



Primary High Notes 2nd February 2024

Dear Parents

We are thrilled to share that we have been nominated for two Lots for Tots awards: Primary Education Provider of the Year and Pre-school Education Provider of the Year. Please visit this link; [Awards - Lots for Tots](#), to cast your vote before the first round closes at 5 pm on February 29th. Thank you for your support!



In my assembly yesterday I talked about optical illusions. This extraordinary phenomena challenges our understanding of reality. They remind us that what we perceive may not always align with what is truly there. They trick our brains, leading us to see things that defy logic and reason. We looked carefully at a geometric pattern which for some people was definitely moving, and an interesting pile of stones which had a hidden message in it that some people could see. Optical illusions teach us of the fallibility of perception. We must approach the world with an open mind, acknowledging that our senses may sometimes deceive us and to look beyond the surface of things.

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

National Storytelling Week

Here in Primary, we have immersed ourselves in activities connected to celebrating National Storytelling Week.

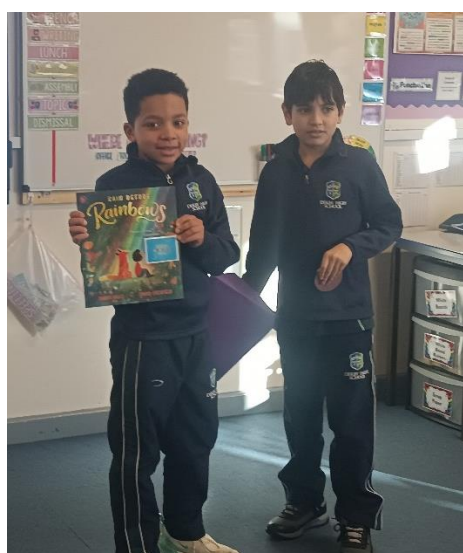
Monday's assembly saw a week-long celebration launched where the whole Primary School joined in with the re-telling of a much-loved childhood favourite: Chicken Licken!

On Tuesday, each class went on a book hunt, armed with just a single clue. The children were wonderful sleuths and, I am pleased to report, all books were found.

Wednesday saw a further assembly with another delightful book shared and the classes competed against one another in a Whose Book? quiz. We saw great problem-solving.

During the celebration assembly on Friday, the Key Stage 1 and 2 winners were announced. The winning classes now have the enviable task of selecting a book to be purchased for their classroom.

A deserved 'bravo' to the children for their wonderful gusto throughout the activities and to the staff for their enthusiasm in celebrating this wonderful week.



Wrens Visit New Building

As the excitement grows in anticipation for our new building, our Pre-School had a very special morning!

Our Site Managers, Peter and Sam, told us lots of interesting things about the site and the children asked questions that they had pre-prepared, such as "how many builders are there on site?" and "do you have a cement mixer?". The children were amazed to watch a demonstration of the 360 digger as it scooped and poured the rubble. The children had drawn some colourful pictures to say thank you to the builders that were gratefully received. What a fun morning with such beautifully behaved children!



Primary House Music Thursday 7th March

We have enjoyed a super week of music making in our Primary School. Instrumentalists in Years 1-6 participated in the preliminary competition in Music lessons this week. It has been a delight to listen to performers. Thank you to all of the children's instrumental teachers for preparing them so well and to you, as parents, for your support and encouragement with practice. Those pupils who have won a place in the finals were awarded their gold or silver House Music badge in assembly this afternoon:-

Year 1 and 2

St Andrew	1st Clara - Piano	2nd Karim - Piano
St David	1st Nourah – Piano	2nd Aurelie - Piano
St George	1st Rosie – Piano	2nd Grace - Piano
St Patrick	1st Celine – Piano	2nd Maya - Piano

Year 3 and 4

St Andrew	1st Rhia - Flute	2nd Adam - Trumpet
St David	1st Anshuman – Electric Guitar	2nd Annabelle - Piano
St George	1st Zibby – Violin	2nd Olivia - Piano
St Patrick	1st Saoirse - Violin	2nd Kulvir – Piano

Year 5 and 6

St Andrew	1st Amal - Piano	2nd Jacob – Electric Guitar
St David	1st Vedant – Drum Kit	2nd Ishika - Piano
St George	1st Lilah – Drum Kit	2nd Rianne - Piano
St Patrick	1st Holly - Piano	2nd Amber - Piano



In an exciting climax, the theme of the competition was revealed for the House Songs. As the finals will be held on Thursday 7 March - World Book Day - the theme for this year's House song is Sing! The children are learning four songs from the musical in their music lessons – I still haven't found what I'm looking for, I'm still standing, Sky full of stars & Could have been me. We will spend the next two weeks learning the songs in Music lessons and then will hold a draw in assembly to see which House will sing which song in the Finals. All pupils will have access to the House Song backing tracks through Microsoft Teams. They need to enter their school email address and password to access this.

House Music Costumes

We would like all pupils (Year 1 – Year 6) to come to School dressed as an animal from the film Sing!

We will be recording the event so that families can watch this event together at home.

House Times Tables Rock Stars

From Friday 26th January to Thursday 1st February children in Year 2 to Year 6 have been competing in a House Times Tables Rock Stars competition. This competition was a fun way to get the four Houses competing against each other and was a great way to sustain pupils' enthusiasm for TTRS. Every correct answer in any game type was worth 1 point towards a team's score. The children could play in Garage, Rock Slam, Soundcheck, etc and earn 1 point per correct answer. Over the course of the week there has been a buzz of excitement in school with many conversations happening on the playground as the leader board swapped frequently from House to House over the week.

When the competition finished, St. David finished top with, on average, each child in St. David scoring 2,332 points!!! This meant that in total, St David scored an enormous 118,932 points.

St. David were absolutely delighted to lift the House TTRS trophy in assembly this afternoon. A huge congratulations to St. David and well done to every child that took part for their House.



What's Going On? – Notice Board

In Key Stage 2, all classes work in rotation to create interesting pieces related to world news which are then displayed in our What's Going On? board. This is aimed at broadening our pupils' awareness of what is happening in the wider world. We are global citizens and this display acknowledges that and gives our pupils invaluable opportunities to delve a little deeper into current news and world events.

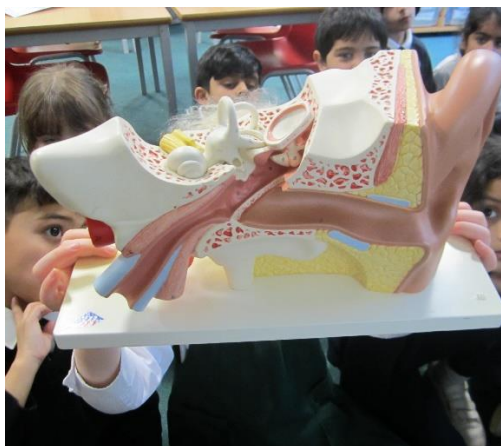
The imaginative pieces the children have created so far have been wonderful and a true celebration of our pupils' creativity. Thank you to the parents who support their children in undertaking these homework activities; your support is greatly appreciated.



Year 1 – Sense of Hearing

The children in Year 1 thoroughly enjoyed finding out about the sense of hearing this week. They looked at a 3D model of the ear before going on a listening walk where they heard lots of different sounds such as talking, doors creaking and musical instruments being played in the music room.

All of the children found a clip from *Strictly Come Dancing* fascinating, especially when they found out that Rose cannot hear but could still perform an amazing dance routine with her dancing partner.



Year 2 Football

On Monday, our energetic Herons dived head first into an exhilarating session of football during their PE lesson. Despite the wet and muddy conditions, the children showcased remarkable enthusiasm and teamwork, turning the challenging weather into an opportunity for extra fun. Laughter echoed across the field as they dribbled, passed, and scored goals, demonstrating not only their physical skills but also their resilience and determination.



Derbyshire ASA County Championships

Good luck to all our pupils who are competing this weekend and next weekend at the Derbyshire ASA County Championships at Moorways Sports Village. Do let Mr Harper and Mr Moorhouse know how you get on. Enjoy your racing and have fun!



Children's Mental Health Week

We are excited to inform you that the upcoming week, commencing February 5th, marks Children's Mental Health Week, and we will be actively participating in various activities to support and promote the emotional well-being of our pupils.

As part of our commitment to this important cause, we will be having a non-uniform day on Monday 5th February, with all proceeds going towards the charity 'Bridge the Gap'. This incredible organisation is a local, emotional, literacy-based service that merges healthcare and education to assist children in exploring and understanding their emotions. Further information on the non-uniform day can be found on HighPost. More information about Bridge the Gap can be found on the following link [Child Mental Health Support | Bridge the Gap | Derby England | Emotional Literacy \(jwbridgethegap.com\)](http://www.jwbridgethegap.com)

Please note our non-uniform guidelines will apply.

If you would like to donate, class teachers will be collecting donations from pupils on Monday 5th February.



Please be aware the clubs below are external providers to Derby High School.

February Half Term Badminton Camps

**DERBY
HALF-TERM CAMPS
NOW BOOKING!**
Tues 20th/Wed 21st Feb 9.00am - 4.00pm
(extra time available:)
Ages: 6 - 15 years Cost: From £30 per day

**BADMINTON COACHING WITH
TEAM GB OLYMPIAN DONNA KELLOGG MBE**

- Take your game to the next level
- Learn new shots, improve footwork, racket skills and technique
- Play badminton games and learn match winning tactics.
- Be active and have fun with friends!
- All abilities welcome

BOOKINGS @
• www.brightstarsports.com

Landau Forte College
Fox St
Derby
DE1 2LF

BRIGHT STAR SPORTS
team up with olympians

**SCAN HERE
TO BOOK**

**BADMINTON
ENGLAND**

February Half Term Football Coaching

HOLIDAY COACHING FOOTBALL

Rykneld Sports Centre,
Richmond Park Rd,
Derby, DE22 4FB

Monday 19th February -
Friday 23rd February

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

Price: £16.00 per day

Receive 20% off when you
book before 31st January
(per participant)



SCAN TO
BOOK HOLIDAY
COACHING

or visit derbycountycommunitytrust.com



Safeguarding Corner

Understanding AI for Educators – from Better Internet for Kids

Over the past year AI and its potential impact on education has taken a back seat, as the shockwave from the release of Chat GPT has faded into a past controversy. But contrary to what this pause in discussion may lead one to believe, AI has actually become more sophisticated than ever. From increasingly realistic AI generated photographs, to real photographs modified by AI all the way to AI enabled voice cloning. Everywhere you look AI lurks with another unforeseen usage. This brings new vulnerabilities and new risks to young people and children. Better Internet for Kids, has recently published an article laying out the ins and outs of AI and the impact its continued development, is having on children. To read the article, please follow the link below:

[Generative AI - BIK Portal \(betterinternetforkids.eu\)](https://betterinternetforkids.eu/Generative-AI-BIK-Portal)

For Parents - Assessing Smartphone Readiness, The Institute for Digital Media and Child Development

"Is my child old enough to have a phone?" It's a common, understandable question from many parents, but it's also one that is very difficult to answer as there are so many factors involved. For younger children it's often peer pressure, with older children social isolation is very common. Often, advice has to be given particular to that child/family, rather than a one-size-fits-all solution.

The Institute for Digital Media and Child Development have put together some tip sheets for parents which are really useful. There are 3 parts:

- Assessing readiness.
- Preparing for healthy use.

- What now?

You can view all the tip sheets by [clicking here](#).

Dates For Your Diary

Monday 5th February – Non-Uniform day to support Bridge the Gap, start of Children's Mental Health Awareness Week

Friday 9th February – Year 7 Scholarship letters sent out