High Notes

Primary High Notes Friday 13th February

Dear Parents

As we come to the end of the half term, it has been a joy to see just how much has been happening across our Primary School. From the enthusiasm and creativity shown on Number Day, to Year 5 immersing themselves in Mexico Day and confidently teaching the rest of the primary school how to say good afternoon in Spanish during assembly, there have been many moments to celebrate. Alongside this, preparations for House Music are well underway, and we have also seen pupils achieving success through their LAMDA awards. These experiences give a wonderful sense of the rich and varied life of the Primary School this half term.

As we reach the half-term break, it is striking how quickly the term has passed. It feels only a moment ago that we began the year full of promise and optimism, and since then our pupils and staff have worked incredibly hard. There has been a real sense of purpose, energy and ambition across the school, underpinned by strong relationships and a shared commitment to doing our best for one another.

Our recent ISI inspection already feels some distance behind us; such has been the pace of the term. We are now awaiting the final report, which we expect to receive very soon, and I very much look forward to sharing it with you all. In the meantime, I would like to thank parents, pupils and staff for their continued support and positivity, which makes Derby High such a special community.

I wish all our families a restful and well-earned half-term break. We look forward to welcoming pupils back on Monday 23rd February.

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

NSPCC's Number Day

On Friday 6th February, Derby High Primary took part in the NSPCC's Number Day. Children across the whole primary school, from Wrens in EYFS through to Year 6, participated in a wide range of maths and number activities.

The pupils thoroughly enjoyed getting involved and showed great creativity, painting their own number characters, making number bonds and fact flowers, exploring Fibonacci sequences and taking part in Who Wants to Be a Mathsonaire? quizzes.

The school also participated in Times Table Rock Stars' NSPCC Rocks competition, competing against schools across the UK. This was run as a House competition within school, with children in Years 2–6 competing on TTRS and Year 1 taking part using Numbots. St George were crowned overall winners, taking home the maths trophy.

Derby High Primary achieved an impressive ranking of 152nd out of 4,011 schools nationwide — an incredible accomplishment.

Well done to everyone who took part; all participants should feel extremely proud of their fantastic, speedy number work.

Year 3 and 4 Free Readers

Year 3 and 4 had a wonderful afternoon in the library on Tuesday this week as we launched our new 'first-time' free reader section of the junior library.

Once the children reach the latter stages of the reading scheme, they begin to migrate to being a free reader. To support this transition, Mrs Holgate, along with Miss Ridley (our Librarian), have developed a section of the junior library specifically for our first -time free readers through investing in an awesome selection of books.

Following Mrs Holgate and Miss Ridley's research, we have invested in a diverse selection of fiction and non-fiction titles, which incorporate classic children's novels, brand new comic books and many favourite stories, as well as lots of fascinating 'Big Cat' non-fiction and some beautiful Usborne books. Each book was carefully chosen to stretch our young readers while also continuing to encourage their love of reading. In total this week we welcomed 117 Fiction and 44 Non-Fiction books to the free-reader section of our junior library!

The excitement for the grand unveiling was electric! We were all so proud to see Year 3 and Year 4 so excited about their new books. This joy was shared with all of the teachers, support staff and the Primary School Prefect, Farrah (Year 13), who attended the ceremony.

Jeevan and Advika (who graduated to free reading earlier that day) had the honour of cutting the ribbon and sharing the new section of the library with their peers.

Year 5 Mexican Day 2026

What a brilliant day Year 5 had celebrating Mexican culture. The children threw themselves into every activity and it was lovely to see their enthusiasm from start to finish. Their colourful outfits really set the tone and added to the sense of occasion.

We began the day continuing our Art and DT project with Mrs Harper. The children have been designing Mexican themed landscape cushion covers and today they moved on to the careful job of stitching their fabrics together. There was plenty of concentration as they worked on joining their pieces neatly and it was great to see their designs starting to take shape as finished products.

Later in the morning, we learned about the Mexican festival of the Day of the Dead. The children explored its meaning and traditions before creating detailed fact files to show their understanding. They then designed and painted their own vibrant masks inspired by the celebration, each one full of colour and personality.

Lunch was a real highlight. Our catering team prepared a delicious Mexican feast featuring deconstructed fajitas with all the accompaniments. The children loved building their own wraps exactly how they liked them, adding their chosen fillings and toppings. Not forgetting the scrumptious dessert and hot chocolate they had at the end of their meal as a special treat!

In the afternoon, Mrs Martinez led another engaging Spanish lesson, building on the children's growing confidence with the language. To round off the day, Miss Liddle taught both Year 5 classes and the teachers a lively Mexican cultural dance. There was plenty of laughter and impressive moves as everyone joined in.

A huge thank you to all the staff who helped make the day such a success. It was a joyful, creative and memorable celebration for Year 5.

Early Visit Special Visitor – PCSO Johnson

The children in the Early Years had a visit from PCSO Johnson on Wednesday afternoon. He talked to the children about road safety and the role of the police, to keep us all safe.

PCSO Johnson explained what the children should do in an emergency and the children practised the emergency number 999.

He spoke to the children about the importance of knowing their address in an emergency and challenged the children to go home and learn their house number and street name.

The children were very enthusiastic and had a brilliant time, asking questions, trying on police vests and going in the police car. Thank you to PCSO for visiting our school.

Coat Donation Appeal

The Primary School Council would like to invite you to support our charity event: a coat donation to Nottingham University Hospital.

If you have any spare, old or too small coats, we would love you to donate them. We are donating coats, because a lot of the time when patients leave the hospital, they are very cold because they do not have any coats in their possession. If we provide them, Nottingham University Hospital will be able to help patients and make sure the coats do not go to waste.

Please don't donate any ripped or damaged coats. Warm raincoats are the best, however any coat is acceptable. If you donate any coats, it's really appreciated.

Please send them in with your children, who can then place them in a special donation box in the infant and junior halls in Primary. The deadline for donations is Friday 27th February - the first Friday after half-term.

Thank you for reading this letter and for helping us in this important appeal.

For more information, please read the full article on BBC news by clicking here.

Non-Uniform Day - Children First Derby

Today we marked Children's Mental Health week with a non-uniform day. Thank you to everyone who kindly donated to Children First.

For more information on Children First Derby you can visit their website by clicking this link: Children First Derby Website – Supporting Children, Young People, and Families

Year 1 RE Learning

As part of Year 1 RE learning, Miss Khalid visited the Year 1 classes to talk to the children about Islam. She shared a range of interesting artefacts, which the children were able to see up close and pass around, helping them to better understand what they had been learning in class.

Miss Khalid also brought traditional children's clothing, which the pupils enjoyed trying on and discussing. The visit was met with great enthusiasm, and the children were fully engaged throughout. It was a valuable and memorable experience that truly brought their RE learning to life.

Football Success

Congratulations to Rohan, Year 1, for achieving Player of the Match, in his football game last week with his team Mickleover 95. Congratulations Rohan, keep up the hard work.

Piano Progressions

A huge well done to Asees, Year 1, for finishing her piano book and moving onto the next stage. Keep up the hard work Asees, we can't wait to see your progression.

Lifeguard Training

Congratulations to Aashvi, Year 6 and Aanya, Year 6 who have recently undertaken their Rookie Life Guarding training. They have both been awarded their Silver Stage 1. Both girls are now working towards their Gold certificate, well done!

Kickboxing Belt

Last term, Evelyn - Rose, Year 1, passed her Kickboxing grading and has achieved her new belt colour. This is fantastic achievement Evelyn - Rose, keep up the hard work!

Gymnastics Celebrations

Effie, Year 2 and Lenny in Reception, have both completed their Level 1 and Level 2 certificates at their gymnastics class this week. A huge congratulations to Effie and Lenny. Keep up your hard work. We are very proud of you.

Uniform Shop Donations

We would like to thank our school community for your kind donations of labelled uniform items to the uniform shop. We truly appreciate your generosity and support.

At this time, the uniform shop is at full capacity and is not accepting any additional uniform items. Once stock is running low, we will notify you via High Notes.

Thank you again for your continued support!

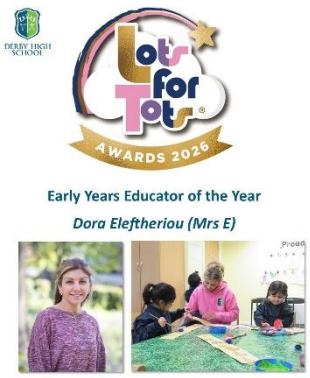
Please Support Mrs E - Public Voting Now Open!

You may recall that last term we asked for your support in voting for Mrs E in the Lots for Tots Awards. We are delighted to share that she has now been shortlisted as a finalist in the category Early Years Educator of the Year.

Public voting has reopened, and every vote truly counts. If you previously voted to help Mrs E reach the shortlist, we would be very grateful for your continued support as we now aim for the final stage — winning the award.

You can view a short video explaining what this recognition would mean to Mrs E here: CLICK HERE

To vote, please select Dora Eleftheriou under Early Years Educator of the Year at the following link: Vote - Lots for Tots



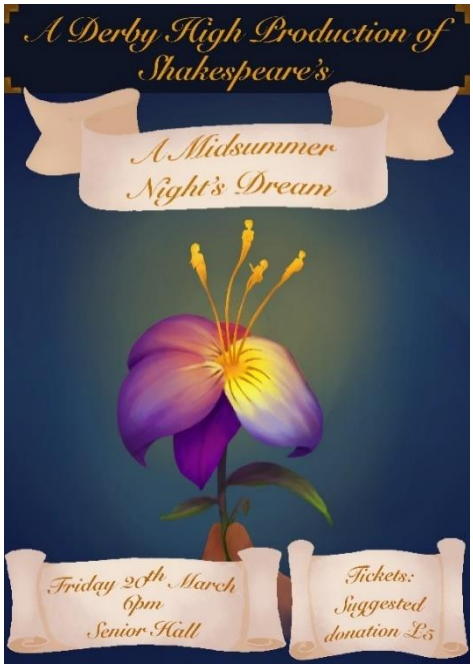
Thank you for taking a moment to support Mrs E and her outstanding contribution to early years education.

Tickets on Sale - A Midsummer Night's Dream

We are delighted to announce tickets are now on sale for our Senior school drama production of A Midsummer Night's Dream, a Shakespearean comedy about love, magic, and mistaken identity. The performance will be held on Friday 20th March at 6.00pm in the Senior Hall.

Tickets are available from senior student reception; the suggested donation is £5 per ticket. Cash only, please.

Join us for a memorable performance of this comedic tale.



Primary Open Morning – Saturday 14th March 9am to 11:30am

We are very excited to be holding a Primary Open Morning on Saturday 14th March. All primary parents will have received a High Post with information on this event.

If any parents know of any friends and family who may be interested in looking around our Primary school for their children, please do spread the word! Please ask them to contact our Admissions Team so we know they are joining us for this event, either via email – admissions@derbyhigh.derby.sch.uk or via the form on our website by clicking here.

Safeguarding Corner

Derby High School Safeguarding Podcast - Episode 59, Children's Mental Health Week

This week is a continuation from last week's podcast, with Mrs Bellman and Mr Wood discussing how Derby High School is marking Children's Mental Health Week, along with Safer Internet Day.

To listen to the podcast on Spotify please click here.

For more information on Children's Mental Health Week, click the following link: Place2Be's Children's Mental Health Week - Official site

For more tips on sleep and relaxation, please click the following link; Fall asleep faster and sleep better - Every Mind Matters - NHS

Children First Derby - Free 8 Week Autism Support Programme

Children First Derby are offering an 8-week autism support programme for parents and carers of children with autism. The course is designed to provide understanding, strategies, and community support. Click here for more information and how to join the programme.

For Parents - Google Family Link

For children with Android devices, Google Family Link is a great way for parents to set restrictions. Last week Internet Matters released a brand new YouTube video showing how to set up Google Family Link to customise content and screen time restrictions:

Click to **Set Up Google Family Link**

Dates For Your Diary

Monday 23rd February – Start of Term

Thursday 26th February – Primary Teatime Concert

Friday 27th February – Primary Parents Showcase

Thursday 5th March – Primary House Music

Friday 6th March – Tissington Class Assembly

Useful Links