



Primary High Notes Friday 7th November 2025

Dear Parents

This week in assembly, I spoke to the children about superheroes, those brave, bold characters who always seem so strong and confident. We talked about how every superhero starts out as an ordinary person, and that their real power does not come from a cape or a mask, but from believing in themselves and using their unique strengths to help others. We also learned about the “superhero stance”, standing tall, feet apart, shoulders back and chin up. Scientists have discovered that when we stand like this, it can actually make us feel more positive and confident. The hall was full of smiling faces as everyone tried it out together! It was a joyful reminder that sometimes, confidence begins with how we carry ourselves, and that each of us has our own special power inside.

That confidence and individuality shone through again this week at our Primary Teatime Concert. The performances were absolutely incredible, from our more experienced musicians to those performing in front of an audience for the very first time. It takes real courage to stand up and share your talent, and every pupil should feel very proud of what they achieved. The hall was filled with smiles, music, and such a warm sense of community, a true celebration of confidence, joy and togetherness

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

Year 1 Trip to The Children's Country House at Sudbury Hall

What an exciting way to begin our historical topic on Toys! On Wednesday, Year 1 visited The Children's Country House at Sudbury Hall — and we had a fantastic time. We were even lucky enough to have the entire site to ourselves!

The children enjoyed a guided tour of the Toy Museum, where they learned all about teddy bears and compared old and new toys. In a hands-on workshop, they worked together to put toys in chronological order, using clues such as the materials they were made from, signs of wear and tear, and the level of technology used.

Everyone was fascinated to see the oldest toy — a 2,000-year-old Egyptian ceramic ball — as well as many toys that the staff remembered from their own childhoods, right up to the modern day.

The children showed great curiosity and courage, especially when crawling through the narrow chimney (even some of the staff had a go — and no one got stuck!). We finished the day playing with a variety of toys both inside and out, making the most of the lovely autumn sunshine.



Primary Inter-House Quiz Brings the Half Term to a Brilliant Close!

We ended the half term on a high with our exciting Primary School Inter-House Quiz, a fantastic event that brought together pupils from Years 2 to 6, with our Early Years and Year 1 children enthusiastically supporting from the sidelines. The atmosphere was full of excitement, and the spirit of teamwork and house pride was truly inspiring!

Brilliantly hosted by Mr De Waal, the quiz featured a wide range of general knowledge questions, and our children truly impressed us all with their fantastic knowledge and quick thinking. From fastest to the buzzer rounds to riddles and even teachers' questions, the competition was fun, fast paced, and full of surprises.

All pupils had the chance to take part in a Pre-Quiz Quiz last week, with top scorers going on to represent their houses in the finals. It was wonderful to see the whole school community, pupils and staff alike, coming together and showing great courage, curiosity, and kindness throughout the event.

After a closely contested final, we are thrilled to announce that St Andrew took a narrow but well-earned victory, making them the proud winners of this year's DHS Inter-House Quiz!

A huge well done to all our pupils for their enthusiasm and brilliant participation, and to the staff who made the event so memorable. Wishing everyone a restful and well-deserved break!



Year 6 Visit Coventry Cathedral

In the final week of last half term, Year 6 visited Coventry Cathedral. A bustling multi-cultural city 57 miles from Derby High School, Coventry was the scene of devastation after the night of November 14th, 1940. On that evening, the city suffered a devastating bombing attack where 15,000 tonnes of bombs were dropped, and two thirds of the Medieval city was destroyed. An industrial city, vital to the production of war-time munitions and aeroplane engines, it was a key target for Hitler's bombing of our industrial heartlands (and also revenge for the Allied bombing of Berlin).

11 hours of bombing ensured that Coventry's citizens emerged from their shelters, dazed and confused, to a city which was a shadow of itself. The resilience of its people became a much-needed symbol of hope in the face of the German onslaught during The Blitz.

In the months immediately after the city's destruction, the citizens battled on; in the immediate post-war years, the building of a new cathedral became a vital sign of peace and reconciliation. Even today, a daily litany of reconciliation is held which we were lucky enough to be able to listen to and witness being recorded-for transmission around the world.

By 1962, the city's new cathedral was completed. It was this wonderful building which we visited. Designed by Sir Basil Spence it is a truly wondrous piece of modern architecture and a humbling building to visit. During our time there, we undertook a guided tour where we learned more of the cathedral's various sculptures-many of which have been gifted to the city as signs of peace and reconciliation. We explored the building itself, learning of its organ's 5,000 pipes, the 23-metre-high hand-made tapestry, the various 26-metre-high stained-glass windows, sat in a classroom from the 1940s, discovered a war-time house and tried on various artefacts. In the cathedral itself, we were fortunate enough to take part in an art workshop where we designed stained glass windows and created 3D lectern eagles!

The children were beautifully behaved throughout and gained a great deal from our visit.



Primary Teatime Concert

Our Primary Teatime Concerts are a special chance for pupils to share the results of all their hard work in lessons and at home. Last night's concert was no exception, with a wonderful variety of performances that really showcased our pupils' talents. It was especially exciting to see so many pupils performing for the very first time, while our older musicians continue to flourish and shine with their chosen instruments. A huge well done and thank you to all of our performers for making the evening so memorable.

More photographs can be found in the School's Primary Gallery by [clicking here](#). The password for the gallery is **Firework**



Aikido Success

A huge Congratulations to Thomas (Year 2) who was awarded "Student of the Month" in his Aikido lessons. This is a fantastic achievement, keep up the hard work, Thomas!



Alice's Football Achievements

Alice (Year 2) has been working hard recently at Brazilian Soccer Schools and has achieved her Kickstart Badge! This has been a process over the last couple of years. This is such an incredible achievement, Alice. You should be very proud of yourself. Keep up the hard work.



Half Term Fundraiser

Over the Half Term, Asees (Year 1) helped out in a fundraising event for her brother's school, Ivy house school- a complex special needs school in Littleover. The event was organised by a charity

called Friends of Ivy House. The “Halloween Bingo” event was created to raise money for the children who attend the special-needs school, many of whom have lifelong or life-limiting conditions and disabilities.

The funds raised will go towards giving these children opportunities to go on school trips and enjoy experiences that every child is entitled to which otherwise would not be possible due to the lack of funding. Asees was very enthusiastic about helping with the raffle, bingo books and tidying up at the end. She took great pride in contributing to such a meaningful cause and in all the previous fundraising event that we have had.

Over £500 was raised on the night which was a great achievement. Well done and thank you, Asees.



Safeguarding Corner

Safeguarding Podcast with Dr Alex George on This Morning

This week we are featuring a two-minute video from This Morning. We wanted to share a short clip from when Dr Alex George was a guest on the show. Watch the two-minute video to hear his simple top tips and tiny changes that can train your children to be happier and how best to implement them into everyday life.

To watch the video on TikTok please [click here](#).



Should I Use Screentime as a Reward?

It's such a difficult one for parents; we're living in a time where screen use starts at a very early age. But should we use screen time to support positive behaviours or even take away screens as a punishment? The answer is that there is no single answer, it very much depends on individual circumstances, but it was a question posed to some experts on Internet Matters which will hopefully give you some food for thought.

You can see the article from the Internet Matters website [HERE](#).

Free Live Webinar – Parenting in a Pornified Culture

Join Culture Reframed's Founder, Dr. Gail Dines, and Director of Programming, Dr. Mandy Sanchez, for a live webinar on November 19, from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. ET, to learn more about the harmful effects of growing up in a pornified culture and how your role — as a parent, caregiver, or trusted adult — can make a difference.

To find out more and to book onto to the webinar please click the link below.

[Reframing the Conversation Webinar Series - Culture Reframed](#)

A Parent's Guide – Navigating Online Sexualized Content

Culture Reframed are offering a free email series for parents on the topic of navigating online sexualised content – to find out more information and to sign up please click the link below.

[Sign Up: Free Parent's Guide to Navigating Online Sexualized Content](#)

Dates For Your Diary

Tuesday 11th November – Remembrance Day

Wednesday 12th November – Year 6 World War 2 Evacuation Experience Day

Thursday 20th November – Year 3 & 4 Production

Friday 21st November – Year 4 Greek Day

Friday 21st Primary Parents Showcase