



# NEWSLETTER 10 – 14th February 2025

‘Let your light shine’

[www.derryhillschool.co.uk](http://www.derryhillschool.co.uk)

Dear Parents and Carers

As we reflect on the past fortnight, it is evident that our school has been a hive of activity, brimming with fun and engaging educational opportunities for our children. The Internet Safety Workshops for Key Stage 2 pupils were met with great enthusiasm, and we extend our thanks to the Friends of Derry Hill School for their financial support in making these invaluable sessions possible.

Our commitment to fostering a diverse and inclusive learning environment was exemplified through our recent Diversity Day. Pupils across all year groups immersed themselves in the exploration of various world faiths, broadening their cultural horizons and deepening their understanding of global perspectives. Thank you to Mrs. Burr for leading the day and to our dedicated staff for providing such engaging and enlightening experiences for our children.

The enhancement of our Forest School area has been a source of great excitement, with the addition of new resources generously funded by FODHS. We extend our appreciation to Mr. Robinson for his craftsmanship in creating a workbench, further enriching this outdoor learning space.

Looking ahead, we are delighted to announce the introduction of further after-school activities for the upcoming term, including Drumba and a Forest School club. These additions to our extracurricular programme promise to provide pupils with diverse opportunities for personal growth and skill development.

Have a wonderful half term break and we look forward to seeing you all next term.

Hayley Roberts  
Headteacher

## **Bowood Family Picnic Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June**

We have been lucky enough to secure a date with Bowood for our annual Derry Hill Bowood Picnic. The event last year was extremely well supported and enjoyed by all.

This is a great opportunity for all of our families to come together for a summer picnic in the beautiful Bowood Estate free of charge.

Further information to follow nearer the time.



## **Movie Night 2<sup>nd</sup> April**

Children are invited to stay at school on Wednesday 2nd April to watch a movie with their friends. We will be showing 2 movies (R/KS1 and KS2) and children will be provided with a drink and a snack.

Tickets cost £2 and the children will need to be collected at 5.15pm.

The payment for this will be set up after half term.



## **Internet Safety Day**

On Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February, the children in KS2 took part in some Online Safety workshops run by One Day Creative. The sessions were a huge success and the children took part in a range of hands-on activities, including drama and quizzes. They particularly enjoyed trying to identify AI images and were actually able to identify the fakes better than the teachers!

It was wonderful to see the children enjoying themselves, sharing their existing knowledge and learning in exciting ways.



### DIARY DATES

DATE	ACTIVITY	ADDITIONAL INFO
Monday 24th February	Start of Term 4	8.45am
Tuesday 25th February	Rabbit Class Family Learning Afternoon	2.15pm - School Hall
Tuesday 25th February	Dance Festival	See School Website for details
Thursday 6th March	World Book Day	See DHS Newsletter 9 on the School Website for details
Monday 17th March	Owl Class Residential Meeting	3.15pm - 4.15pm Information session about Owl Class residential
Thursday 20th March	Mole Class family Learning Afternoon	2.15pm - School Hall
Monday 24th March	Open Classrooms	3.15pm - 3.45pm
Friday 28th March	Music Showcase	1pm - Open to children in School only
Tuesday 1st April	Easter Egg Hunt	In School activity run by FODHS (Details to follow)
Wednesday 2nd April	Autism Awareness Day	Wear blue to School
Wednesday 2nd April	Movie Night	3.15pm - 5.15pm An after school activity run by Teachers
Thursday 3rd April	Easter Service	9.15am - Church Service - open to everyone
Friday 4th April	Class & Sports Photographs	Braiswick photography will be coming in to take the children's photos
Friday 4th April	End of Term 4	2.15pm

#### **Forest School Dates - Please note :**

Rabbit Class will not be doing Forest School the first week back as it is their Family Learning Afternoon. (Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> Feb)

Squirrel Class will not be doing Forest School on World Book Day. (Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March)

#### **Hedgehog Bug Hotel**

This week Hedgehog class moved their Science learning outside to explore micro-habitats through making a Bug Hotel.

The children used magnifying glass to locate insects within the school grounds before gathering natural materials that will support the mini beasts to live in the Hotel.

They built an impressive structure in the corner of the field, which we will be able to monitor and add to over the coming months.

A big thank you to Mrs Hand and Mrs Snow for supporting the children with this activity.



## Staff in the Spotlight

NAME: Lorella Baker

ROLE: Learning support assistant

HOW LONG AT DH SCHOOL: Agency - 3 months, Permanent - 5 months

FAVOURITE MOVIE: When Harry met Sally (1989)

PETS: None

FAVOURITE FOOD: South African Braai (BBQ)

HOBBIES: Reading

FAVOURITE SCHOOL DINNER: Roast

BEST THING ABOUT DERRY HILL SCHOOL: Everything!

LITTLE KNOWN FACT: I was born in South Africa to Italian parents and can speak Afrikaans and Italian



## Forest School Update

A huge thank you to the parents that volunteered to help clear, chop, trim and move large volumes of foliage and equipment. We were even treated to the removal of the rubbish from Mr Robinson's trailer. Without their support these jobs would've taken me much longer. We are now all set for sessions to start in term 4 with Squirrel and Rabbit class.

Many thanks also for the donation of logs from Mr Hoffman to help complete the log circle which is an integral part of running a collaborative session.

As we end term 3 and all enjoy a well-deserved rest please can I ask that if you are clearing out your garage or shed and are wondering what to do with any items please consider donating to our forest learning/outdoor provision.

These items will be gratefully received:

Old sheets/ large pieces of plain fabric (white or light coloured)

Pipes/guttering

Large cardboard boxes (flattened please)

Large cable reels



- ropes / ties
- pots
- pans
- lids
- buckets
- bakeware (muffin tins, bake trays, cake pans, mixing bowls, etc.)
- kitchenware (tongs, spatulas, ladles, measuring cups, etc.)
- baskets
- bins

Thanks also need to go to FODHS for kindly funding some more equipment to use during sessions to include, hammers, saws, tarpaulins and den making equipment. Mr Robinson cleverly crafted a work bench so we can safely use these tools which will be invaluable for developing new skills and confidence.

Please email [DHforest@derryhill.wilts.sch.uk](mailto:DHforest@derryhill.wilts.sch.uk) for further advice or information.



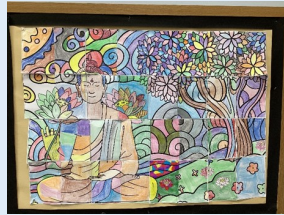
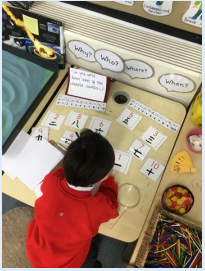
## Diversity Day

Last week the whole school spent the day learning about different religions. In Early Years and KS1 Dormouse Class celebrated Chinese New Year, Mole Class learnt about Hinduism, and Hedgehog Class enjoyed discovering Shinto, a religion that originates from Japan. Further up the school in KS2, Squirrel Class spent the day learning about Sikhism, Rabbit Class learnt about Rastafari, Fox Class spent the day studying Buddhism and Owl Class learnt about Humanism.

Most classes undertook some artwork and creative activities. Squirrel Class particularly enjoyed making mosaic pictures with The Khanda, the symbol of the Sikhs, central to their artwork. Fox Class made origami lotus flowers, which although fun were tricky to make! Mole Class enjoyed learning an Indian dance and Hedgehog class spent some time Forest Bathing, which originated in Japan. "We got to feel the sun on our faces."

Fox Class did some meditating in the morning. They explained that to meditate you need to "Relax, close your eyes and think about a peaceful world." Although they appreciated that it is sometimes "Hard to get in the zone."

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day and we all shared our learning in worship at the end of the day.



## Message from FODHS

Thank you to everyone who supported the Bags to School collection last week, we are pleased to announce that we raised £90 . Well done everyone!

## Thank You

Another big thank you to the FODHS for funding our KS2 Internet Safety workshops, it was a great success and the children loved it!



## Fox Class in Focus

This term Fox class have been exploring the Mayan civilisation and all the influences they have had on modern society. One of our favourite parts of the Mayan way of life was their love of hot chocolate. We have been taste-testing chocolate, designing our own hot chocolates during our DT.

For Art we also looked at making masks, as you can see we have made some very colourful ones.



Alana - "I have really enjoyed designing our hot chocolate and I can't wait to make them. I also really enjoyed making our Mayan masks., I'm really proud of mine"

Thomas - I've also really enjoyed this term so far and my favourite part is when we designed our hot chocolate and our masks, I also liked the book we explored in guided reading"