

## Derry Hill School Events 2025 - 2026 – A guide for parents



Dear Parents and Carers

Following on from our Parent Survey on communication this year we have taken on board many comments and suggestions. One suggestion was to give a brief description of school events so that all parents (especially those who are new) have an understanding of what our planned events entail. We have also mapped out the many events in school across the year and are able to share these dates with you below – all of which will be added to the calendar on the school website and will be sent out in the school newsletter. We will endeavour to stick to the published dates below – however in some instances there may be situations out of our control that cause planned events to be re-scheduled – if this does happen, we will make sure that we inform you at the earliest opportunity.

We look forward to working with you next year and supporting our children and families on the next step in their educational journey.

Best wishes

Mrs Roberts and team

### Meet the Teacher Sessions



These sessions allow parents to meet their child's new teacher and hear about the important information for their new class. Childcare will be provided for school aged children in the school hall. Please collect your children as normal and sign them in at the school hall.

**Mole and Hedgehog 3<sup>rd</sup> September 3.15pm**

**Squirrel and Rabbit 4<sup>th</sup> September 3.15pm**

**Fox and Owl 5<sup>th</sup> September 3.15pm**

### Parents' Evenings

Twice a year we hold parents evening sessions. Parents sign up for a 10-minute slot where they have an opportunity to speak to their child's class teacher. The parents' evenings are held in the school hall where each teacher has a dedicated space. Parents wait in Mole Classroom (entering via the external door on the playground near the small black gate on near the corner of Mole Class). While waiting parents are able to look at their child's books (**new for this year as a result of our parent survey.**) We do ask where possible that children do not attend as they are unable to go into the parents evening slot with you. The dates for our parents' evenings this year are:

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> October 2025 – 3.30pm – 6.30pm OR Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2025 3.30pm – 6.30pm**

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026 3.30pm – 6.30pm OR Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026 3.30pm – 6.30pm**

### SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) Information Session

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September 9am** in the School Hall. This is a session being led by Mrs Asfaw providing information for parents about our universal offer for all children and what can be done for those who need a little extra support. All families welcome.

## Family Learning Afternoons

Our successful Family Learning Afternoons allow parents to come into school and hear from their children what they have been learning about. Activities are also designed to allow families and children to work together bringing the children's learning to life. Please note all Family Learning Afternoons will now run from 2pm – this is to allow for time at the end of the session to look at your child's work in their books. Following the feedback from the parent survey we are now holding these sessions on various days of the week – we have also combined the Open Classroom events into the Family Learning Afternoons. The dates for the 2025 – 2026 Family Learning Afternoons are below:

**Owl Class Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2025 at 2pm**

**Hedgehog Class Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2026 2pm**

**Dormouse Class Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2026 2pm**

**Mole Class Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026 2pm**

**Rabbit Class Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026 2pm**

**Squirrel Class Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2026 2pm**

**Fox Class Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2026 2pm**



## Non-Uniform Days

Throughout the year we hold various non-uniform days to support our school fundraising efforts and to support charities further afield whose work means a lot to our school community. On non-uniform days the children are welcome to come in full non-uniform unless specified – for example on odd socks day it is normal uniform with odd socks. The dates for our planned non-uniform days are below, however some extra non-uniform days may be added for days such as class / house team treats and fundraisers that the children may suggest. Theme days such as World Book Day may also require a non-uniform day however details of themed days will be sent nearer the time.

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2025** – Jeans 4 Genes Day- no fundraising – to raise awareness of genetic conditions.

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> November** – Odd socks day – no fundraising – to raise awareness of anti-bullying. **Odd socks only with normal uniform.**

**Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2025** – Voluntary donations to Children in Need

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2025** – In exchange for raffle prizes for Xmas Bonanza

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2025** - Xmas Jumper Day – no fundraising

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June 2026** - In exchange for a bottle of wine for the Water and Wine stall at the Village Fete

## Children's Birthdays

At Derry Hill School we celebrate children's birthday by allowing them to come to school in non-uniform on the day of their birthday or the day closest to their birthday if their birthday falls on a weekend or holiday. Unfortunately, due to allergies, we do not allow children to bring in cake or sweets to share with their peers. Instead, we ask that children purchase a book or an item from the class Amazon Wishlist to gift to school.



## PE Days Autumn Term 1

Please find below the PE dates for the first Autumn Term. On PE Days your child will come to school in their team-coloured PE Kit. Please be aware that coloured PE tops should not be branded – they should be plain or the Derry Hill uniform. Leggings, shorts and tracksuit bottoms should also be unbranded.

**Dormouse Class – Thursday / Mole Class – Monday and Wednesday / Hedgehog Class – Wednesday and Friday**

**Squirrel Class – Tuesday and Wednesday / Rabbit Class – Wednesday and Thursday**

**Fox Class – Monday and Friday / Owl Class – Tuesday and Wednesday**

## Forest School

We are incredibly fortunate to have Mrs Hand (our wonderful Dormouse TA) as our Forest School Lead. Mrs Hand will continue to run 'Forest School' sessions at Derry Hill School next year. On the day your child has 'Forest School' please send them to school in 'Forest School' clothing. The planned 'Forest School' sessions for our first round of 'Forest School' are as follows – please note down the dates for your child as 'Forest School' sessions do not run for whole terms. We will aim to stick to these timings as best as possible, however, the sessions may be dependent on weather conditions.



**Mole Class – Tuesday – 16<sup>th</sup> September, 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 30<sup>th</sup> September, 7<sup>th</sup> October, 14<sup>th</sup> October.**

**Hedgehog Class – Thursday – 18<sup>th</sup> September, 25<sup>th</sup> September, 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 9<sup>th</sup> October, 16<sup>th</sup> October**

**Rabbit Class – Tuesday – 4<sup>th</sup> November, 11<sup>th</sup> November, 18<sup>th</sup> November, 25<sup>th</sup> November, 2<sup>nd</sup> December**

**Squirrel Class – Thursday – 6<sup>th</sup> November, 13<sup>th</sup> November, 20<sup>th</sup> November, 27<sup>th</sup> November, 4<sup>th</sup> December**

**Fox Class – Tuesday – 6<sup>th</sup> January, 13<sup>th</sup> January, 20<sup>th</sup> January, 27<sup>th</sup> January, 3<sup>rd</sup> February**

**Owl Class – Thursday – 8<sup>th</sup> January, 15<sup>th</sup> January, 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 29<sup>th</sup> January, 5<sup>th</sup> February**

## Rock Steady Concerts

Each term Rock Steady hold a concert for children who attend their club. Parents are invited to watch their children perform in a band – for many this is a real boost to their confidence. The concerts below are booked in for the next academic year. Please note – all concerts start at 2.30pm.

Autumn Term – **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2025 – 2.30pm**

Spring Term - **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026 – 2.30pm**

Summer Term – **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July – 2.30pm**



## School Photographs



Each year we arrange for professional school photographs to be taken of the children in school. In the Autumn Term the children have their individual and sibling photographs taken and in the Spring Term the children have their class photographs taken. Purchasing is optional and you will be sent details of how to purchase the photographs should you wish. Please make sure your child is in full uniform and looking neat and tidy on the below dates.

Individual and sibling photographs **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2025**

Class and group photographs **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

## FODHS AGM

Our wonderful Friends of Derry Hill School committee need your support on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October at 9.15am** for the annual AGM. This is a really important event in the school diary as we need a certain number of participants to allow the meeting to go ahead. FODHS give vital funds to school, helping us to provide your children with exciting learning opportunities during their time here.

## Cake Bakes

Throughout the year our wonderful FODHS team coordinate class cake bakes to help to raise vital funds for our school. Two classes join together to host them three times a year. Children from the classes listed below bring in cakes made from home (or even purchased) to be sold at the end of the school day.

**Mole and Squirrel Class - 24<sup>th</sup> September 2025 3.15pm**

**Hedgehog and Owl Class - Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2026 3.15pm**

**Rabbit & Fox Class – Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2026 3.15pm**



## Church Services



Several times a year we hold a school service at our local church. The services are well supported by parents and our children really enjoy being able to sing and share their special services with you.

Harvest Festival **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2025 9.15am**

KS2 Carol Service **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> December 2025 9.15am**

Easter Service **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2026 9.15am**

Leavers Service **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2026 9.15am**

**School Trips (To be confirmed – details to follow once trips are finalised with venues / transport in September)**

**Fox Class Art Trip to Bowood – Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2025**

**Whole School Pantomime Trip to Wyvern – Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

**Hedgehog Class trip to Bath – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2026**

**Hedgehog Class Trip to Cotswold Wildlife Park – Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**Rabbit Class Trip to Bristol - Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**Squirrel Class Trip to Ashmolean Museum – Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**Squirrel Class Trip to Bowood – Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

**Fox Class Trip to Tudor World – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**Owl Class Residential Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 22<sup>nd</sup> May**

**Fox Class Trip to Bowood – Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

**Rabbit Class Trip to Linkenholt – Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July 2026**

**Mole Class Trip to The Living Rainforest –**

**Dormouse Class Trip to Butterfly World -**

**Other Key Dates**

**Autumn Term**

**TD Day - Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025**

**TD Day - Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025**

**FODHS School Disco Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025 (Times to follow)**

**TD Day - Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2025**

**FODHS Derry Hill School Xmas Bonanza Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December 4.30pm – 6.30pm**

**EYFS / KS1 Nativity – Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2025 – 9.15am**

**EYFS / KS1 Nativity – Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2025 – 1.45pm**

**Whole School Pantomime Trip to Wyvern – Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

**KS1 Xmas Party – Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December – 1pm**

**KS2 Xmas Party – Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> December – 1pm**

**Xmas Jumper Day and Xmas Dinner – Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

**Spring Term**

**Voices 4 Life Performance (selected children Y4 upwards) - Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026 1pm – 7.30pm**

**Voices 4 Life Performance (selected children Y4 upwards) - Friday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026 5.30pm – 7.30pm**

**World Faith Day - Friday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026**

**World Book Day - Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**FODHS Movie Night - Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026 3.15pm – 5pm**

**Science Day - Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**FODHS Easter Egg Hunt - Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

**Summer Term**

**Family Appreciation Picnic - Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026**

**Derry Hill School Music Showcase – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2026 1pm**

**SATs Week – 11<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**TD Day - Monday 1st June 2026**

**New Starters Meeting - Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

**Sports Week – 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

**Sports Day – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

**Derry Hill Pride Day – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

**TD Day - Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July 2026**

**Move Up Days - Monday 20<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2026**

**Leavers Service - Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 9.15am**