



# NEWSLETTER 2 – 27th September 2024

‘Let your light shine ’

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Dear Parents and Carers

As we come to the end of an eventful week with the Great British weather I find myself reflecting on the resilience and adaptability of our school community. The persistent rain and localised flooding presented significant challenges this week and thanks go to all parents and carers who, despite these adversities, have ensured the safe and timely arrival of our pupils.

Today marks a significant milestone in our curriculum development as we embark on an exciting linguistic journey. The introduction of Spanish as our new modern foreign language starts a new chapter in our pupils' educational experience. This initiative, led by Mrs Shears, promises to broaden our pupils' horizons and equip them with valuable skills for an increasingly interconnected world. A huge thank you to Mrs. Shears for organising our Spanish Day, which serves as a vibrant and engaging launch for this new chapter and Mrs Cruz - Rodriguez for coming in and sharing all about Spain.

It gives me great pleasure to announce the appointment of our new student leadership team. Following a range of very well thought out presentations we have chosen Aary Hussain as Head Boy and Elsie Alford as Head Girl. Supporting them in their roles will be Theo Day as Deputy Head Boy and Orianna Retter as Deputy Head Girl. To all who participated in this process, your courage and commitment must be celebrated.

The generosity of our school community never ceases to amaze me. I wish to express my profound appreciation to those parents who have already contributed items from our Amazon class wish lists. Your support directly enhances the learning environment for our pupils, providing them with additional resources to fuel their curiosity and academic growth. Furthermore, I extend my gratitude to the FODHS committee for their purchase of much-needed playtime equipment. These additions to our recreational resources will undoubtedly enrich the daily experiences of our pupils, promoting both physical activity and social interaction during their playtimes.

As we continue to strive for excellence in all aspects of school life, it is heartening to witness the collective effort of our entire school community. Your ongoing support, whether through practical contributions or active engagement with school initiatives, plays an invaluable role in creating a nurturing and stimulating educational environment for our pupils.

Hayley Roberts  
Headteacher

## Diary Dates

Thursday 3rd October - Tempest Photos (individual & Siblings)

Thursday 3rd October - Harvest Festival 2.15pm (Church)

Wednesday 9th October - School Disco

Wednesday 16th October - Parents Evening 3.30pm (Hall)

Thursday 17th October - Parents Evening 3.30pm (Hall)

Friday 18th October - Police visit to Dormouse Class / Wear it Pink Day

Monday 21st October - Flu Vaccination Clinic , Whole School

Tuesday 22nd October - Owl Class Family Learning Afternoon

Tuesday 22nd October - Owl & Mole Cake Bake 3.15pm (Playground)

Wednesday 23rd October - 3.15pm End of Term 1



## School Disco

It's school disco time on Wednesday 9th October.

KS1 - 3.15pm till 4.15pm

KS2 - 4.30PM till 5.30pm

Put on your party clothes and get ready to dance!



## Thank you

Thank you for all the emails that we have received from parents/grandparents who have expressed an interest in becoming volunteers in our school.

We will be in contact with each of you shortly to explain the application process 😊

### Lockdown procedure

As part of our commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of all pupils, we will be conducting a practice lockdown drill. This exercise is designed to familiarise our pupils and staff with the necessary protocols in the unlikely event of a real emergency. The practice lockdown will take place on **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October** and we will ensure that it is conducted in a calm and supportive manner. We will also do a pre-practice without alarms (e.g. testing safety areas) with the children early next week.

During this drill, pupils will be guided through the steps they need to follow, which will include:

**Entering the nearest classroom or designated safe area**

**Securing doors and windows**

**Remaining quiet and alert until further notice**

We understand that discussions around lockdown procedures can be concerning, and we assure you that our priority is to create a safe and secure environment for all. We will communicate with pupils in an age-appropriate way, ensuring they feel supported throughout the process. Following the drill, we will review the experience with the pupils, allowing them to voice any questions or concerns they may have.

### KS2 SATs Dates for 2025

Please find below that SATs schedule for May 2025. All children in Year 6 will be required to take the tests as they are a statutory duty of the school. These tests are provided by the government and collected to be marked externally.

#### **SATs Test Schedule**

- Monday, 12th May 2025: English Grammar, Punctuation, and Spelling (Papers 1 and 2).
- Tuesday, 13th May 2025: English Reading.
- Wednesday, 12th May 2025: Mathematics (Papers 1 and 2).
- Thursday, 15th May 2025: Mathematics (Paper 3).

### Our Christian Value this term is Friendship

During this term we will be looking at the Christian value - **Friendship**.

Friendship is an undisputed Value in our society, with children often spending more time with their friends than with family. It is a key concept in the Christian framework, with Jesus being criticised for being 'the friend of sinners' and eating with those whom society rejected. The barriers between people are broken down in a loving community around God and Jesus had stern words to say to those who refused to recognise that all are included in this community of friendship.

Friends are not afraid to tell each other the truth and a friend's loving criticism is worth more than the empty compliments of someone who does not really care for you. The friendship of David and Jonathan is very strongly emphasised in the Bible, Abraham is described as the friend of God (James 2:23) and Jesus explicitly calls his disciples not servants but friends (John 15:14 – 15). True friendship enables each person to grow and ensures that the unique individuality of each person is recognised. All this echoes the Value placed by God on the preciousness of each person.

As a whole school community, we will be considering:

How does the school support and encourage friendship bonds by providing opportunities for children to work cooperatively and collaboratively in pairs and in groups?

How does the school community find ways to support and include pupils who might be left out of friendship groups?

How does the school help pupils to restore broken friendships and promote reconciliation?

How does the school help children know where they might receive advice and support if they need it?

How we are given the opportunity in school to experience feelings of awe, wonder and mystery?



### Individual School Photos

Tempest will be in school on Thursday 3rd October to take individual school photos. If you have pre-school children who you would like photographed with their siblings please arrive at school by 8.15am at the school Library door.



### Well Done

Following our Jeans for Genes day, we have raised £44.20.

Thank you to all that donated.

### **Activity Passports**

Activity Passports are a range of exciting ideas for your child to experience outside of the school day. They are not marked by the class teacher and are meant to be simply enjoyable and fun! They are planned to expand children's imaginations and encourage them to try new activities that they have never done before. You can get involved too! Some children might want to produce a scrap book to go alongside their passports. If you have any photographs that you would like to share with us you can email them to [admin@derryhill.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@derryhill.wilts.sch.uk) and these will be shared with Mrs. Roberts who will put them on our school website.

There are activity passports for each year group – once your child completes their passport they can bring it into school and put it in the Golden Box and they will be awarded with a Headteacher sticker. New passports will be issued each year so there is no time pressure or rush to complete them. They are also completely optional. If your child would like an activity passport they are available from their class teacher.

### **Wear it Pink**

Wear It Pink is an annual fundraising event held in October, typically on the third Friday of the month to support breast cancer awareness and research.

On Friday 18th October we will be wearing pink to raise awareness for everyone who is affected by breast cancer. Details for the day to follow and payment for a donation will be set up on parentmail nearer the time.



### **Harvest Festival - Thursday 3rd October**

This year we will be celebrating our Harvest Festival in church, all are welcome to join us.

The service will be starting at 2.15pm.

Harvest Festival is a time we can share with those in need.

As usual we would be grateful for any donations of food brought in.

We would ask that these are non-perishable goods such as pasta and tinned food. Please no fresh produce this year!

Many thanks for your continued support.

