



NEWSLETTER 11 – 7th March 2025

‘Let your light shine’

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Dear Parents and Carers

What a busy few weeks we have had in school with some fun filled days. Our wonderful Derry Hill dance team performed at the Neeld Hall in the Chippenham Dance Festival – their smiles on the evening said it all. Thank you to Miss Hurren for working with the children to prepare for this.

The children have also had a brilliant time this week celebrating World Book Day including dressing up and a reading carousel where all class teachers read to every class – we even welcomed some wonderful residents of Kingston House to join us. Thank you to Mr Riley for leading on World Book Day.

It is also wonderful to see Forest School back in action at Derry Hill many thanks to Mrs Hand – thank you also to the FODHS who have recently provided us with resources to improve the Forest School area.

Hopefully the weather will continue to be good to us this weekend and we will begin to see further signs of Spring appearing soon.

Best wishes

Mrs Roberts

Staffing Update

Just a quick message to let you all know that Mrs Collins, School Admin Officer will be leaving Derry Hill at the end of this term.

Mrs Collins has been at Derry Hill for almost 9 years and is looking forward to taking some time out for herself. She will be sorely missed.

Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel

Derry Hill School will be taking part in Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel.

Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel is the UK's largest inter-school walking, wheeling, scooting and cycling to school challenge. It inspires pupils to make active journeys to school, to improve air quality in their neighbourhood and discover how these changes benefit their world.

We fully appreciate that this will not be possible for all families, however we encourage those who can take part do so. Each day we will log how many children walk or cycle to school. For those who drive from nearby towns the children be counted as an active walking journey if families park in the village and walk for a minimum of 10 minutes to school. Each day we can then enter to win daily prizes for the school including scooters, playground markings and bikes.



Refreshments stall at sports day

We are looking for volunteers to run a refreshment stall at our Sports Day in the summer. If you are willing to help please drop us a message.

Choir Club - Please Note!

Choir Club is cancelled on Monday 24th March as it is Open Classrooms.

Planned Lockdown Drill

On the 19th March we will be undertaking another planned Lockdown drill. When we executed this drill previously the children were very sensible and the staff managed the drill well with the children. We will talk to the children about this beforehand so that they know it is a practice and debrief the children afterwards.

Movie Night – Wednesday 2nd April

For our movie night the children in EYFS / KS1 will be watching Monsters Inc (U)

LKS2 children will be watching Ratatouille (PG) & UKS2 children will be watching The Lion King (Live Action) (PG)

After movie night the children will be given to parents in the same way we do end of day collections.



DIARY DATES

DATE	ACTIVITY	ADDITIONAL INFO
Monday 17th March	Owl Class Residential Meeting (No Siblings)	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 Art Exhibition	1pm - Open to children in School only 3.30pm - Library - For parents of children that attend Art / Design & Print Club
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
Tuesday 22nd April	Start of Term 5	8.45am
Tuesday 22nd April	Earth Day	Details to follow
Wednesday 23rd April	Mole Class Trip to The Living Rainforest	All day event
Friday 25th April	Owl Class trip to Bowood	All day Event
Friday 2nd May	Hedgehog Class trip to Bowood	All day event
Monday 5th May	Bank Holiday Monday	School Closed
Thursday 8th May	Squirrel Class Trip to Ashmolean Museum	All Day Event
Monday 12th - Friday 16th May	SAT'S Week	
Wednesday 14th May	Fox Class Trip to Tudor World	All Day Event
Monday 19th - Friday 23rd May	Owl Class Residential	All Week Event
Wednesday 21st May	World Music Day	Details to follow
Wednesday 21st May	Open Classrooms	3.15pm - 3.45pm
Wednesday 21st May	Fox & Squirrel Cake Bake	3.15pm - Front Playground
Friday 23rd May	End of Term 5	3.15pm

Dance Festival

A huge well done to all the children that took part in this year's Dance Festival at the Neeld Hall. They represented the school fantastically and had an amazing time dancing on stage.



Rabbit class learning afternoon

A huge thank you to all the parents who could make it to our Rabbit Class learning afternoon. It was lovely to see so many of you making mosaics and building electrical circuits. The children loved having you there and they were so excited to see you all.

As I said at the time, this was just a snippet of the work we have done this year and I hope it has sparked lots of conversations at home.

Finally, I would like to apologise for setting you all up for our Reggae dancing at the end. It was great to see so many of you up and giving it a go, so much better than me!

Once again, a huge thank you – your support is greatly appreciated.

Mr Riley

