



NEWSLETTER 12 – 21st March 2025

‘Let your light shine’

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World Book Day

We were so pleased at the amazing response we had to World Book Day at Derry Hill, the children looked fantastic and the staff scrubbed up pretty well too!

We had witches, footballers, action heroes and even a rather elegant character from *Pride and Prejudice*! All of the children engaged with different activities across the day and we were able to join in with two live lessons from different authors.

We also had a reading carousel in which all the class teachers were able to run round the school and read a ten minute story to every class, the children have all said it was good to see all the different teachers, especially some of us looking a bit silly!

We were lucky enough to have some visitors from Kingston House to come in and listen to the stories with Dormouse class. They said they really enjoyed the experience and they hoped they could come back again.

We asked the children to bring in potatoes decorated as their favourite book characters and we had a fantastic array of different characters and scenes from the children’s favourite books. We had two independent judges come in to find winners from KS1 and KS2. After much deliberation they picked Joey from KS1 and Lily from KS2, each of which won a £10 voucher to Waterstones.

We also asked the children to take a photo of themselves reading in the most extreme place. Again, we had a great response to this and we were lucky enough that the judges picked two different winners for this competition, each winning a £10 voucher from Waterstones. Congratulations to Francesca from KS2 and Lizzie from KS1 for their winning photos.



DIARY DATES

DATE	ACTIVITY	ADDITIONAL INFO
Monday 24th March	Open Classrooms	3.15pm - 3.45pm
Friday 28th March	Music Showcase	1pm - Open to children in School only
Friday 28th March	Art Exhibition in The School Library	3.30pm - 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 (see newsletter 11 for details)
Wednesday 2nd April	Fox Class Trip to Bowood	All day Event (See class letter for details)
Thursday 3rd April	Easter Service	9.15am - Church Service - open to everyone
Thursday 3rd April	Rocksteady Concert	2.30pm - Hall - For parents of children that attend Rocksteady
Friday 4th April	Class 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	Fox Class Girls Football Training	Abbeyfield School - 9am till 3pm (Details to follow)
Wednesday 21st May	Fox & Squirrel Cake Bake	3.15pm - Front Playground
Friday 23rd May	End of Term 5	3.15pm

Gardening Club

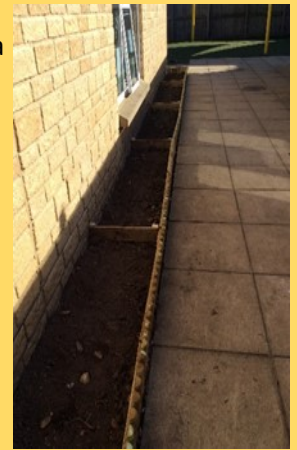
As part of our gardening project this year, we are planning to transform this area outside into a fairy garden.

Some of our Yr 6 pupils have come up with various designs and ideas. If anyone has any resources they would be willing to donate, we would be most grateful!

We are looking for some large stones to build a rockery, decorative stones/gravel and ceramic pots (broken ones are fine – ideas below!) We have also put a wish list of items on Amazon if anyone would like to help us out! <https://amzn.eu/aZK5AkG>

Many thanks!

Mrs Hubbard



Dear Parents/Carers,

We have some exciting news for you! We are taking part in Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel, the UK's largest inter-school cycling, walking, wheeling and scooting challenge. The challenge runs from 24 March- 4 April 2025. It's free to take part and we would love everyone to be involved.

What do you need to do?

Encourage your child(ren) to walk, use a wheelchair, scoot or cycle to school on as many days as possible during the event.

Including everyone

We want to make sure that everyone can get involved in Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel.

We know it may be more difficult for some pupils to take part than others. For those families who live out of area and drive to school we will count an active walk as those who have parked in the village hall and walked from there.

Why we are taking part

Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel is a great way to build physical activity in children's daily routine which is important for their physical health and mental wellbeing.

Active school runs also help to reduce congestion and air pollution outside the school gate. [A 2021 YouGov study](#) showed nearly half of UK children worry about air pollution near their school. And that children thought active travel was the best away to bring down these pollution levels.

Plus, there are some great prizes to be won every day if we get enough children taking part!

Useful resources

To help you prepare, Sustrans has developed a handy free guide to walking, cycling or scooting to school. It is packed with advice to help you have hassle-free journey to school.

Download your free family guide using this link: [Sign up to receive your free school run guide - Sustrans.org.uk](https://www.sustrans.org.uk/sign-up-to-receive-your-free-school-run-guide)

For more information about the event go to www.bigwalkandwheel.org.uk . Enjoy the challenge!

Best wishes

Derry Hill School



Why you should wear blue on April 2 for World Autism Awareness Day

Every April Autism Speaks celebrates **World Autism Month**, beginning with the United Nations-sanctioned World Autism Awareness Day on April 2. This year marks the 18th annual World Autism Awareness Day.

Please wear Blue for the day to support and raise awareness.

In the final week of term, we have Autism Awareness week, we have allocated an Act of Worship time to do a session based around understanding and supporting children with Autism or unseen disabilities.

Mrs Asfaw will work with the Worship Council to prepare some prompts and questions.



Forest School

HELP WANTED in TERM 5&6

I am looking for some regular volunteers to help at Forest School sessions to help supervise, guide and inspire the children in our outdoor sessions.

If you have availability on either a Tuesday or Thursday afternoon between 1 -3PM and enjoy being outside in ALL weathers please log your interest at the school office.

Ideally, we need cover for the whole term rather than one off sessions.

Thank you in advance

Mrs Hand

Year 5 – Trip to Bowood 2nd April

Just to clarify, Year 5 children attending the Bowood trip on 2nd April will need to wear their PE Kit with their red school jumper. If they are staying on for the movie night then they can bring something blue to change into if they prefer.



Tag Rugby Tournament

On Friday 7th March, Year 5 and 6 children represented Derry Hill School at the local Tag Rugby Festival. The children took part in 8 matches against other schools and played extremely well throughout the tournament, finishing with a record of 5 wins, 2 draws and 1 loss. In those 8 matches, the team scored 32 tries and only conceded 14.

Following over results, Derry Hill finished an impressive 3rd overall!

Mrs Davies and myself were extremely proud of how the team played, supported each other and conducted themselves throughout the tournament.

Mr Heavey



Girls Football

Our year 4 and 5 girls had a fantastic time at the Biggest Ever Football Event at Abbeyfield School. They were given the opportunity to play matches with girls from other schools and develop ball skills to help them.

Everyone joined in brilliantly, showed amazing teamwork and tried something new.

Miss Hurren

