



Newsletter

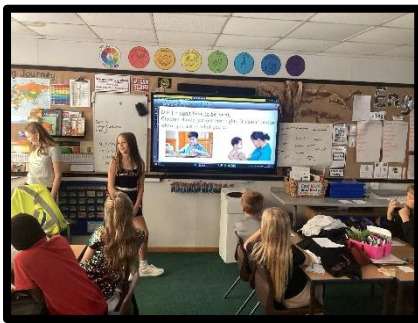
The Summer Holiday's are in sight and we have had a jam-packed July! We hope everyone has an enjoyable and restful Summer. Wishing our Year 6s the best of luck as they start their new chapter at their new secondary schools. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in the new school year on **Monday 7th September**.

Chitty Chitty Bang Bang – Key Stage 2 Summer Production

A huge well done to #TeamYear6 and all from Key Stage 2 who supported this year's production. You performed superbly and should be really proud of your achievements! Thank you all!

Y5 Canal Trip

Year 5 had a great time on the Chesterfield canal, exploring how the canal locks work, driving the barges and wildlife spotting along the way. Our Y5s were super, the canal trust staff were so impressed with their enthusiasm and kindness.



UNICEF Children's Takeover Day

To celebrate Children's Takeover Day this year, classes took part in an online expressive dance lesson with the Royal Ballet School to celebrate the UN Convention on the Rights of a Child. The children created motifs as an individual, in groups and a whole class to create a dance to tell a story. In the afternoon, Rights Ambassadors across the school led our lessons on our rights, the UNCRC and what it means to be a member of a Gold RRS. They were great teachers!



Truly Trusted Trip

Congratulations and thank you to all of those children who have consistently upheld our school values this year and earned their Truly Trusted Badge. Our celebration trip this year was an afternoon at the Healthy Living Centre Soft Play! We had a great afternoon. All children will have a new opportunity to show our school values and earn their Truly Trusted Badge next year!

West Crescent Park Update Visit

We were lucky enough to be invited by the local council to be some of the first visitors at the newly upgraded park on West Crescent. Every class had the chance to spend time exploring the new facilities and to talk with the team responsible for the upgrade. Thanks for the invite!



EYFS Sundown Trip



Nursery, NEST and Reception had a wonderful day at Sundown Adventureland. They explored all of the rides and activities the park had to offer and had a jam-packed day in the sun. A huge heartfelt thank you to our parent helpers who helped us to manage the trip – it was greatly appreciated!

Redhill Dreadlock Alien Poetry Event

Well done to Billy, Daisy, Caitlyn and Izzy in Year 6 who were invited to take part in this event. They wrote their own poem, worked on performance poetry then performed to the audience there as part of the event. You were brilliant!



Y6 Leaver's Service – Tom Surgay

Thank you to Tom from Derbyshire North East Methodist Circuit. He joined Year 6 for a service at school to reflect on our accomplishments at Primary and looking forward to Secondary school. Mr B also shared some words of reflection during the service. Year 6 have been sent home with their secondary transition booklet which has some top tips on preparing for and coping with the move in September as well as useful guides and websites which may be helpful once they start.



Safeguarding Spotlight

You may have heard about VPNs in the news. A VPN is a tool that can allow users to bypass parental controls, age restrictions and internet filters. While VPNs have many legitimate uses for adults, children may use them to access content that would otherwise be blocked. We encourage parents to check devices for unfamiliar VPN apps and continue having regular conversations about staying safe online.

What can parents do?

- Check for unfamiliar apps on your child's device (many VPNs have names such as Proton VPN, NordVPN, Surfshark, ExpressVPN or VPN Super).
- Keep parental controls and Family Link/Screen Time settings enabled.
- Talk with your child about why age restrictions and online safety settings exist.
- Remind children that bypassing safety settings can expose them to inappropriate content or contact from strangers.

VPNs are not dangerous in themselves—they are legitimate tools used by millions of adults—but it's important that children understand they should not be used to get around the online safety measures put in place by parents or schools.

Chesterfield in Bloom

A huge well done to Mrs Parnham and the gardening club. After all of their hard work, planting our courtyard veg patch, planting new plants, propagating our new green house, they have won first place in their category in this year's Chesterfield in Bloom competition. They really have brightened up our courtyard and entrance planters!



July Parent Coffee Morning

Thank you to everyone who joined us with Compass Changing Lives for our July Coffee Morning. Please look out for details of our Monthly Coffee morning dates for the new school year in September.

Leaver's Prom

Thank you to the parents who arranged our Year 6 prom which included a photo booth and DJ. The outfits looked amazing and the Year 6s had a brilliant time!

Duckmanton Transition Days

We hope our pupils enjoyed meeting their new class teachers on their transition days. Over the summer, classes will be moved in to their new year groups and allocated to their new class teacher. Year 6 parents will see the Year 6 class 'graduate' before we return in September.

July Big Family Breakfast



Thanks to everyone who came to our Big Breakfast event. We hope you have enjoyed it.



Car Park

Please do not park in the staff car park between 8:00am and 4:30pm. These spaces are reserved for staff only and must remain available throughout the day.

Thank you for your cooperation.

DuckBrook Pantry

Poolsbrook Social Welfare, S43 3LP. Open every Thursday from 10am – 4pm.

Do you know about DuckBrook Pantry? It is a local community pantry offering affordable food and fresh essentials each week. We visited the pantry last week with a few of our parents and intend to go again on Thursday 4th June @ 9.30am. If you would like to visit with us, please book your place through the school office.

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 June	Winning Class
NEST & Nursery – Mrs Orme	93.85%	WELL DONE  Reception
Reception – Mrs Pickering	97.77%	
Year 1 Miss Smyth	97.13%	
Year 2 Mrs Daysh	94.35%	
Year 3 Mrs Siddall	92.71%	
Year 4 Mrs Wright / Draper	93.09%	
Year 5 Miss King / Miss Hill	93.04%	
Year 6 Mr Beeden / Miss Hill	96.48%	
Whole School	94.8%	

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](#)

Our school INSET Days for the 2026/27 accademic Year are:

- 4th September 2026
- 4th January 2027
- 25th June 2027
- 28th June 2027
- 26th July 2027

School will be closed to children on these days.

Local Academy Board of Duckmanton Primary School

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

Contact: Miss S Scarborough

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

