



## Newsletter

March has been a jam-packed month with lots going on across school. We hope everyone has a lovely break and look forward to welcoming you all back on **Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

### Y5/6 Basketball Competition

This month, our Year 5 and 6 basketball team took part in a tournament to compete for the chance to represent the Bolsover district at county level. The team demonstrated excellent teamwork, determination and skill, showing just how much they have progressed since beginning training in the autumn.



### British Science Week

To celebrate British Science Week, our school has enjoyed a week full of exciting science activities centred around the theme “*Curiosity – What’s your Question?*” Pupils took part in a special assembly, welcomed parents into science lessons, and explored a range of engaging science topics in class. We have also been running a poster competition, thanks to everyone who took part.



### Poetry by Heart

A huge well done to our Poetry by Heart finalists! They performed brilliantly and were fantastic representatives for the school. Thank you to the children who came along to support them.



### World Book Day

The children enjoyed a fantastic morning in their creative costumes, taking part in word guessing activities and expanding their vocabulary—*discombobulated* was a new favourite! We have also launched our Readathon. Children will bring home a sponsorship booklet, and donations can be made via the link provided. The Readathon will run until Friday 24th April.

### Staveley Salvation Army

We have had a lovely assembly today from The Salvation Army. They performed a timbrel dance and short Easter drama to share the Christian beliefs about Easter.



### Anti-Racism – Chesterfield FC

Year 4 had a wonderful morning, welcoming Coach Tom and Coach Lewis from Chesterfield FC. They spoke to the children about important topics such as equality and discrimination, and the pupils impressed them with their thoughtful questions. Following the visit, the children are now designing posters, with the exciting opportunity for selected designs to be printed onto t-shirts.

### SEND & Inclusion Parent Coffee Morning

Parents are warmly invited to our SEND Coffee Morning on **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April @ 9am** to explore the support, strategies, and inclusive practices that shape daily life in our school. Whether you’re seeking guidance, looking to understand our provision, or simply wanting to connect with other families, we’d love you to join us.





### **Ladies That Lunch**

Thank you to everyone who joined us to celebrate Mother's Day. The children loved sharing such a special lunchtime with an important adult in their lives—it was a truly lovely occasion!

### **Girl's Biggest Football Day**

The girls had a lovely morning taking part in the Biggest Girls' Football Day. They showed great enthusiasm, teamwork and determination throughout the session, developing their skills and confidence on the pitch. It was fantastic to see everyone getting involved, supporting one another and enjoying the experience together.



### **PCSO Partridge Visit**

We were pleased to welcome PCSO Partridge into school this month. She spoke to the children about our local community, the importance of respectful behaviour, and how to stay safe. The visit was both informative and engaging, helping to reinforce key messages around making positive choices.



### **Comic Relief**

Thank you for your generous Red Nose Day contributions — together we raised a fantastic £79.01! The day was filled with laughter as everyone came dressed in funny outfits and shared their best jokes. A big well done to our joke competition winners, who kept us all smiling!



### **Year 1 and Year 4 Dance Festivals**

Well done to our Year 1s and Year 4s who took part in dance festivals this month. They have been working so hard to learn routines and perform on stage in front of an audience – some for the very first time! We hope they all enjoyed performing as much as we did watching. Thank you to all of the parents who were able to come and cheer them on too!



### **CAMHS Coffee Morning**

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend our CAMHS Coffee Morning this month. We were joined by CAMHS Liaison Worker Sophie Tiple and explored ways to support children's emotional wellbeing, including strategies for managing worries and building resilience. It was a valuable opportunity to share ideas and ask questions in a relaxed and supportive environment.



### **Year 3 Workshop with Chesterfield Community Trust**

Year 3 took part in an engaging workshop delivered by Chesterfield Community Trust. The children worked extremely well as a team, demonstrated excellent listening skills, and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.



### **Easter Raffle**

Our annual Easter raffle was a great success, with a fantastic range of prizes including giant teddies, crafts, and plenty of sweets and chocolate. We were delighted that every child in school went home with at least one Easter egg. Lots of raffle tickets were earned by children for demonstrating our school values, and many additional tickets were purchased—thank you to everyone who supported the raffle and generously donated prizes. Well done to all of our lucky winners!



## Easter events & Crafts



We enjoyed a range of exciting Easter events across the school. Key Stage 2 took part in an egg decorating competition, while EYFS and Key Stage 1 delighted everyone with their Easter bonnet parade. Children also enjoyed a creative Easter craft session.

We finished with a fantastic Easter market, where children organised and ran their own games for others to enjoy, with lots of prizes to be won. Thank you to all of our families for your continued support—it helped make these events such a success!

## Y5 Lea Green Residential



The Year 5s had a fab time at Lea Green, exploring new skills and overcoming fears including high ropes, orienteering, boogies, low ropes and developing independence. Well done on a great residential Year 5!



## Macmillan Coffee Morning 2026

Thank you for your support to help to change the lives of people affected by cancer. We have raised £40.98.



## Thank you

A massive thank you to Smurfit Kappa for donating £300 for our school.



## Redhill Academy Trust KS1 Book Awards

We were chosen to host this year's KS1 Book Awards. After reading a range of texts this year, Key Stage 2 children from across the trust selected Colin's Castle by Holly Swain as the winning Book. We really enjoyed welcoming lots of infants to our school!



## 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.

## 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.



## **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](#)

## **Communication**

- Although Mrs Levers has a Dojo account, this is not checked regularly. If you would like to get in touch with her, please contact her through the admin dojo or directly through the school office.
- Please ensure you provide the school office with details of any query you have to ensure that this is passed to the most appropriate person.

## **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 March	Winning Class
NEST & Nursery – Mrs Orme	93.1%	<b>WELL DONE</b>  <b>Year 6</b>
Reception – Mrs Pickering	97.8%	
Year 1 Miss Smyth	95.2%	
Year 2 Mrs Daysh	96.1%	
Year 3 Mrs Siddall	92.4%	
Year 4 Mrs Wright / Draper	90.7%	
Year 5 Miss King / Miss Hill	93.9%	
Year 6 Mr Beeden / Miss Hill	98%	
<b>Whole School</b>	<b>94.67%</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](#)

### **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

