



St Denys Primary School

News Flash

Friday 20th
September 2024



Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, we would like to say a big WELCOME to our Rainbow children and families, who started at St Denys last week. All the children are settling into school life beautifully and we are so glad to have all of you joining our St Denys' community.

It has been a busy first few weeks of school with lots of successes already—both in the children's learning and in other areas of school life too. All the children continue to think really carefully about using their Learning Powers and we see and hear about many examples of respect, reciprocity, resilience, reflection and resourcefulness every day at St Denys. Our Year 6 House Captains, Learning Power Champions and Ambassadors have really risen to their new roles and are having a very positive impact on the life of the school, including at lunchtimes when they are leading and co-ordinating playground activities for all our children. They have lots more ideas for ways they want to support children and learning across the school and we are looking forward to helping them realise those this year.

We have an exciting year ahead of us and will be continuing to focus on making St Denys the very best it can be. Our priorities for this year include:-

Continuing to raise standards, particularly in writing:

- Improving standards within writing (including cohesion and fine motor skills).
- Further developing pupils' independent application of taught spelling, punctuation and grammar.
- Maintaining and building on strong results in Key Stage 2 reading and maths.
- Increasing opportunities to engage parents with supporting their children's learning at home.

Continuing to improve attendance (to pre-pandemic levels) and supporting even more pupils to demonstrate consistent positive behaviour at all times, through explicit teaching of the 'St Denys' Way' behaviour curriculum.

Further refining and consolidating our 'Captivating Curriculum' :

- Continuing to improve opportunities for children to 'dive deeper' into all subjects .
- Through our dashboard curriculum (a weekly artist, musician, country and author), children know and remember more that they are taught and increase their cultural capital.

Further embedding the personal development curriculum for all pupils to ensure that they remain supported in their physical, emotional and mental health and cultural capital :

- Developing more opportunities for pupils before and after school as well as during the school day.
- Continuing our partnership with the Mental Health and Wellbeing School Support Team.

We will be working in partnership with our whole school community to support these areas and will keep you updated throughout the year on our progress. Thank you so much for the support you already provide and for helping to make the start of the school year such a positive one.

Best Wishes,

Mr. Davies and Mrs. Andrews

SAVE THE DATE - **Celebrations of Learning**

You are invited to visit school to see your child's books and hear about their learning, in advance of our Autumn Parents' Evenings which are on Tuesday 26th and Wednesday 27th November.

Celebrations of Learning will be held on the following dates:

Monday 18th November Y6 (9-9:30am), Y3 (2:30-3pm)

Wednesday 20th November Rainbow (2:30-3pm)

Thursday 21st November Y5 (9-9:30am), Y2 (2:30-3pm)

Monday 25th November Y4 (9-9:30am), Y1 (2:30-3pm)

SCHOOL MEAL CENSUS DAY

On Thursday 3rd October, it is our School Census day where we have to send off the number of children in Rainbow, Class 1 and Class 2 who take up their free school lunch on that day. It is really important that we can show that as many children as possible have a school meal at St Denys Primary so that meals will continue to be funded.

Parents in Rainbow, Class 1 and 2, please support our school meals by taking up the free offer and especially on Thursday 3rd October.

Parents who are on income support are entitled to Free School Meals, details about how to register are on the School Lunch page of our website. The school receives an additional £1455 of funding for every child entitled (Pupil Premium Funding).

If you think you are eligible for Free School Meals and have not yet told the school, please let the Office know as soon as possible.

ST DENYS SCHOOL SUPPORTERS (SDSS) NEWS

Thanks to your amazing support, we have been able to raise money for the school through several projects last year including our Chocolate Raffle and Freeze Pop Fridays. Some of the money raised was used towards the Theatre Production the children enjoyed just before Easter and in the past we have helped fund projects like the amazing Safari Zone which the children enjoy playing in every day.

This year, we're aiming to organise some fantastic events the whole school community can enjoy, including a Summer Fair, while raising money to support the school to offer extra experiences to our children at the same time. But we will need your help!

We will be holding our AGM in the school hall at 2:30pm on Wednesday 16th October. If you can, please pop along to join us for a cup of tea and a biscuit and to hear about our plans for the year. It's also a great chance to get to know some more families in the school.

If you have any questions, please see Mrs. Andrews who can direct you towards members of the SDSS committee. We look forward to seeing lots of you at the AGM on 16th October and at the events we organise through the year.



IMPORTANT DATE REMINDERS



PROSPECTIVE PARENT VISITS (for entry to Reception September 2025)	Monday 7th October 9:30—10:30am, 6—7 pm
HARVEST FESTIVAL	Tuesday 22nd October
LAST DAY OF AUTUMN 1 TERM	Friday 25th October
SDSS NON-UNIFORM FUND RAISING DAY	Friday 25th October
FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN 2 TERM	Tuesday 5th November
INDIVIDUAL AND SIBLING PHOTOGRAPHS	Thursday 14th November
SCHOOL DISCO	Thursday 14th November
CELEBRATIONS OF LEARNING	18th—25th November (see page 2 for Class dates / times)
PARENT / TEACHER MEETINGS	Tuesday 26th and Wednesday 27th November
YEAR R, 1 & 2 CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE	Wednesday 11th December
CHRISTMAS CONCERT	Tuesday 17th December
LAST DAY OF AUTUMN 2 TERM	Friday 20th December
FIRST DAY OF SPRING TERM	Monday 6th January
SPRING HALF TERM	Monday 17th—Friday 21st February
FIRST DAY OF SPRING 2 TERM	Tuesday 25th February
WORLD BOOK DAY (Wear PJs / comfy clothes)	Thursday 6th March
SCHOOL DISCO	Wednesday 12th March
PARENTS' EVENINGS	Tuesday 25th & Wednesday 26th March
LAST DAY OF SPRING TERM	Friday 4th April
SUMMER INSTRUMENTAL CONCERT	Tuesday 20th May
FIRST DAY OF SUMMER TERM	Tuesday 22nd April
SUMMER HALF TERM	Monday 26th—Friday 30th May
SCHOOL DISCO	Thursday 19th June
CLASS PHOTOGRAPHS	Monday 23rd June
SUMMER FAIR	Friday 4th July
LAST DAY OF SUMMER TERM	Friday 18th July
SCHOOL CLOSED FOR STAFF TRAINING	Monday 4th November, Monday 24th February, Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd July.

HOME LEARNING

We were so pleased to have fantastic return levels for our first week of home learning this year! We set activities which help children practice, consolidate or rehearse key skills they need and have or will be using in class, as well as helping them to develop independent study habits. We also know it helps our families to know more about what your children are learning in school. Home learning is given out on Fridays and should be returned by the following Thursday. Thank you for the support you give your children to complete their home learning activities each week. In KS2, we also offer a weekly home learning club so children can choose to complete their work in school with a teacher's help if they prefer. If you have any questions or need help with home learning, please talk to your child's class teacher.

School Absence Penalty Notices 2024/2025- A Parent's Guide

With the introduction of the new Department of Education National Framework for Penalty Notices, the following changes will come into effect for all Penalty Notices issued due to unauthorised absence that has taken place after 19th August 2024.

When will Penalty Notices be issued?

- Penalty Notices can be issued when a statutory school-aged child has had 10 sessions (5 school days) or more of unauthorised absence within a 10 school week period.
- Only two penalty notices will be issued to the same parent for the same child within a 3 year period. Also see below.

Who will Penalty Notice be issued to?

- A Penalty Notice will be issued to each parent for each absent child.
- For example, for a family of four, the mother would receive 2 penalty notices (1 for each child) and the father would receive 2 penalty notices (1 for each child), totalling 4 penalty notices.

How will Penalty Notices be issued?

- All schools in Southampton City Council's area can request the Council to issue penalty notices. If the school's request meets the criteria for issue, the penalty notice/s will be issued with a accompanying letter.
- The penalty notices and accompanying letters are sent via first class post to the recorded home address of each parent.

First Offence/ First Penalty Notice

- The First Offence/ First Penalty Notice issued for 10 or more sessions for unauthorised absence within a 10 school week period will be payable within 28 days.
- If the Penalty Notice is paid on or before the 21st day of payment, the amount due is £80 per parent per child.
- If the Penalty Notice is paid between the 21st day and the 28th day of payment, the amount due is £160 per parent per child.

Second Offence/ Final Penalty Notice within 3 years

- The Second Offence/ Final Penalty Notice issued for 10 or more sessions for unauthorised absence within a 10 school week period for the same child and same parent will be payable within 28 days.
- The amount payable is £160 per parent per child.
- There is no option to pay this Penalty Notice earlier at a reduced rate.

Third (and any further offences within 3 years)

- The Third Offence of 10 or more sessions for unauthorised absence within a 10 school week period for the same child and same parent will instigate Court Proceedings via the Single Justice Procedure.
- The Council can use its discretion to instigate other alternative actions such as an Education Welfare Officer becoming involved.

Further information can be found on the Southampton City Council website, under [School attendance and support \(southampton.gov.uk\)](https://www.southampton.gov.uk/school-attendance-and-support).