disco**

We hope everyone enjoyed this year's Valentines disco! We were impressed with you moves and some very impressive breakdancing. We also had a quieter colouring room, outdoor space and film room. Thank you to our staff for giving up their time to make this happen and to the parents who helped us!



### **Learning about different Faiths**

Father Adrian joined our KS2 classes for their learning for one of their RE lessons this afternoon. Who gave a Christian perspective on what some people believe about what we have been learning, from what happens when a loved one dies in Y6 to considering Humanist and Christian beliefs in Y5. Thank you for visiting us.

### **UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools**

We are very excited to share that we have successfully earned the Gold Rights Respecting Schools accreditation for the third time. We are extremely proud of the work we do in our school community around understanding children's rights and how well our children understand them and the impact they have on us in school and children around the world. Thank you to the staff, children, parents and governors who were involved in the reaccreditation visit. Well done in particular to Mrs Wright and the Rights Respecting School Ambassadors who lead our rights journey.



### **Wall of Fame Assembly**

We welcomed parents and families into school to celebrate the children nominated by their teachers for our celebration of work in Spring 1 term. Our focus was Excellence in Writing. Well done to everyone who was nominated and thank you to families for joining us. Teachers are now looking closely for nominees for our Spring 2 event. The assembly will take place in April.

### **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

Class	Attendance for February	Winning Class
NEST & Nursery – Mrs Orme	89.1 %	<b>WELL DONE</b>  <b>Year 6</b>
Reception – Mrs Pickering	96.91 %	
Year 1 Miss Smyth	94.9 %	
Year 2 Mrs Daysh	96.29 %	
Year 3 Mrs Siddall	94.98 %	
Year 4 Mrs Wright / Draper	92.46 %	
Year 5 Miss King / Miss Hill	95.82 %	
Year 6 Mr Beeden / Miss Hill	97.18 %	
<b>Whole School</b>	<b>94.45 %</b>	

## **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](#)



### **DuckBrook Pantry**

A local community pantry offering affordable food and fresh essentials each week. Poolsbrook Social Welfare, S43 3LP.  
Open every Thursday from 10am – 4pm.

### **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

