



St Denys Primary School

News Flash

Friday 5th
September 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been wonderful to welcome all our Year 1—Year 6 children back to school this week. The children have settled back into school life really well and it has been a joy to see how hard everyone has been focussed on making a really positive start to the new school year. Thank you families for all you do to make sure your children are here on time and prepared for the school day—we really appreciate it and it helps make your children's days successful.

This week we have been working on some special projects which we really enjoyed sharing with lots of you at our Celebration of Learning this afternoon (Year 6 yours is on Tuesday and you are in for a real treat!). If you couldn't make it this afternoon then please don't worry; lots of the work is displayed around the school and you are also welcome to pop in before or after school any time to see your child's work—just have a chat with your child's class teacher if you'd like to arrange this.

As always our 5 Learning Powers have been at the centre of our learning and we see examples constantly of children demonstrating them: Respect, Resilience, Reciprocity, Resourcefulness and Reflectiveness. These are skills and attitudes that we need to be really successful learners and our children work hard on developing them through their time at St Denys. This week our Year 6 children have been given their Learning Ambassador roles and we are really excited about what they will achieve this year with these responsibilities; we know they will be great role models and supports to the rest of the school.



We are pleased to welcome some new staff members this term: Mrs. Bizhaq is working with Year 6 and Ms. Maracine has joined the Year 5 team. Mrs. Foster has returned from maternity leave and is teaching Year 2 from Wednesday—Friday each week. You may have also noticed that our website has changed a bit (www.stdenysprimary.co.uk)—we are still developing it but one new feature that some of you have asked for in the past is an online calendar which we hope you will find useful.

We have really enjoyed this first week of the school year and are looking forward to working with you all this year as we continue to focus on making St Denys the best school it can be for all our pupils. As always, if there is anything that you need, or that we can do to better support your child, please do talk to us.

Best Wishes,

Mr Davies and Mrs Andrews

WRAP-AROUND CARE



A reminder that children are able to attend breakfast club (7:35-8:35, £6) and / or after school care (3:15—6pm, £12.75), run on the school site by Premier Education. Booking is fully flexible so there is no need for a regular commitment—you can book sessions as and when you need them. Children can access a whole range of activities including sports such as football, basketball, tennis, volleyball and archery and creative activities including arts & crafts, painting, gymnastics, dancing and card/boardgames during the sessions. They also provide a variety of healthy breakfasts and snacks during all sessions. . Booking and more information is available on their website: www.premiereducation.com, or please do ask Mrs. Andrews any questions you have.



IMPORTANT DATE REMINDERS



SDSS PLANNING MEETING (All welcome)	Wednesday 10th September, 3:20pm, in the school library
RAILWAY SAFETY ASSEMBLY	Tuesday 16th September
TRAVEL COUNT AND AIR QUALITY ASSEMBLY	Monday 22nd September
PROSPECTIVE PARENT VISITS (for entry to Reception September 2026)	Monday 6th October 9:30—10:30am, 6.15—7.15 pm
Y6 NEW FOREST TRIP	Friday 10th October
HARVEST FESTIVAL	Wednesday 22nd October, 2pm
Y6 TUDOR HOUSE TRIP	Thursday 23rd October
SDSS NON-UNIFORM DAY	Friday 24th October
LAST DAY OF AUTUMN 1 TERM	Friday 24th October
SCHOOL CLOSED FOR STAFF TRAINING	Monday 3rd November
FIRST DAY OF AUTUMN 2 TERM	Tuesday 4th November
Y3 BUTSER FARM TRIP	Monday 10th November
INDIVIDUAL AND SIBLING PHOTOGRAPHS	Thursday 13th November
SCHOOL DISCO	Thursday 13th November 5—6pm
PARENT / TEACHER MEETINGS	Tuesday 18th and Wednesday 19th November
Y5 SCIENCE MUSEUM TRIP	Thursday 20th November
RAINBOW & KS1 CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE	Wednesday 10th December
CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT	Wednesday 17th December, 2pm
LAST DAY OF AUTUMN 2 TERM	Friday 19th December
FIRST DAY OF SPRING TERM	Monday 5th January
Y4 SWIMMING	Monday 5th—Friday 16th January
LAST DAY OF SPRING 1 TERM	Friday 13th February
FIRST DAY OF SPRING 2 TERM	Monday 23rd February
PARENT / TEACHER MEETINGS	Tuesday 24th and Wednesday 25th March
M&M THEATRE PRODUCTION	Thursday 26th March
EASTER BONNET PARADE	Friday 27th March
LAST DAY OF SPRING 2 TERM	Friday 27th March
FIRST DAY OF SUMMER 1 TERM	Monday 13th April
LAST DAY OF SUMMER 1 TERM	Friday 22nd May
FIRST DAY OF SUMMER 2 TERM	Tuesday 2nd June
CHILDREN FINISH FOR THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS	Friday 17th July
SCHOOL CLOSED FOR STAFF TRAINING	Monday 3rd November, Monday 1st June, Monday 20th July, Tuesday 21st July, Wednesday 22nd July

You said...we listened—CLUBS

In last year's parent surveys, some of you asked for more after-school activities / clubs, especially for our younger children. This will always be a challenge in a small school like St Denys but we have been thinking hard about how we can increase our club offer and are hoping to be able to provide more opportunities for children to join clubs after school this year.



Mr. Fielder's KS2 sports clubs will start with football next week, and he has shared information about these on the relevant class pages.

Mrs. Adams and Mrs. Mitchell are going to start KS2 CHOIR, which will run on Tuesdays from 3:15—4:15 starting on Tuesday 16th September. There are 20 spaces for this club and, if we receive more interest than available places, names will be drawn from a hat. You will be notified via Class Dojo message if your child has a place. If your child in Y3—Y6 is interested in joining choir, please collect a letter from the office to register their interest.

We already have plans to run a KS1 Art Club, a KS2 Sketching Club and a gardening club later in the year—watch out on Dojo for more updates and information about how to sign up when these are available.

Parent volunteers can also help us increase our clubs—last year we were able to offer Chess Club with the help of a parent volunteer and in previous years parents ran a Y1 Art club—do you have an interest that you would like to share through a club, which we will support you with? Please talk to Mrs. Andrews if this is something you might be interested in.

SDSS NEWS

After the success of our fundraising last year (we raised £1015 at our Summer Fair alone), we are keen to build on this and achieve even more this year. Last year we raised money for new playground equipment, the whole school theatre performance and the KS2 VR experience. All the money we raise goes directly to improving things for children at St Denys.

Are you interested in finding out more? We have a planning meeting on Wednesday 10th September in the School Library after school pick up (3:20pm). Everyone is welcome—please do come along to share ideas and find out how you can get involved.

iRock Band Lessons

iRock lessons are held at school every Friday morning and there are currently some spaces available for more children to join. You can find out more information and sign up on their website.

JOIN THE FUN

There are spaces in bands at your school

SCAN TO SIGN UP NOW

[IROCKSCHOOL.COM](https://iROCKSCHOOL.COM)

[@WeAreiRock](https://www.instagram.com/WeAreiRock)

iRock band lessons are fun, boost confidence.

Education Mental Health Practitioner

Solent NHS Mental Health in Schools Team



Hi!

My name is Gemma and I thought it would be nice to introduce myself and pop a face to the name for those of you who haven't seen me around yet!

I am an Educational Mental Health Practitioner (EMHP for short). I am a parent myself and have various experience of working with and supporting children, young people, parents, and schools.

Who are we?

EMHP are part of the Mental Health in Schools Team (MHST). We work together with schools and colleges across Southampton to support children and young people to understand their difficulties with things like low mood or anxieties. We work with you, helping to find, and practice ways to make changes, looking at how we think and what we do to improve these difficulties through evidence-based programmes.

Why are we here?

EMHPs are part of government's priority to increase access and availability of mental health and wellbeing support for children and young people through prevention, early intervention, and education.

How can we help you?

We do not diagnose young people, but instead we look at the symptoms that they are experiencing and help them to overcome or manage them to improve their wellbeing. We are able to offer CBT to young people who are exhibiting mild to moderate symptoms of the following mental health difficulties, which cannot be otherwise explained by any situational or systemic factors:

- Low Mood
- Panic Attacks
- Generalised Anxiety and Worry
- Specific Phobias
- Separation Anxiety
- Social Anxiety
- Behavioural difficulties in primary-aged children

How can you get support from the MHST?

If a child or young person is experiencing mental health difficulties that is causing ongoing disruption to their daily functioning, and they feel unable to manage these independently, then speak to Mrs Adams or Miss Tarling about completing a referral to the MHST. Please know that we can only accept referrals for young people who meet the referral criteria.

Gemma will also be running a drop in session at our November Parents' Evenings—this is a chance to informally discuss any concerns or challenges you / your child are having.