



Primary High Notes Friday 6th June 2025

Dear Parents

One of the great strengths of our school community is the way in which parents, staff and pupils work together in partnership, and this has been particularly evident in your response to our recent parent survey. I want to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who took the time to share their thoughts and reflections.

The feedback we received was both heartening and insightful, with many positive comments that affirmed the work we are doing, as well as constructive suggestions that help us reflect and continue to grow. We are now carefully analysing the results and look forward to sharing a full summary with you later this month.

As we begin to turn our thoughts to the next academic year, I write to share some important updates.

We are delighted to be expanding our language offer in Primary. As parents will be aware, children in Years 5 and 6 already benefit from specialist science teaching delivered by a member of the Senior School team. From September, we will be building on this by introducing specialist language teaching, with Senior School staff delivering Spanish to Year 5 and German to Year 6.

Mr Charlie Hart has made the decision to move on from Derby High and take some time to travel. We wish him all the best for the future.

Mrs Bev Bateman and Mrs Jane Swainston will be finishing their temporary roles at the end of this term, having provided valued support during maternity leave cover. We thank them both for their contributions and wish them all the very best for the future.

Mrs Oshilaja will continue her maternity leave into the next academic year and Mrs Downen will commence her maternity leave in the summer holiday.

Looking ahead to September, we are delighted to be welcoming the following new members of staff:

Miss Ashleigh Dudson

Miss Anna Wells

Mrs Abby Hughes (part-time)

Mr Sunny Madher

Miss Nicol Cuff

We look forward to introducing these new colleagues to the school community in due course and are excited for the new academic year ahead.

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

Wrens Visit Chatsworth

The Wrens had a wonderful day out at Chatsworth Farm Park on Wednesday. After an exciting journey on the coach, we arrived and enjoyed a "Little Farmers" workshop, learning to care for different animals and all having a turn at grooming the guinea pigs. Following our picnic lunch, we explored the amazing playground where the children showed curiosity, enthusiasm, and brilliant teamwork skills. Mrs Downen and all the staff were so proud of their amazing behaviour.



KS2 Swimming Gala Success at Moorways Sports Village

Pupils from Years 4, 5 and 6 had a fantastic morning at the KS2 Swimming Gala, held at the impressive Moorways Sports Village and organised by Derby County Community Trust. The event was a wonderful opportunity for our pupils to develop their swimming skills, compete with enthusiasm, and represent the school with pride.

Our Year 5 and 6 swimmers took part in a range of 25-metre individual races and exciting relay events, showing great determination and team spirit throughout. Out of 20 races, our pupils achieved an outstanding 14 first-place finishes, two second places, and three third places — an incredible performance that saw us crowned overall winners of the gala!

Meanwhile, our Year 4 pupils enjoyed a focused training session and a mini-race experience, expertly delivered by coaches from Derby Excel Swimming Club. They learned key swimming techniques and built their confidence in the water in a fun and supportive environment.

When not in the pool, children engaged in classroom-based workshops led by specialist swimming coaches, where they learned about breathing techniques and the science behind efficient swimming and the best streamline positions.

The day was a perfect blend of competition, learning, and teamwork, and we're proud of every pupil who took part. A huge thank you to Derby County Community Trust and Derby Excel Swimming Club for delivering such a high-quality event.

Well done to all our swimmers!



Chartwells' World Bee Day

On Thursday, 20th May, we celebrated World Bee Day with an engaging and educational initiative led by Chartwells in collaboration with the junior school. To mark the occasion, Chartwells ran a creative competition inviting pupils to design a poster that raises awareness about the vital role bees play in our ecosystems and food production. The brief emphasised how bees are essential pollinators, crucial for helping plants grow, producing fruits, and maintaining biodiversity. Protecting bees is synonymous with protecting our environment and securing a healthy future for all.

Over 55 impressive entries were submitted, each demonstrating a unique perspective and understanding of the importance of bees. The catering staff had the enjoyable task of reviewing the submissions and selecting a winner and a runner-up based on creativity, message clarity, and overall impact.

The competition not only fostered creativity and environmental awareness among the pupils but also reinforced the crucial message that safeguarding bee populations is essential for the health of our planet.



Swimming success for Hadley

Congratulations to Hadley (Year 5) who competed in the Nottingham Northern Swim competition last Sunday. Hadley achieved 2nd place in the 50M breast stroke and 5th in the 50m butterfly. Hadley also achieved 3 PB's in his other races. Well done Hadley, you should be very proud of yourself.



Dance Festival

During the half term break, Berenice (Year 3) took part in her first dance festival. We hope you had the best time and enjoyed your first dance festival. Keep up the hard work Berenice.



'Beaver of the Week'

Arthur (Year 1) has been awarded 'Beaver of the Week' at this local beavers group. Arthur achieved this award for great listening and fantastic participation and working towards his first badge. As a result Arthur gets to look after Chip the beaver for the rest of the week. Well Done Arthur, we are very proud of you!



Tabitha and Sali Mali Eventing Success

Tabitha (Year 6) has been working incredibly hard over the past few months, training with her pony and learning a variety of equestrian disciplines.

Last weekend, Tabitha and Sali competed in the 70cm section at Eland Lodge. They delivered a respectable Dressage test, a clear round in Show jumping, and then flew around the Cross Country course with a fast, confident, clear round.

To her surprise and delight, all that effort paid off—Tabitha won the class, beating several adult riders along the way!



Safeguarding Corner

Safeguarding Podcast, Episode 40 – Shepherds and Engineers

In this week's podcast Mr. Thornton discusses a social media post he came across over the weekend and discusses the concept of parents becoming "shepherds", rather than "engineers".

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



For more information around this topic, please visit the link below.

[Letting Our Children Be Who They Are Meant To Be - Cary Academy](#)

Decoding the Online World

Here is a great link for parents - [Home - For Working Parents Limited](#)

For Working Parents

This is a web site which provides support and resources for parents as they navigate the ups and downs of parenthood and helps guide families through the digital world.

It includes no-nonsense online safety advice for children and the option to sign up for a weekly newsletter.

Dates For Your Diary

Tuesday 10th June – Year 1 -6 House Swimming

Thursday 12th June – Primary Class Photos

Thursday 12th June – Accelerando Concert

Friday 13th June – Primary Sports Day

Tuesday 17th June – Senior School Experience Day for Year 5

Thursday 19th June – Reception Assembly

Useful Links