High Notes

Primary High Notes 10th May 2024

Dear Parents

What a glorious week it has been, with our pupils taking full advantage of the beautiful spring weather to enjoy our outdoor facilities.

Our Year 5 pupils returned today from their residential trip, rosy-cheeked and filled with tales of adventure. We are thrilled they had such a wonderful time exploring, learning, and bonding as a year group in the great outdoors. Experiences like these create memories that last a lifetime.

We very much look forward to welcoming many of you next Friday for our first Parent Breakfast event.

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

Year 5 Residential to Willersley Castle

This year, Year 5 embarked on an extraordinary residential trip to the picturesque Willersley Castle, a journey that will remain etched in our memories for years to come. The adventure began at the historical Cromford Mill, where we were immersed in the rich local history of Richard Arkwright. This educational experience was not only captivating but also enhanced our geographical understanding and appreciation of the area's historical significance.

Our adventures didn't stop there; the trip was packed with an array of exhilarating outdoor activities that challenged our pupils and brought out the best in them. Canoeing and kayaking on the serene waters of the Derwent allowed everyone to embrace the beauty of nature while mastering new skills. Rifle shooting tested our precision and focus, fostering a spirit of determination and self-improvement. Grass sledging was exciting, providing endless laughter and fun for everyone.

The weather throughout our trip was nothing short of incredible, adding to the overall fantastic experience and joy of being outdoors. The sunny days and clear skies made every event more delightful, ensuring that every moment was enjoyed to the fullest.

This trip was more than just a break from the regular academic routine; it was a unique opportunity for learning, personal growth, and bonding. The pupils not only acquired new skills but also built stronger friendships and created lasting memories. It's safe to say that the Year 5 trip to Willersley Castle has been a resounding success, filled with fun, learning, and unforgettable experiences.

Year 1 visit to Tamworth Castle

The children in Year one had the most amazing time at Tamworth Castle. They started the visit by meeting the lady of the house to help her set the table for her important visitors. After that the children took part in knight training where they learnt how to dress for battle and took the opportunity to hold a real sword. The visit ended with the children visiting the rest of the castle to see the rooms where everyone lived and slept! The best part of the day was when the children explored the dungeon and decided that a visit was quite enough! The children were beautifully behaved and their fabulous behaviour was commended by the castle staff. Well done, Year one!

Wrens Topic, Currant Buns

This half term the Wrens topic is entitled 'Twinkle Twinkle' and we are focusing on a different nursery rhyme each week. This week our nursery rhyme has been '5 Currant Buns', so of course, we had to try some real currant buns for ourselves. The children enjoyed using their maths skills to count the buns, their collaboration skills to work together and their fine motor skills to spread their currant bun with their chosen toppings. So much delicious fun!

Reception's Mini Greenhouses

A couple of weeks ago in Reception we made mini greenhouses, to allow us to observe the changes to a bean seed as it grows.

We have been checking on their progress and all the seeds now have their shoot and roots, with some even starting to grow their stem and first leaves.

The children are very excited to see this next stage and are excited for their beans to grow bigger, before they take them home to re-pot.

Eva and Alice Receive a Surprise from Lucy Strange

Eva and Alice, from Year 6, received a most wonderful surprise in the post while they were away on their France residential trip. On Tuesday they were finally able to open a surprise package from their all-time favourite author Lucy Strange! She had been told about the girls' book club and the class libraries which they run and of how much both Alice and Eva adore her books. She was so honoured that she sent the girls her beautifully wrapped brand-new book (The Island at the Edge of Night), signed postcards and bookmarks to share among their book club. The girls were thrilled!

Congratulations Mr and Mrs Dowen

Congratulations to Miss Holmes, now Mrs Dowen. Mr and Mrs Dowen were married last Saturday at St Matthew's Church in Darley Abbey, followed by a reception at the River Mill.

Mr and Mrs Dowen would like to thank all the parents for their words of encouragement and very generous gift. All the children in the Wrens are doing a great job at remembering their teacher's new name!

Well done Connie - Swim England East Midlands Regional Champs

Congratulations to Connie (Year 6) for competing last weekend at the Regional Long Course Championships 2024. This was the second weekend of this competition which was held at Moorways Sports Village. Regionals is a very tough competition, with a selection of swimmers across the whole of the East Midlands, Connie was delighted to qualify for the 200m butterfly event. This was Connie's first race at a regional level. Well done, Connie.

Swim England East Midlands

Parents' Breakfast in The Refectory, Friday 17th May 8am – 9am

We are delighted to invite Primary parents to join us for breakfast in The Refectory on Friday 17th May. If you are able to attend, please respond to the Highpost sent last week. Thank you.

Upcoming May Half Term Holiday Programmes with DCCT

Derby County Community Trust have a number of sports activities for children over May Half Term. They have asked if we can share the information with parents. For more information on their activities at Rykneld Sports Centre, Belper Leisure Centre or Racecourse Football Hub – please click the following link; [Holiday Coaching | Derby County Community Trust]

Safeguarding Corner

In2 Podcast, Episode 7, Sextortion

This week our Safeguarding podcast discusses the issue of sextortion. Please take the time to listen to this two minute discussion. Please click here to listen to our podcast.

For more information on sextortion please click this link:
nca_financially_motivated_sexual_extortion_alert_education_eng.pdf (ceopeducation.co.uk)

No Escape Room from NCMEC

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) has developed 'No Escape Room,' an eye-opening interactive experience that exposes the harsh realities of sextortion. This video might be

unsettling, especially for parents and carers, but it offers invaluable insights into the dangers our children face in the digital realm.

We urge all parents and caregivers to take the time to watch this powerful video and equip themselves with the awareness needed to safeguard their families. Together, let's empower ourselves to combat online exploitation and create a safer digital environment for our children. Watch here: https://noescaperoom.org

Dates For Your Diary

Monday 13th May – Year 4 Residential departs

Tuesday 14th May – Year 5 Hardwick French Café

Wednesday 15th May – Year 4 Residential returns

Friday 17th May – Primary Parents' Breakfast and Year 1 Thrushes Class Assembly