



High Notes

Primary High Notes Friday 10th January 2025

Dear Parents

It has been a pleasure to welcome everyone back to school this week and to experience the energy and enthusiasm of a new term. The pupils have returned with such positivity and eagerness to learn, setting a wonderful tone for the term ahead.

This term promises to be exceptionally busy and exciting. I encourage you to regularly consult the calendar on the Parent Portal to ensure you are fully informed about all upcoming events.

In my assembly yesterday, I shared reflections with the pupils inspired by finally watching *Wicked* last Saturday. Although I was familiar with its famous songs, like *Defying Gravity*, seeing the full story brought its powerful themes to life. *Wicked* reimagines the story of Elphaba, the "Wicked Witch" from *The Wizard of Oz*, showing her as a brave, intelligent, and compassionate young woman who is misunderstood because she is different. The story challenges us to reconsider judgments and see the world through others' perspectives. In one pivotal moment, Elphaba sings *Defying Gravity* as she decides to embrace her true self and stand up for what she believes in, even when it means standing alone. This is a powerful reminder of the courage it takes to be authentic and to defy others' expectations.

I encouraged the pupils to reflect on times they have felt judged or misunderstood and to consider how they can approach others with curiosity and kindness. By taking time to understand others, we can uncover the full story and build stronger, more supportive connections.

These themes from *Wicked* align with our core values of courage, curiosity, and kindness. Just as Elphaba's story teaches us to look beyond first impressions, I challenged our pupils to view the world with fresh eyes. To be curious about others' stories and experiences, even when they seem different from our own. To show kindness by suspending judgment and seeking to understand. And most importantly, to have the courage to be themselves authentically, even when it feels challenging. Like Elphaba, each of us has unique gifts to share with the world – and it is through embracing these differences that our community grows stronger.

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

Camembear's Travels

Mrs Grosberg was delighted to see where our French mascot, Camembear, travelled to over the Christmas break. Thank you to George and Zara for sending in photos to show us where he's been!

If your child would like to take Camembear on their travels please do let us know!



Galette des Rois

The Galette des Rois is part of a very French tradition and our Year 6 enjoyed getting together this week to share the Galette on Epiphany. The children learned about the date that marks the arrival of the Three Kings in Bethlehem. Thanks to our catering team for baking the delicious cake which everyone enjoyed.



Spring – Clubs and Activities

Our new spring timetable for clubs and activity is now available on the website, [click here](#).

It's fantastic to see so many pupils getting involved and enjoying trying something new.



Bebras Computer Challenge

In our celebration assembly this afternoon we were delighted to announce the result from the Bebras Challenge. Well done to all the pupils who received a Merit or Distinction.

A special mention for the pupils below who achieved Best In School;

Year 5, Adam A and Eliza K

Year 6, Maisie

House Football

At the end of last term we concluded our House Football competition. Congratulations to all the children who participated. We announced the winners in today's celebration assembly, congratulations to St Patrick who came first, just one point ahead of St David!



Safeguarding Corner

Wellbeing for the New Year - Healthy lifestyle Advice from Barnardo's

Barnardo's have some great tips for parents on their website. As we look to the New Year here's some useful information on how to support your child's healthy lifestyle.

Healthy lifestyles for Pre School aged children: [Healthy lifestyles - pre-school | Barnardo's Family Space](#)

Healthy lifestyles for 4 to 8 year olds: [Healthy lifestyles - 4-8 years | Barnardo's Family Space](#)

Healthy lifestyles for 9 to 12 year olds: [Healthy lifestyles - 9-12 years | Barnardo's Family Space](#)

Dates For Your Diary

Thursday 23rd January – Primary Tea Time Concert

Friday 24th January – Herons Class Assembly

Friday 31st January – Kingfishers Class Assembly

Useful Links

School menu week commencing 13th - [click here](#).

Calendar (via the Parent Portal) - <https://derbyhigh.parents.isams.cloud/>