



# NEWSLETTER 11 – 27th March 2026

‘Let your light shine’

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

## DIARY DATES

DATE	ACTIVITY	ADDITIONAL INFO
<b>Monday 13th April</b>	<b>Start of Term 5</b>	<b>8.45am</b>
Wednesday 29th April	Squirrel Class Fieldwork Trip to Bowood	All Day Event
Thursday 30th April	Rabbit & Fox Cake Bake	3.15pm (Front Playground)
<b>Monday 4th May</b>	<b>Bank Holiday</b>	<b>School Closed to Children</b>
Monday 11th May — Friday 15th May	SATS Week for Owl Class	All Week Event
Wednesday 13th May	Fox Class Trip to Tudor World	All Day Event
Monday 18th May — Friday 22nd May	Owl Class Residential Trip to North Devon	All Week Event
<b>Friday 22nd May</b>	<b>End of Term 5</b>	<b>3.15pm</b>
<b>Monday 1st June</b>	<b>TD Day</b>	<b>School closed to Children</b>
<b>Tuesday 2nd June</b>	<b>Start of Term 6</b>	<b>8.45am</b>
Thursday 4th June	New Dormouse Starter meeting	5pm (Hall)
Tuesday 9th June	Squirrel Class Family Learning Afternoon	2pm
Friday 12th June	Non - Uniform Day (In Exchange for a Bottle of Wine for the Village Fete)	All Day Event
Monday 15th June — Thursday 18th June	Sports Week	All week Event of Different kinds of Physical Activities
Wednesday 17th June	Owl Class to Chippenham Games	Stanley Park
Friday 19th June	Sports Day	Additional Information to Follow

### Mole Class Family Learning Afternoon

Mole Class had a lovely afternoon learning with their grown-ups. We created collage and play dough animals, played a guess the animal game and showed off our Geography learning by impressing our grown-ups with our knowledge of the four countries and capital cities of the United Kingdom. Some of us enjoyed completing jigsaw puzzles of the world, particularly some of the grown-ups!



PSALM 23:

So Much to Be  
Grateful for



### Hedgehog Trip to The Cotswold Wildlife Park

On Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March, Hedgehog Class paid a visit to the Cotswold Wildlife Park to support their Science work on Living things, their habitats, and life cycles.

Despite the rain and wind, we were lucky to see many beautiful animals including the lions, zebras, wolves and experience a close encounter with the penguins! We also managed to squeeze in some time at the adventure playground before we set off home. Thank you, as always, to our parent helpers, without whom we would not be able to plan these wonderful experiences!



### Rabbit Class Trip to Bath

As part of our Geography curriculum, we needed to complete the fieldwork element. This meant that we headed off to Bath on the train and asked as many people as we could why they were in Bath that day. The results were varied but it seems most people go to Bath to go shopping!

As we have just finished our Roman topic in History, we all decided it would be silly to go to Bath and not visit the Roman Baths. We did a self-guided tour, each of us given an audio guide which proved more problematic for the adults than the children!

The children were full of questions and were respectful to other visitors, they proved what we all know, our children at Derry Hill are amazing!

We stopped for lunch in the square outside and we were entertained by a fantastic musician and tap dancer. At this point the children did get involved and performed their own routine to his music!

It was a great trip and one the children and adults enjoyed. As always, thank you for your support in getting the children to the right places at the right times.

Rabbit class team.



### Squirrel Class Trip to The Ashmolean Museum

Squirrel Class had a wonderful time last week visiting the Ashmolean museum in Oxford as part of their topic on Ancient Egypt. They became detectives for the day and learnt many new facts about what life was like in Egypt at the time. The children were able to see a mummified cat, a sarcophagus and part of a tomb brought over all the way from Egypt. The children impressed our guide with their knowledge of the topic.



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

## Help Shape the Future of SEND Support – Parent Carer Co - Design Events

The government has published proposals to reform the SEND system, and every local area has been asked to develop a first Local SEND Reform Plan. This plan is about laying the foundations for change – strengthening early support in schools and settings, increasing specialist provision, and designing a new Experts at Hand offer that brings specialist practitioners into early years, schools and post - 16 settings more regularly.

Parent carers must be at the heart of shaping what happens next. That's why we are working in partnership with the Wiltshire Parent Carer Council (WPCC) to host a series of co - design events for parent carers. These sessions are a chance to share what's working, what isn't, and what needs to change so future SEND support works better for children, young people and families. Your views will directly influence the Local SEND Reform Plan, including the Universal Offer, early years support, post - 16 pathways and how services work together.

### **Parent carer co-design events (co - hosted with WPCC):**

**24 April, 10:00–12:30 (face - to - face, Devizes):** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1985730387042>

**28 April, 4:00–6:00 (online):** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1985731798263>

**1 May, 10:00–12:00 (online):** <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/1985732360946>

We strongly encourage parent carers to sign up and take part. Your insight, challenge and ideas will help shape the future of SEND support in our area, and we look forward to working with you to build a stronger, more inclusive system together.

## Family Appreciation Day

On **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May at 1pm** we would like to welcome all of our families to join us for a family appreciation picnic to thank you for the ongoing support given to the children and staff at Derry Hill School. The afternoon will start at 1pm with each class sharing a short presentation to families – this may be in the form of a song, poem or other creative element. When the classes have finished presenting all children will return back to their classrooms.

Parents will then be able to sign their child out to join them for a picnic on the school field. Children will only be permitted to be signed out by their own families and children who are not collected will be able to remain with their class teachers until the end of the school day.

Children will eat lunch as normal on this day albeit at an earlier time of 11.30am. We are also hoping to have GlamRose Cakes here serving cakes and drinks for those who would like to supplement their picnics.

Please note that this event is weather dependent and due to lack of indoor spacing will need to be postponed if the elements are against us.

We look forward to seeing you.

## Autism Awareness Day

On Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> April we will be celebrating our very own Autism Awareness Day. World Autism Awareness Month runs through the whole of April and we will be sharing awareness of Autism and celebrating differences throughout the day.

To mark the occasion, we will be having a full non-uniform day with children invited to wear non-uniform in the following colour themes:

- Dormouse Class – Red
- Mole Class – Orange
- Hedgehog Class – Yellow
- Squirrel Class – Green
- Rabbit Class – Blue
- Fox Class – Purple
- Owl Class – Multi - Coloured

If your child has PE on this day please ensure that they are wearing appropriate clothing and footwear.

