



High Notes

Primary High Notes Friday 13th September 2024

Dear Parents

Over the summer holiday, I played a game with my family called Herd Mentality for the first time. It is a simple yet entertaining game where the aim is to guess what the majority of people will answer to various questions. If your response differs from the group, you do not score points, which leads to some fun moments as you try to think like everyone else. As we played, it sparked plenty of laughter, but it also got me thinking about something more meaningful.

In my primary assembly yesterday, I used Herd Mentality as a way to explore how easy it can be to follow the crowd - whether it is guessing the most popular ice cream flavour or imagining which superpower most people would choose. But while it is a fun game, it raises an important question: in real life, should we always strive to blend in with the majority?

At Derby High School, we celebrate the fact that we do not all think the same way. Our diversity of thought, background, and culture is what makes our community vibrant and dynamic. Life becomes far richer when we embrace our differences, stand out, and let our unique perspectives shine.

This week, I encourage everyone to take pride in thinking differently. It is our individuality that fuels creativity, innovation, and growth. Let's continue to learn from one another and celebrate the diversity that makes our school such a special place.

This sense of unity and diversity was beautifully illustrated on Thursday morning when the entire school came together for our whole school photo. This cherished tradition not only captures a moment in time but also serves as a powerful reminder of the collective spirit that binds us together. It is a symbol of our shared journey, with every student and staff member contributing uniquely to the rich fabric of our community.

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

Emergency Services Day

The children in Early Years had a wonderful time celebrating Emergency Services Day on Monday. We had visitors from the NHS, the police, the fire service and the air ambulance, who came to speak to the primary school during assembly and then supported the Early Years children with an afternoon of themed activities. A real highlight was the visiting police van and fire engine! What a memorable day.



Camembear

Camembear has been on his travels again! This summer, Camembear spent his time travelling the world with two children from the Juniors. Here are some of the pictures that Chloe (Year 6) took when she visited St Tropez with Camembear. We're sure that you will agree that it looks like they all had a wonderful time!

If you would like to take Camembear on holiday with you, whether in the UK or abroad, and promise to take some wonderful photos of your adventures, please let Mrs Coward know by emailing jcoward@derbyhigh.derby.sch.uk. Any names will be entered into a draw and one will be drawn from a hat before the next holidays. Good luck!



Harvest Festival

This autumn, we will be continuing to support the Padley Centre. Many food banks are facing challenges, especially with increased demand. As part of our Harvest Festival, we will be collecting non-monetary donations such as food and household items to assist the Padley Centre in their vital work in Derby and the surrounding areas. We will be welcoming donations to our junior reception until the 16th October. Please check your High Post for more details. Thank you.

Safeguarding Corner

In2 Podcast, Episode 17 – Pressure

Welcome to our 17th episode, discussing the topic of pressure and young people. Our discussion is led by our Assistant Head – Pastoral (Seniors), Jonathan Thornton and our Assistant Head – Pastoral (Primary), Charlotte McBride.

To listen to the podcast please [click here](#).



For further information on this topic you may wish to follow this link: [How to support 11-18 year olds with mental their health - Mind](#)

Mobile Phone Options for Parents

Mrs Bellman has talked a lot about online safety at the various parent meetings this term already. For parents considering a first phone for your child, or perhaps struggling with conflict surrounding it, you may be interested to hear about the different options available. Some are linked below.

[How to get your child set up safely on their first device | EE Learn](#) - advice for setting up the device safely

[Use Parental Controls to Keep Your Child Safe | NSPCC](#) - a guide for parental controls

[Smartphone Free Childhood](#) - for those of you who want advice for staying smartphone free!

[ParentShield Child Safe SIM and Mobile Network for Children](#) - a slightly different option for a SIM card that switches between a 'dumb' phone and a 'smart' phone when parents wish.

Dates For Your Diary

Wednesday 18th September – Year 3 Roald Dahl Day

Thursday 19th September – Year 5 Anglo-Saxon Day

Thursday 26th September – Primary Tea Time Concert

Friday 27th September – Chatsworth Class Assembly

Useful Links

School menu week commencing 16th September - [click here](#).

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