



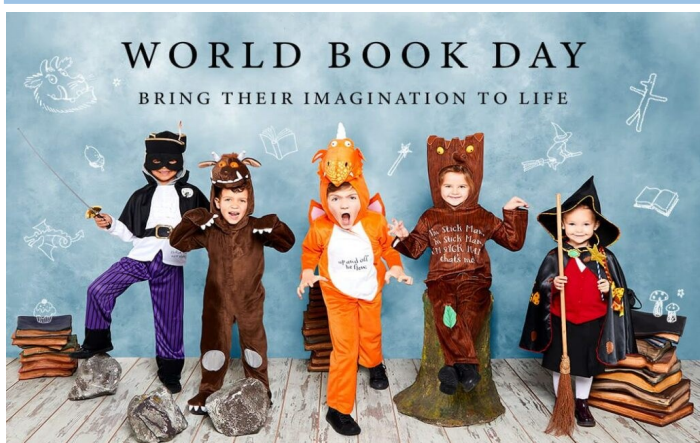
NEWSLETTER 9 – 13th February 2026

‘Let your light shine’

www.derryhillschool.co.uk

DIARY DATES

DATE	ACTIVITY	ADDITIONAL INFO
Monday 23rd February	Start of Term 4	8.45am
Wednesday 4th March	Wallace & Gromit Workshop	1.30pm (School Hall) In School Event
Thursday 5th March	World Book Day	All Day Event
Friday 6th March	Science Day (Change in Date)	All Day Event
Wednesday 11th March	Movie Night	3.20pm till 5.15pm (School Hall)
Thursday 12th March	Hedgehog Trip to Cotswold Wildlife Park	All Day Event
Thursday 12th March	Rabbit Class Field Trip	All Day Event
Tuesday 17th March	Hedgehog & Owl Cake Bake	3.15pm (Front Playground)
Wednesday 18th March	Squirrel Class Trip to The Ashmolean Museum	All Day Event
Thursday 19th March	Mole Class Family Learning Afternoon	2pm (School Hall)
Friday 20th March	Red Nose Day	All Day Event
Monday 23rd March	South Wiltshire Falconry Visiting Mole Class	10am (Mole Classroom)
Tuesday 24th March	Braiswick Class & Group Photographs	9am onwards (School Hall)
Wednesday 25th March	Rabbit Class Family Learning Afternoon	2pm (School Hall)
Thursday 26th March	Easter Egg Hunt	9am till 11.30am (School Field) In School Event
Thursday 26th March	Rock Steady Concert	2.30pm (School Hall) for parents of Rock Steady children
Friday 27th March	Easter Service	9.15am (Church) All Welcome
Friday 27th March	End of Term 4	2.15pm
Monday 13th April	Start of Term 5	8.45am



Squirrel Class trip to Bowood

As part of their local history topic, Squirrel Class had a wonderful visit to Bowood. They visited the room where Joseph Priestley conducted his experiments into oxygen and impressed the curator with their knowledge. They had time to explore the gardens and talk about how the house has changed over the last 300 years!



Reading Challenge

Derry Hill are excited to be running a Readathon from Monday 2nd March to Friday 20th March to raise money for children in hospitals (see details further on in this newsletter)

World Book Day

We are celebrating World Book Day on March 5th

To tie in with the National Year of Reading, the theme this year is 'Go All In' allowing children and adults to discover how reading can unlock the things they already love – be that music, football, baking, family-time, sci-fi, or ... anything.

[share a picture book](#)

[Listen to some audiobooks](#)

Dressing up It's up to you!

1. Children can dress up as their favourite book character and see if the teachers can guess who you are.
2. Children can also wear their pyjamas to school if you don't have a costume at home – please don't go out and buy one especially!

No Book Day would be complete without a 'silly' competition!

Turn a paper plate into your favourite book character! Entries can be brought into school between Monday 2nd March and Thursday 5th March. They will then be judged by a very select group of judges and prizes will be awarded to the best/most creative plate! Remember to say who the character is and what book it's from! The entries will be displayed in our reading corridor for children and visitors to enjoy.



Hedgehog trip to Bath

On the morning of Friday 23rd January, our Hedgehogs met at the train station in Chippenham to travel together to Bath. They carried out some important Geography fieldwork research to support their comparative study of Bath and Addis Ababa in Ethiopia. They then walked to the Holburne museum, where they explored the artefacts and learned about portraiture and Georgian life. They created amazing portrait collages to explore what they learnt. After lunch and a short playtime at the park, it was time to travel back to Chippenham on the train. It was a busy and fun packed day! Thank you to our very supportive Hedgehog parents enabled us to make the trip so special.



Dormouse Family Learning Afternoon

Dormouse Class would like to say a huge thank you to all the parents that were able to come to our family learning afternoon. It was so lovely for them to be able to share some of their lovely learning with you all and of course sing the planet song!



Hedgehog Family Learning Afternoon

Last Tuesday, Hedgehog Class had their sharing afternoon. This term, the children have been looking at the similarities and differences between life in Bath, and life in Addis Ababa in Ethiopia.

The children shared their knowledge of Human and Physical geographical features, wrote an animal calligram, did some printmaking, wrote their names in Amharic (the Ethiopian alphabet) and finished by performing some African "Call and response" songs.

Thank you so much to the parents who attended, and thank you all for your continued support!

Movie Night 11th March

Children are invited to stay at school on Wednesday 11th March 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



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 mini books about the 5Ks and mala beads to meditate with, some children said it was the "best day ever!" Owl Class enjoyed dancing and designing their own humanism symbols, Mole Class enjoyed learning an Indian dance and Hedgehog class spent some time Forest Bathing. "We had to put our hands on the tree, close our eyes and think happy thoughts."

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



Wildings update

Both Fox and Owl class have experienced some very challenging weather conditions this term in their Wildings sessions. The weather has been particularly wet and cold which has made sessions difficult.

Our sessions have required them all to develop extra resilience to deal with the wet weather. They have needed to work out ways to try and stay dry, keep moving and keep positive. Their problem-solving skills have also been tested and there have been shelter failures and clothing failures. They have had time to reflect and change routines the following week. I am proud of how they have persevered and developed these skills, well done Fox and Owl class!

The term has also been focused on birds as I signed up to the RSPB great school's birdwatch.

We made bird feeders to entice as many birds as possible to our site. We learnt collective nouns of different bird species, made nests with pegs to emulate beaks and even formed a starling murmuration in small groups. We were surprised to see a different selection birds visit our school site, we thought that the noise from the school would deter the feathered visitors!

My thanks to you all for your continued support providing extra layers, waterproof clothes and welcoming your children at the end of the day when covered in mud! I know this adds to your workload so I am appreciative.

For reference; We will go out for sessions in all weather conditions except high winds and thunder and lightning.

In term 4 I will welcome Mole & Hedgehog class to Wildings so hope for brighter, drier weather.



"If you don't see the book you want on the shelf, write it."
- Beverly Cleary

**The MORE that you READ,
The MORE things you will KNOW.
The MORE that you LEARN,
The more PLACES you'll GO.**
-Dr. Seuss

Safety in the playground

Recently we have noticed an increase in the number of children climbing the fences, standing on the picnic furniture and running along/jumping off the raised wall between the upper and lower playgrounds. We also ask that scooters and bikes are **not** ridden around the playground.

Our school rules are that the children are not permitted to do this during the school day for safety reasons.

Please could we politely ask all parents and carers to be vigilant in reinforcing the same message by not allowing your children to climb the fences, stand on the picnic furniture, run along/jump over the wall or ride a bike or scooter in the playgrounds before or after school.

Thank you for your co-operation.



Please see the school calendar on the Derry Hill School website for more information on trips and school events.