



Primary High Notes Friday 9th May 2025

Dear Parents

As we move through the heart of the summer term, the school is buzzing with energy and excitement. The warm weather has brought so many opportunities for our pupils to enjoy learning outside, whether that is through summer sports like cricket and athletics, outdoor exploration, or simply enjoying time with friends in the sunshine. It is a lovely time of year where learning feels especially alive and active.

Across the Primary School, we continue to focus on making the most of every learning opportunity. Whether it is building on key skills, exploring new topics, working together on projects, or preparing for upcoming events, this term is full of moments that help children grow in confidence, curiosity and independence. Learning is never just about reaching the end point, it is about the journey, the discovery, and the joy of making progress each day.

This week, I have been away from school leading an Independent Schools Inspectorate inspection. It is a privilege to support the wider sector in this way, and every visit offers valuable perspective. That said, it is always a pleasure to return to Derby High and be reminded of the warmth and energy of our own community.

Best wishes,

Amy Chapman

Head

Reception's Greenhouses

The children in Reception are currently exploring the exciting topic of '*Food, Glorious Food*'. As part of their learning, they have been thinking about fruits, vegetables, and where our food comes from.

One of the highlights of this topic has been making mini greenhouses to observe the life cycle of a green bean. The children have been absolutely captivated by the process—watching with excitement as the seed begins to sprout, grows into a seedling, and starts to develop its very first leaves. It's been a wonderful, hands-on way for them to see nature in action and understand how the food we eat begins its journey.



The children have created beautiful flower fields during last week's Expressive Arts and Design sessions as part of our Topic work. They explored a variety of techniques to bring their ideas to life, they have all enjoyed this topic and have also learnt a lot on the way

In addition, we have planted tomatoes, peppers, and carrots, and the children have been eagerly checking on their progress each day.



Year 4 Residential trip to Willersley Castle

The Year 4 residential trip began with an exciting and educational visit to the historic Cromford Mill, where the children explored the mill and delved into the fascinating story of Sir Richard Arkwright. As they navigated the site, they gained a deeper understanding of the rich history of our local area and the birth of the Industrial Revolution.

From there, we headed to the magnificent Willersley Castle, where we spent three unforgettable days and two nights. The children threw themselves into a wide range of adventurous activities including shelter building, fire lighting, zip-lining and rifle shooting – just to name a few! While the physical challenges were thrilling, the greatest achievement of all was seeing the determination, curiosity, courage and growth in every child. Away from the classroom, we witnessed a whole wealth of skills, where teamwork, resilience, kindness and communication, independence and problem-solving skills came to life – all vital qualities for life-long learners.

It has been a truly memorable experience, filled with laughter, learning and personal triumphs. Everyone has had a wonderful time – and after all that excitement, the children will certainly be ready for a well-earned sleep!



Year 1 Trip to Tamworth Castle

On Thursday 8th May, Year 1 classes Thrushes and Swallows went on an exciting trip to Tamworth Castle as part of their History topic on Monarchs.

The day began with a lovely walk through the park, including a brief stop at the play area. Then came the steep climb up to the castle itself—well worth the effort! Inside, the children explored key parts of the castle including the dungeon, armoury, and the tower, where they enjoyed breath-taking views stretching for miles.

The highlight of the day was the interactive Squires Workshop, where pupils learned about the training of young squires and the different weapons used in medieval times, such as swords and

bows and arrows. There was a fun competition between the classes—well done to Thrushes for winning!

The children also met the Lady of the House, who taught them how to set the grand dining table properly. Lincoln played the important role of a servant, carefully delivering the salt—an item of great value in medieval times. Lord Ryan and Lady Elsie were dressed in full period costume and looked every bit the noble figures.

It was a day full of adventure, learning, and imagination.



A Taste of France in Hardwick!

On Wednesday morning, Year 5 class Hardwick transformed the Refectory into a French café, putting their language skills to the test in the most delicious way! Using the French they have learned this term, the children proudly took on the roles of waiters and hosts, welcoming parents and family members as special guests. The children brought the café to life with their French, as guests enjoyed a delightful French-style breakfast. It was a joy to see the children's enthusiasm—and to hear their impressive French in action, thanks to their brilliant lessons with Mrs. Grosberg!



Derby High School Marks 80th Anniversary of VE Day

On Thursday, Derby High School joined the nation in commemorating the 80th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day with a two-minute silence. This moment of quiet reflection allowed our school community to honour the significance of this historic occasion and remember those who contributed to peace in Europe.

To mark the day, our wonderful catering team prepared a special lunchtime menu, featuring a favourite main dish selected by our Year 13 students, along with an array of traditional cakes and desserts. Our sincere thanks go to the team for their creativity and effort in making the celebration so enjoyable.

In the afternoon, Miss Hyland led a special Primary assembly, bringing together pupils in a joyful and thoughtful celebration to reflect on the meaning of VE Day.



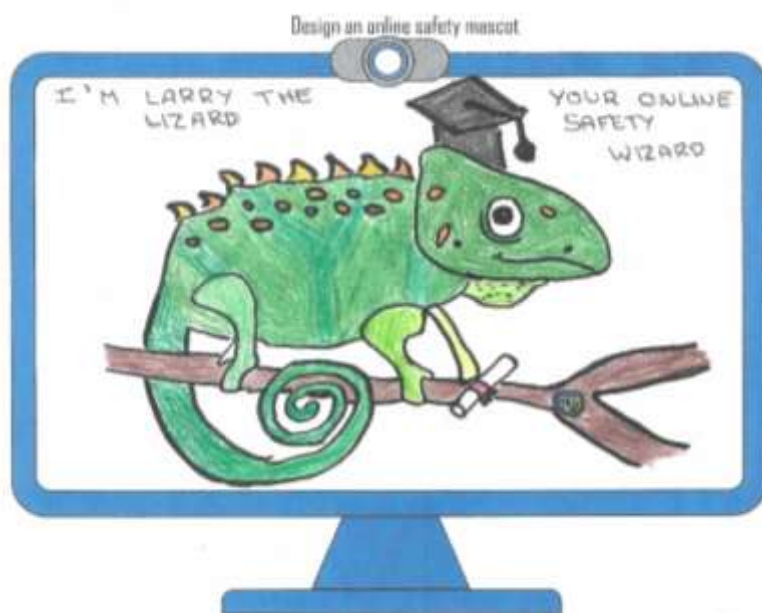
Computing Mascot competition

Every year in February, the Primary department join other schools and organisations around the country to celebrate 'Safer Internet Day'. Using the internet safely and positively is a key message that we promote in school, and celebrating 'Safer Internet Day' is a great opportunity for us to re-emphasise the online safety messages we deliver throughout the year. This year, we focused on the theme "Too good to be true?"

To help encourage the continued conversations at home and to help reinforce the link that online safety is always important, Miss Hyland set the children in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 a challenge, to design a new online safety mascot for our school. The children were asked to design a mascot that they thought would promote online safety, giving a clear message to stay safe online. We received an amazing array of entries, including some animations and posters. This was then judged by Miss Hyland, Mr Lindau, Mr Allen and Mrs Cotton. They were amazed by the entries and found this extremely difficult to decide. Eventually they came to a decision and chose Larry the Lizard, designed by Rianne in Year 6.

These entries are now available on the school website gallery, please see link and passwords below:

[Computing Mascot Entries KS1 - Derby High School](#) **KS1 password** – KS1Mascots



NSPCC 'Speak Out, Stay Safe' Workshops

This week, children in Years 2, 5 and 6 took part in the NSPCC's *Speak Out, Stay Safe* workshops. A big thank you to our wonderful visitors—Sue, Maxine and Cilla from the NSPCC—for delivering such important sessions. The children were fantastic: mature, thoughtful and engaged throughout. These workshops help children understand the different types of abuse and most importantly, how to speak out and get help if they ever need it. The sessions included information about safe adults, the role of Childline and how to stay safe.

For more information, you can visit [Childline for children](#) and [Support & advice for parents | NSPCC](#)



Raya's Football Weekend

Raya (Year 5) had an action-packed weekend of football! She kicked things off by playing in the Alton Towers Football Tournament with the Micklover Football Club.

Next, she headed to Wembley Stadium to take part in the FA's *Faith and Football* event, organised by the FA's Head of Diversity & Inclusion Strategic Programme.

Raya has also been selected as a Global Youth Ambassador for the Sikh Games, where she'll be championing girls in football—well done Raya!

Raya hopes to inspire and encourage more girls to get involved in the sport, and she was especially thrilled to meet football legend David James, from whom she picked up some valuable tips!



Lamda Results

We are delighted to announce fantastic latest LAMDA (London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art) results.

Congratulations to the following pupils:

Laasya, Year 4, Introductory Stage One, Distinction

Yusuf, Year 4, Verse & Prose Entry Level, Distinction

Advith, Year 4, Speaking in Public Grade 1, Distinction

Shanaya, Year 4, Reading for Performance Grade 1, Distinction

Dhian, Year 4, Speaking in Public Grade 1, Distinction

Aashwini, Year 4, Acting Grade 2, Distinction

Raya, Year 5, Verse & Prose Grade 1, Distinction

Jibreel, Year 6, Speaking in Public Grade 2, Distinction



Safeguarding Corner

The importance of listening.

In safeguarding, we know that listening is the most powerful tool that parents and teachers can have. Here is a short Instagram post about how important this is, and some tips on how to do it.

We would also highly recommend giving 'The enlightened parent' a follow. She is a DSL in a school and is full of handy, practical advice on how to keep your child safe.

[Susie | Safeguarding expert | Empowering parents and carergivers | 🧠 Sometimes the best way to safeguard your child... is to say nothing at all. 🧠 🗣️ Just listen 🗣️ When your child comes to you with a... | Instagram](#)

