



NEWSLETTER 1 – 15th September 2023

‘Let your light shine’

www.derryhillschool.co.uk

Welcome Back

Dear Parents / Carers

Welcome back to the start of another academic year. Where does the time go? We have been very fortunate to return to school in such lovely weather; Long may it last.

I would like to start by saying a big welcome to all our new staff, pupils and parents who have joined us this term it won't take long before you feel part of the Derry Hill family. All of the children in school have done so well this week and have shown some amazing learning behaviours – keep up the great work. We look forward to seeing you over the coming weeks at our meet the teacher sessions and look forward to working with you throughout the year in supporting your children to feel happy and safe at school and to achieve the best they can.

Hayley Roberts

Staff In The Spotlight

NAME: Helen Harris

HOW LONG AT DH SCHOOL : 18 years

FAVOURITE MOVIE : Mrs Harris went to Paris

PETS : A cat called Herbie and lots of tropical fish!

FAVOURITE FOOD : Any seafood!

HOBBIES : Baking cakes and walking

FAVOURITE SCHOOL DINNER : Sausage and mash

BEST THING ABOUT DERRY HILL SCHOOL : All of the pupils and staff!

LITTLE KNOWN FACT : I have lived in Durban, South Africa



Home / School Agreement

During the first few weeks of term you will receive two copies of the Derry Hill School Home / School Agreement. Both copies will have been signed by your child. 1 copy is for you to keep and 1 copy is for you to sign and return back to school as soon as possible. Thank you

School Policies

All of our statutory policies can be found on our school website. As with all policies they often sound to the point, please be aware that the majority of our policies are model policies taken from Wiltshire Council or School Advisory companies and are a requirement set out in education policy.

Recently Updated Policies This Term Are:

Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy 2023
Parent Code of Conduct

Diary Dates

Monday 18th September - Meet the teacher (Fox and Owl) 3.15pm

Wednesday 20th September - Head boy/Head girl Presentations

Friday 22nd September - Flu vaccination clinic, whole school

Tuesday 26th September - Dormouse Class Phonics meeting 3.30pm

Thursday 28th September - Harvest Festival (school only)

Thursday 5th October - Tempest photos (Individual and sibling)

Thursday 5th October - Rabbit and Fox cake bake 3.15pm

Friday 6th October - FODHS AGM 9am

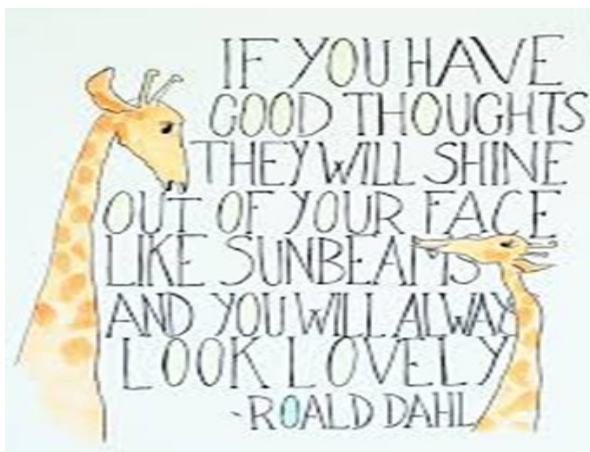
Wednesday 11th October - Open classrooms 3.15pm till 4pm

Tuesday 17th October - Owl Class family sharing afternoon 1.30pm till 3.15pm

Wednesday 18th October - 3.15pm End of Term 1

Monday 30th October - TD Day School Closed

Tuesday 31st October - 8.45am Start of Term 2



Head Boy / Girl Presentations

Presentations will take place during the afternoon of Wednesday 20th September. Please could you make sure that all presentations are sent to school by 3.30pm on Monday 18th September at the latest to ensure that they can be opened and used in school. They need to be sent to a temporary email address:

headboyandgirl@derryhill.wilts.sch.uk

Good luck everyone! 😊



Medical & Data Collection Forms

We will not be sending out new Medical forms or Data Collection forms this term. In order for our records to be as accurate as possible, should you have any changes to personal details currently held on file, please complete a Change of Details form or Medical form (see school website for forms) This could include changes of address, telephone number, emergency contacts, medical issues etc.

We would advise, that it is parents' responsibility to inform us of any changes to ensure that we have the correct details in the event of an emergency.

Thank you for your help.



Chippenham Uniform Exchange

Derry Hill has teamed up with Chippenham Uniform Exchange to make second-hand school uniform more accessible to all families. Second-hand uniform can be obtained from Chippenham Uniform Exchange at any time. They run pop-up shops at various locations throughout the year or uniform can be requested directly by email for collection from school. All items of uniform are offered for FREE for a voluntary donation to Chippenham Uniform Exchange if this is affordable. Visit their website www.chippenhamuniformexchange.org.uk, find them on [Facebook](#) or email request@chippenhamuniformexchange.org.uk.

Do you have any second-hand uniform that you can donate to Chippenham Uniform Exchange? They accept all items of primary and secondary school uniform including logo items, PE kit, shoes and coats. See their website for locations of their community donation points. Donations can also be taken to any of their pop-up shops. They will also be holding uniform drives throughout the year at various locations to collect preloved uniform.



**Recycling school uniform for
children in Chippenham**

Owl class have had a very busy start to their time in year 6. They have been working very hard in their reading, writing and maths but have also been enjoying their history topic - WW2. They have already learnt how the war started and why and have discovered new vocabulary such as axis and allies. This week they learnt about evacuation, the reasons for this and how people who were evacuated would have felt. They made their own suitcases, packed them, collected their luggage tags and were evacuated. You can see by the photos that some children were very upset to be leaving their families.



Free School Meals

All reception and KS1 children, those in reception, have been entitled to Universal free school meals since September 2014.

If your reception or KS1 child would have been entitled to free school meals under the old system, because you are receiving qualifying benefits (listed below) the government will give your school a Pupil Premium of £1,455 for primary-aged pupils.

For the school and your child to benefit from this money we need to know that you are receiving a qualifying benefit. Please complete the claim form which is available from your school or you can download it from our downloads section

For children in years 3 and above, free school meals are not provided automatically. They can be awarded only if you receive any of the following:

- Income Support
- Job Seeker's Allowance (income-based)
- Employment and Support Allowance (income-related)
- support under part six of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit - providing you are NOT entitled to Working Tax Credit and your family's annual income (as assessed by HMRC) is not more than £16,190 (as at 6 April 2012)
- Working Tax Credit 'run-on' - the payment you may receive for a further four weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit (provided you have an annual net earned income of no more than £7,400, as assessed by earnings from up to three of your most recent assessment periods)

Did you know that registering your child for free school meals means that the school gets extra money?

The government is giving money to schools to help children from lower income families do their very best. This funding is called a Pupil Premium.

For every child registered the school gets £935 for secondary-aged pupils or £1,455 for primary-aged pupils.

<https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

Governing Board Update

Following our AGM in July, Mrs Carol Foley will remain as Chair of Governors, with Mr Richard French appointed as Vice Chair. Mrs Laura Holloway has been appointed as a Foundation Governor. The nomination details for the vacant position of Parent Governor have been communicated to all parents/carer's today via Parent mail. The Governing Board would like to thank Reverend Linda and Mr Richard Carter for their commitment and hard work as governors and wish them every happiness on their retirement to Cornwall.