



## Newsletter

We have had a fantastic start to the new school year, and it has been wonderful to welcome everyone back to school. The children have settled into their new classes brilliantly and are already working hard and making the most of new learning opportunities.

### Colour Run



What an amazing time we had at our Colour Run! The children had lots of fun running, laughing and getting covered in a rainbow of colours along the way. It was wonderful to see such enthusiasm and smiles from everyone involved.

### Show Racism the Red Card



Our school has been focusing on the important theme of anti-racism. Through a range of activities and discussions, children explored what makes each of us unique and celebrated the diversity within our school community. We reflected on how our differences help make the world a richer, more creative and more exciting place.

The children also learned about inspiring individuals who have faced racism and discussed the impact that discrimination can have on people's lives. These conversations encouraged empathy, understanding and respect for others.

We were delighted to welcome Show Racism the Red Card into school on Tuesday. Andy delivered engaging workshops for both pupils and staff, providing valuable opportunities for reflection and discussion. The sessions were informative, inspiring and thought-provoking, helping us to strengthen our commitment to creating a school where everyone feels valued, respected and included.

Together, we continue to promote kindness, equality and respect, ensuring that our school is a place where every child can thrive.

### Big Family Breakfast

A big thank you to everyone who joined us for our **Big Family Breakfast**. It was wonderful to see so many families come together to enjoy breakfast, chat with friends and staff, and support a great cause. The event was a fantastic success and helped raise money for **Macmillan Cancer Support**. We are grateful for your generosity and community spirit!

**Our next BIG breakfast is on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October.** Please sign up through ParentPay.





### **Teaching Assistant Appreciation Day**

We would like to say a huge thank you to our amazing Teaching Assistants. Their dedication, kindness and support make a real difference to the children every day. We are incredibly grateful for everything they do to help our pupils learn, grow and thrive.

### **Y4&Y5 Countryside Classroom trip to Chatsworth**



Our Year 3 and 4 children had a fantastic day on their Countryside Classroom trip to Chatsworth. Throughout the visit, they demonstrated excellent behaviour, enthusiasm and curiosity, making us incredibly proud.

The children enjoyed a range of exciting activities and gained valuable hands-on learning experiences about the countryside and the natural environment. They represented our school brilliantly and were a credit to both themselves and their families.

Well done, Year 3 and 4! We hope you enjoyed sharing all about your adventures at home

### **Congratulations**

From January, Mr Beeden will take up the role of Headteacher. Having worked closely alongside Mrs Levers throughout her time as Headteacher, Mr Beeden has played an important role in the school's journey. As a result, we are confident that the transition will be seamless and that the school's values, vision and continued improvement will remain at the heart of everything we do.



Miss Smyth will begin her maternity leave at the October half-term break, and we are sure you will join us in wishing her every happiness as she prepares for this exciting new chapter.

### **Vacancies**

- KS2 teacher (January Start)
- Teaching and Learning Assistant (October start)
- Cleaner (October start)

Please see the Redhill Trust Website for further details: <https://www.redhillacademytrust.org.uk/vacancies>

### **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.

### **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.

### **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.

### **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 September | Winning Class                                                                                                              |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| NEST & Nursery – Mrs Orme     | 94.62 %                  | <b>WELL DONE</b><br><br><b>Year 2</b> |
| Reception – Mrs Pickering     | 97.23 %                  |                                                                                                                            |
| Year 1 Miss Baron             | 95.42 %                  |                                                                                                                            |
| Year 2 Mrs Daysh              | 97.97 %                  |                                                                                                                            |
| Year 3 Mrs Siddall            | 97.34 %                  |                                                                                                                            |
| Year 4 Mrs Wright /Mrs Draper | 97.13 %                  |                                                                                                                            |
| Year 5 Miss King / Miss Hill  | 93.93 %                  |                                                                                                                            |
| Year 6 Mr Beeden              | 96.76 %                  |                                                                                                                            |
| <b>Whole School</b>           | <b>96.37 %</b>           |                                                                                                                            |



### **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: [Autumn 2026 Key dates](#)

### **Local Academy Board of Duckmanton Primary School**

|                             |                    |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Miss S Scarborough          | Chair of Governors |
| Mr C Martin                 | Co-opted Governor  |
| Mrs E Levers                | Headteacher        |
| Mr J Beeden                 | Staff Governor     |
| Mr D Barlow                 | Staff Governor     |
| Mr M Copestake              | Parent Governor    |
| Contact: Miss S Scarborough |                    |

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

