Issue No 8:
Friday 6th November 2026

Derwent Primary School Newsletter

Our value for November is:

Respect

Dear parents and carers,
Welcome back everyone after the first break of the year. This week has been so busy in school, it is hard to believe we actually had a half term rest!
This week we welcomed our new staff who have settled in amazingly. They are busy getting to know your children and working really hard in their new roles!

On Tuesday, the year 5 students were lucky enough to have Year 10 students from The Priory School in Hitchin visit and teach about circles. This engaging afternoon introduced the Year 5 students to new mathematical concepts including the circumference, radius and diameter of a circle with practical and engaging activities. The session later introduced the children to the concept of pi which the year 5s were delighted in seeing how many numbers after the decimal point they could recall! 3.141... A huge thank you to Mr Masterson and Mrs Parsons (from The Priory) for organising this experience.
On Wednesday, the year 4 team took part in their Greek Enrichment Day. This looked great fun and the costumes were fantastic. A big thank you to yourselves for supporting this day and of course, to the staff in year 4 for all of their hard work in organising this.
On Thursday, we welcomed our School Improvement Advisor to tour the school and meet with the leadership team. They were so impressed with the pupils' behavior and work ethics. They commented on the calmness of the school and the high quality teaching going on in classrooms as well as the wonderful learning environments in each room.

Some of your children may have been coming home this week talking about some of our new positive behaviour incentives. This week we have introduced 'Secret Student' to Reception, KS1 and KS2. This involves classroom staff choosing one child from their class and putting their name into the class golden envelope. This remains a secret for the day. Throughout the day the class teacher will make comments about how the 'secret student' is presenting themselves. This could be behaviour, effort, kindness and showing school values. At the end of the day, if the 'secret student' has shown these positive behaviours all day the class teacher will reveal their name and they will receive a small prize from Mrs Rimmer and a chance to tell Mrs Rimmer all about their positive day. If the 'secret student' does not make it through the day we will not reveal the name but explain that we have not revealed the name due to some negative behaviours being shown. This also provides an opportunity for a class discussion about the good choices we should be making. This will take place twice a week with the intention of praising children for their integrity and positive contribution to school life. It has been so lovely this week spending time with individuals and hearing about their successful days as the secret student. This is also a really good way of developing the confidence in children to talk to staff members they don't spend as much time with day to day.






Issue No 8:
Friday 6th November 2026

Word of the Week for the week:

For EYFS:

Grow

For KS 1 and KS 2:

Diwali (noun)

Diwali (or Deepavali) literally means **"row of lighted lamps"** in Sanskrit (*deepa* meaning lamp and *avali* meaning row).

It is widely known as the **Festival of Lights**



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



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.
We hope any of our families celebrating Diwali this weekend have a lovely time.

Issue No 8:
Friday 6th November 2026
Mrs Rimmer, Headteacher and the leadership team.

Headteacher Award

Ladybirds: Logan
Caterpillars: Cece
Hedgehogs: Arthur
Squirrels: Isabella
Rabbits: Harlen
Hares: Rosie
Owls: Demi
Ravens: Liam
Mice: Lorenzo
Voles: Chase
Foxes: Bella
Wildcats: Billy
Harriers: Maya
Kestrels: Zehra
Eagles: Evie
Hawks: Emma
The Den: Lily

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.

Issue No 8:
Friday 6th November 2026

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

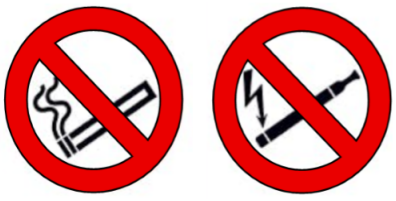
Dates for your 2026/27 diary

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

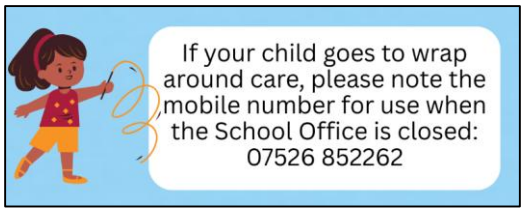
Tuesday 1st December - Year 3 Carol Concert at RAF Church
Wednesday 2nd December - Doctor Dolittle Panto KS1 & 2
Thursday 3rd December – Preschool Christmas Songs
Friday 4th December – Year 1 Christmas Show
Tuesday 8th December – Reception Christmas Performance
Tuesday 8th December – Year 2 Enrichment Day
Wednesday 9th December – Rocksteady Christmas Performance
Wednesday 9th December – Year 4 Christmas Performance
Thursday 10th December – Year 6 Christmas Performance (Hawks)
Thursday 10th December – PTA Christmas Sale
Thursday 11th December – Year 6 Christmas Performance (Eagles)

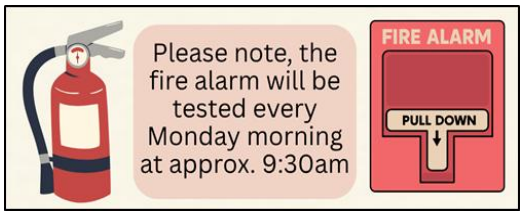
Why not look at the full calendar on the school website (https://www.derwentschool.co.uk/Calendar/). Here you will find what we have planned for the 2026/2027 Academic Year.



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







Issue No 8:
Friday 6th November 2026

Please read

School lunches

Please kindly 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.

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









