Issue No 7:
Friday 23rd October 2026

Derwent Primary School Newsletter

Our values for October are: Patience and Honesty

Dear parents and carers,
The end of the first half term already – I can't quite believe we have already completed 7 weeks in school! The children (and staff) have been incredibly tired this week and are in much need of the week's break. I want to congratulate all of the children on a fantastic start to the academic year and know that you will want to join me in thanking the staff for their hard work and efforts this half term, ensuring that the children returned to school and settled quickly into their new classes. I hope that you also enjoyed the chance to speak to class teachers at our autumn parents' evenings.

This week has seen many different opportunities for the children to take part in. On Monday, the Head of School and Head of year 7 at Henlow came to talk to our year 6 pupils about life at Henlow Academy. They shared key bits of information and brought some ex pupils along to talk about their experiences. Please do remember that the deadline for applying for secondary school places is **Saturday 31st October 2026.**
On Tuesday, we welcomed Frances Tosdevin – a local author – to share her new picture book with the Reception and KS 1 classes. The children enjoyed the session immensely where they got to find out about the author herself, how she plans and writes her stories, they shared her new book with her as she read aloud and also had the opportunity to ask questions. Thank you to those parents who ordered a copy of her book to share at home.
On Thursday, the Reception team opened their doors to celebrate Harvest with parents. This was well attended and the children loved having you in school to be part of their day.
We ended the week in our usual way, with our Celebration Assembly. Well done to all of the children who have achieved awards this half term. After half term, I will be writing to you about some new and exciting awards that the children can earn in school to keep up the positive approach we have to behavior.

Some staffing updates to end on:
Today we say goodbye to Mr Concannon, who has been working as a TA with us since last autumn. He has been a fantastic member of the team and we wish him so much luck for the future.
We welcome two new TAs after half term – Mrs Shepherd, who will be working in Mice class, and Miss Pratt, who will be working in The Den. We are also welcoming a new teacher to the year 3 team – Miss Hudson.



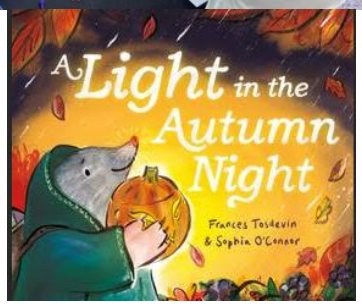


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Word of the Week for the week:

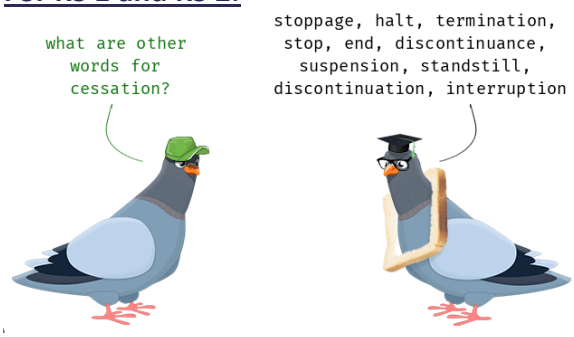
For EYFS:

Grow

Cessation (noun): A bringing to an end or a temporary stopping.
This seemed appropriate for a break in the term.

The rain brought a welcome cessation to the intense heat.

For KS 1 and KS 2:



Sign of the Week: (for the next two weeks)



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School Uniform Reminders:

A reminder of the link to purchase school uniform from the school:
https://derwentsouthilluniform.co.uk/

Other key bits of information

- **Please ensure pupils have the correct school uniform and PE kit. We do have quite a stock of second hand uniform if required – please ask at the school office about this.**
- **Please remember coats now the weather is starting to cool off and get a bit wetter – please ensure all are named.**
- **Please do remember water bottles. Please ensure all are labelled.**
- **School lunches continue to be provided by AIP. Please use the school Food United app to order all meals by 8 am on the day otherwise the meal of jacket potato and beans will be served.**
- **Please ensure you have booked and paid for all WAC sessions, Pre-School lunch sessions and chargeable sessions via Arbor in advance.**

As always, if you have any concerns, questions or issues, please do contact the office or SLT.
Have a lovely half term break with your families!

Mrs Rimmer, Headteacher and the leadership team.

Headteacher Award

Ladybirds: Scarlet
Caterpillars: Finn
Hedgehogs: Jaxon
Squirrels: Akeem
Rabbits: Coby
Hares: Reuben
Owls: Sienna
Ravens: Pearl
Mice: Jessica
Voles: George
Foxes: Esmaail
Wildcats: Harry
Harriers: Mason
Kestrels: Lexie
Eagles: Leo
Hawks: Jake
The Den: Phoenix

Certificates will go home with the children today

Derwent Primary School Safeguarding
safeguarding@derwentschool.co.uk

Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Tenille Rimmer
Deputy Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Chloe Bell, Mrs Sonya Read, Miss Hayley Kell and Mr Callum Masterson
Safeguarding Governor: W.O. Sarah Tuckwell

Do you have any safeguarding concerns regarding a child? If so, please feel free to contact any of the above in confidence via the email address at the top. This email is accessible by the above members of staff only.

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Dates for your diary ***Please check here regularly for added dates throughout the year****

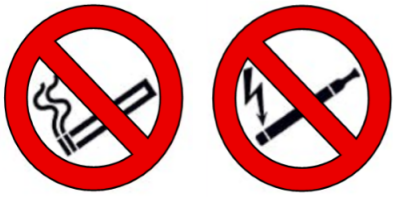
Dates for your 2026/27 diary

October
Friday 23rd October – Last day of term
WC 26th October – Half term

November
Monday 2nd November – First day back at school (whole school)
Tuesday 3rd November – Year 6 Height and Weight check
Wednesday 4th November – Flu Vaccination catch up session
Tuesday 10th November - Odd Sock Day for anti-bullying week
Wednesday 11th November – Remembrance Day
Thursday 12th November - KS1 Multiskills Festival at Pix Brook
Friday 13th November – Children in Need
Monday 23rd – 4th December – Santa Challenge
Friday 27th November - Year 2 Christmas Show

December
Tuesday 1st December - Year 3 Carol Concert at RAF Church
Wednesday 2nd December - Doctor Dolittle Panto KS1 & 2
Thursday 3rd December – Preschool Christmas Songs
Friday 4th December – Year 1 Christmas Show
Tuesday 8th December – Reception Christmas Performance

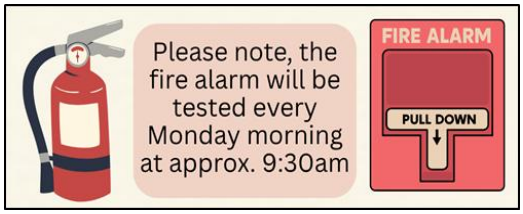
Why not look at the full calendar on the school website (https://www.derwentschool.co.uk/Calendar/). Here you will find what we have planned for the 2026/2027 Academic Year.



STRICTLY NO SMOKING OR VAPING ON SCHOOL GROUNDS
THIS INCLUDES THE CAR PARK







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Please read

School lunches

Reminder for parents to ensure they have pre-ordered their child's meal choices for W/C 2nd November and to also ensure that if you have chosen a school dinner for your child, that you do not send your child in with a packed lunch. If your child would like to have a packed lunch on a day that you have selected a school dinner for them, please cancel it via the SFU app. This will help support the kitchen team in ensuring that they are preparing meals to the exact number of meals ordered and that will be taken.

Toilet reminder

There have been a number of occasions where the children have emptied out toilet roll dispensers and emptied the contents into the sinks/toilets causing blockages. This costs the school money to replace consumables and to arrange to have repairs carried out. Please could you kindly remind your children to use the toilets sensibly whilst they are at school.

Vacancies

We are currently advertising for a Clerk to Governors. Please see link below to the vacancy should you or anyone you know be interested in applying for the position.
Derwent Primary School, Henlow, Bedfordshire | Teaching Jobs & Education Jobs | MyNewTerm

Message from Afterschool Club

A couple of friendly reminders from the Afterschool Club team:

Breakfast Club drop-off
When dropping your child off for breakfast club, please ensure that you are not parked directly in front of the entrance gate. This can prevent members of the wrap around care team from being able to unlock and access the car park entrance gate.

Spare clothes & wipes
If your child is prone to having the occasional accident, we kindly ask that you provide them with a bag of wipes and a change of spare clothes to keep with them at the club.

Holiday club: Book Now for October Half Term – Derwent

Our October half-term bookings are officially open!

Children can look forward to an action-packed timetable featuring face painting, pumpkin carving and lots of other exciting Halloween-themed activities.

Spaces are limited, so please book early to secure your child's place.

Book now: https://www.kidsholidaycamps.co.uk/

We look forward to seeing you this October half term!

Lunchtime Clubs.

Day	Club	Staff member and room.
Monday	Young Carers check in 12:15-12:45 pm Gardening Club - Lunchtime for KS2	Miss Kell in the FEW Office. Mrs Amner - small playground
Tuesday	Purple Club (KS1 10:15 & KS2 10:40) TTRS Club (Year 4 12:45 - 1:10) Games Club (All years - 12:15 - 12:50)	Miss Kell in the Library. Mrs Sharp (Wildcats Classroom) KS1 Staff in Ravens Classroom
Wednesday		
Thursday	Origami (UKS2) Homework support 12:15 - 12:45 pm Games Club (All years - 12:15 - 12:50) Gardening Club - Lunchtime for Reception.	Mrs Goward in Kestrels room. Miss Kell in the Library. KS1 in Ravens Classroom Mrs Amner - small playground.
Friday	Gardening Club - Breaktime for KS1	Mrs Amner - small playground











