



Primary High Notes 18th October 2024

Dear Parents

As we reach the end of what has been an incredibly busy and fulfilling half term, I find myself reflecting on everything our pupils have achieved. From outstanding sporting performances to creative artistic endeavours, from academic challenges tackled with determination to friendships strengthened through collaboration - our pupils have truly embraced every opportunity with enthusiasm and determination. They have worked tirelessly, supported one another, and should be immensely proud of their achievements.

My assembly yesterday provided the perfect moment to pause and reflect on our journey so far, venturing into the wonderful world of Disney where dreams really do come true. Just as Rafiki tells us "the past can hurt, but you can either run from it or learn from it," we explored powerful life lessons that mirror our own half term's experiences.

Our journey showed us that sometimes, like Elsa, we all need to "let it go" and embrace who we truly are. We discussed how there is more to life than just "hakuna matata" - while a problem-free philosophy sounds appealing, true growth comes from facing our challenges head-on. After all, as Mulan reminds us, the flower that blooms in adversity is often the most rare and beautiful of all.

As we look ahead to the break, remember that each of our pupils has their own "reflection" staring back at them, discovering who they are meant to be. Just like Moana, they're learning that "the call isn't out there at all, it's inside" them. These are not just stories – they are guideposts for our children as they navigate their own journeys through education and beyond.

So while this half term may be drawing to a close, the magic of these lessons lives on. As Walt Disney himself believed, "if you can dream it, you can do it." Together, as a school community, we are helping our children discover that sometimes the greatest adventures begin when we dare to "step into the open air" and believe in ourselves.

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

P.S. No matter what challenges lie ahead, remember - "the bare necessities of life will come to you!"

Harvest Collection

Yesterday, we were fortunate to have a visit from Paul Taylor from YMCA Derby. Paul and his team explained to our Year 6 Charity Prefects about the incredible work YMCA Derby does across Derbyshire and the significant impact of our harvest festival donations. These contributions will not only help keep local food banks well-stocked but also support YMCA's cooking workshops, which are offered to vulnerable children and adults in the community. These workshops are an essential part of empowering those in need with practical skills.

It is crucial that our children understand the positive impact they can have, not just within their school but in the wider community. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who generously donated to this cause.



World War 2 Experience Day

A glorious day! We were transported back to World War 2 and to the life of an evacuee.

The day was non-stop, with the children embracing each activity with gusto and tangible verve! The amazing outfits which all parents kindly provided really set the tone for the experience and certainly made our early morning line up different to the norm!

In school, the children soon discovered the sense of feeling like a possession once they had put on their evacuee tags. Being identified by a number was a sobering experience. After this, we then dived into a range of drama activities, led by Dr. Evans-Bolger. The children were so sensible and articulate throughout these activities and fully explored some of the emotions that evacuees of the time might have felt. The sense of adventure soon dissipated and the reality of evacuation set in! The children articulated a sense of fear, of anxiety and of deep uncertainty about their futures.

To lighten the tone, we then enjoyed a delicious war-time rationed spread provided by Chartwells. There was a veritable banquet: sandwiches, cakes, sweet treats and enamel mugs of tea (which were a huge hit). Thank you so much to our wonderful catering team for providing such an amazing spread and to the children for trying new things. Rock cakes - who knew how popular they would be?

Mrs. Harper then forged ahead with a war-themed art activity where the children worked with charcoal. The pieces the children produced are breath-taking and it is almost impossible to believe they were created within just an hour! A special thanks to Mrs. Harper for organising this workshop (and to parents for their support in creating poppies at home).

The afternoon saw the children embracing something entirely new: the Jitterbug dance! From not knowing a single-step to then choreographing the entire dance was absolutely amazing. We have some very talented male dancers in our year group-it appears. Thanks must go to Dr. Evans-Bolger again for her enviable expertise in breaking down and teaching an entire dance in under an hour. Miss Wright (with her two left feet) was in awe!

To end... an unexpected air raid where the “shocked” children sought shelter and lived the terror of a bombing raid from the Blitz.

An incredibly busy, but hugely rewarding day was had by all. A heartfelt THANK YOU to all staff involved, but most importantly to our evacuees who were just wonderful!

We do hope the children enjoyed it.

Miss Wright & Dr. E-B



Festival of Sport at Willows

On Wednesday, 16th October, the Year 1 Thrushes and Swallows classes attended a Festival of Sport at Willow's Sports Centre. The children practiced various ball skills, including dribbling, passing, stopping, rolling, and catching. They had lots of fun and demonstrated excellent behaviour, proudly representing the school throughout the event.



Year 6 Visit Coventry Cathedral

This Monday, Year 6 travelled to Coventry Cathedral as part of their World Wars history topic.

The city of Coventry was battered by German bombers during the Blitz in World War 2. On the fateful evening of November 14th 1940, the city was annihilated by German bombers in what is now known as Moonlight Sonata. On that evening, Coventry Cathedral was destroyed, yet a cross remained. This became a national symbol of hope and helped give the residents of Coventry hope in the midst of brutal bombing raids. In the post-war period, a new cathedral was built. A stunning piece of modern architecture, it became a valuable international symbol of peace and reconciliation.

Where the old cathedral was built in a traditional design and made of stone, the new cathedral is striking, modern and largely constructed from concrete. Its stained-glass windows and etched glass windows are phenomenally beautiful (as you can see in our photographs).

During the day, we took part in Blitz and history workshops and toured the new and old cathedrals. Our tour guides, Sally and Nick, were so wonderfully knowledgeable.

A definite highlight of the day was the replica 1940s kitchen and living room where we wound up and then listened to a gramophone and were able to handle various artefacts from the time period. Lots of the children were able to try on ARP (Air Raid Precaution) helmets, operate a typewriter from the era, and take a peek inside an Anderson shelter.

In the Chapel of Peace we all dropped golf balls to learn about what the concept means and to learn of the Cathedral's hope for a world living in peace.

The children were engaged throughout the whole day and asked such sensible questions. Year 6 made all the accompanying staff terribly proud.



Year 1 Autumn Day

Year 1 celebrated autumn on Thursday with a festive "Autumn Day." The children dressed in autumnal colours and went on an autumn walk, where they searched for seasonal signs like berries, leaves, acorns, and signs of the harvest. They also got creative, making apple crumble, which everyone agreed tasted delicious. In addition to the crumble, they made clay hedgehogs and autumn collages, engaging in various autumn-themed crafts that captured the spirit of the season.

Such a fun and enriching way to enjoy the beauty of autumn!



Cross Country at Moorways

Our primary children took part in an exciting cross-country event on Wednesday afternoon at Moorways, with Year 3 and 4 boys and girls completing a 1km course, and Year 5 and 6 tackling a 2km challenge. All participants displayed great determination and sportsmanship, over a wet, grassy and hilly course. Congratulations to everyone who took part. A special mention to Celine who finished 6th in the Year 3 and 4 girls race.

It was a team event and we await the overall results after half term.

Year 3 and 4 runners:

Celine, Jessica, Kendra, Lilly, James, Josh, Harry, Dhian.

Year 5 and 6 runners:

Freddie, Seth, Harry, Hadley, Bea, Georgia, Tabby, Georgia.

Remembrance Art Installation

This holiday, we invite you to join in a very special holiday challenge. This is not compulsory, rather something which the whole family might like to participate in.

To commemorate this year's Remembrance Day, Derby High Primary are going to create an art installation. We have drawn inspiration for this from the striking art work of the artist Jacqueline Hurley (as seen below).

Please check your HighPosts today for further information. Thank you.



PSHE Consultation

Thank you to those parents who attended the session last night; it was great so many could join us. We do hope that the session was useful. We will send out a summary letter and invitation for further parent voice after half term when the current PSHE policy will have been updated and published on the website for your reference.

In2 Primary Parent Breakfast

On Tuesday we held our first In2 Primary Parent Breakfast where we discussed positive noticing. Frequent positive noticing means that the best behaviour is celebrated in your home every day. You get more of the behaviour you notice. We also discussed online safety, sharing early tips and hints. Thank you to everyone who came, we hope to see you again next half term. Notes from the breakfast have been sent via High Post to Pre-School to Year 2 parents.

Holiday Camps by DCCT

HOLIDAY COACHING FOOTBALL

Racecourse Playing Fields,
St Mark's Road, Derby,
DE21 6AL

Monday 28th October -
Friday 1st November

9:00am - 3:00pm
Drop off from: 8:45am
Pick up until: 3:15pm

Price: £15.00 per day



**SCAN TO
BOOK HOLIDAY
COACHING**

or visit www.dcct.co.uk



Safeguarding Corner

In2 Safeguarding Podcast

Welcome to our 20th episode! This week Mrs Bellman and Mr Thornton talk about half term, having a good break and good quality down time. [Click here to listen.](#)



Safeguarding Corner Podcast

Episode 20
In 2
Half Term



Claire Bellman
Deputy Head - Pastoral



Jonathan Thornton
Assistant Head - Pastoral

Adding Parental Controls – How To Guide

For those who want a 'how to' guide for adding parental controls to your devices, please follow the link: [Guides for Apple and Android devices parental controls | Internet Matters](#)

Dates For Your Diary

Monday 4th November – return to school from half term break

Wednesday 6th November – Year 1 trip

Thursday 7th November – Primary Teatime Concert

Friday 8th November – Eyam Class Assembly