



St Denys Primary School

News Flash

Monday 17th
November 2025



Dear Families,

Welcome to the November newsletter. The half term is now well underway and things have certainly been busy at St Denys, with lots of exciting learning and experiences happening across the school.

One of the things we are proudest of is our incredible community and it has been such a privilege to watch everyone come together in so many ways recently. From your very generous donations to our Harvest Festival just before half term which were really appreciated by Basics Bank, to seeing so many of you sharing your children's learning at our recent Celebrations of Learning, to the amazing Cake Sale for Children in Need on Friday afternoon: the St Denys community really is the very best and we are so grateful for all your support.

Over the next couple of evenings (Tuesday and Wednesday), you will have the opportunity to discuss your child's progress with their class teacher at Parents' Evening. If you haven't yet booked an appointment, or would like to discuss anything further following the meetings, please do let your child's class teacher or us know. Following Parents' Evenings, we will be running a Parent Survey to capture your views about what you think we are doing well, and what we can do even better. Please do help us by completing this— your support is vital to our work in school and we are always keen to know how we can help our children and families further. Some of the things we have done over the past couple of years, in response to survey feedback, include: reviewing the homework policy, introducing wrap-around care and working to increase the number of extra-curricular clubs on offer, including extending the offer to younger year groups.

Thinking about our local community, the children have the opportunity to participate in a couple of exciting competitions over the next few weeks. Mrs. Andrews shared these with everyone in assembly today and there is more information about both competitions in this newsletter. We are looking forward to seeing the children's fantastic entries arriving at school soon!

With best wishes,

Mr D and Mrs Andrews

DESIGN OUR MP'S CHRISTMAS CARD!

We have been contacted by our local MP, Satvir Kaur, who invites a school each year to design her Christmas card—and this year she has chosen St Denys!

Satvir is inviting all the children of St Denys Primary to submit a design for her Christmas card. The design should be in colour, and A5 sized. We will then create a shortlist of 8 from all the designs submitted, and Satvir will choose the winning design from this shortlist.

As well as having their design featured on Satvir's official Christmas card, **the winner will receive a mascot experience for a child at the Saints home match against Coventry on 20th December, along with two general admission tickets for parents or carers. Alongside this, they will receive a framed certificate and House of Commons goodies.** The pupil in second place will also receive House of Commons goodies and all those shortlisted (including the winner and second place) will receive a personal letter from Satvir.

Designs must be given to Mrs. Andrews by Monday 1st December, please.

Mrs. Andrews will also be running 2 lunchtime sessions (Wednesday 26th and Thursday 27th November) for children who would like to design a card at school. We are excited to see your entries!

SDSS NEWS

SDSS will again be running a Christmas Raffle at the end of term to help towards our fundraising target for the year. Some of our goals this year are to pay for the Theatre Production we have in school every year (which we were able to fully fund last year thanks to your amazing support) and the VR experience for all of KS2.

If anyone has any gift sets or chocolates that they would like to donate then please arrange for your child to take them into the school reception where Tanya, Chair of SDSS, has arranged for a box to be put for any donations. These will then be used for the prizes for the Raffles.

So far since September we have raised over £300, which is a great start towards our target. Thank you again for all of your support.

SDSS will be providing Tea, Coffee, Hot Chocolate, biscuits and cakes again following our Carol Concert on the 17th December, where donations to our fundraising pot can also be made. There will also be a uniform swap in the hall on this day and the uniform donation boxes will be out the week before for anyone to donate. If you are able to help with either of these events, then please email Tanya (stdenyspta@gmail.com).

The team will be meeting on Friday 5th December after pick up (3:15pm) in the school library. Everyone is welcome! Do pop along if you would like to find out more about what we do. Thank you for your support.



Burning wood can feel cosy and comforting, but did you know it can affect both our health and the environment?

To help families make healthier choices, local charity tEC have created a special booklet (attached) which explains the impact of wood burning, and the good news: there are cleaner, healthier ways to stay warm.

To help families put these ideas into action, we're launching a Winter Clean Air Challenge. The challenge invites you to become a smell detective – sniffing out cosy alternatives to wood burning that reduce air pollution, protect your health, and even win you some prizes.

What to do:

1. Take a walk outside one evening and complete the activity sheet (these will be sent home in bookbags.) Can you smell wood smoke in the air? Is it strong or faint? Can you see where it's coming from? Try to describe it.
2. Draw a picture or write a poem about fun things you can do in winter to feel cosy, other than burning wood.
3. Hand your entry into reception by Friday 12th December. Please include your name, class/year and school on your entry.

If you have any questions about the competition, or would like further information about wood burning and air quality, please contact the team at tEC on cleanair@environmentcentre.com.



IMPORTANT DATE REMINDERS



PARENT / TEACHER MEETINGS	Tuesday 18th and Wednesday 19th November
Y5 SCIENCE MUSEUM TRIP	Thursday 20th November
LUNCHESS IN CLASSROOMS—CHANGE OF MENU	Thursday 20th November
LUNCHTIME CHRISTMAS CARD DESIGN SESSIONS (for competition)	Wednesday 26th & Thursday 27th November
DEADLINE FOR CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION	Monday 1st December
RAINBOW & KS1 CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCE	Wednesday 10th December
iROCK CONCERT (parents invited if your child does iRock)	Friday 12th December, 10am
DEADLINE FOR CLEAN AIR COMPETITION	Friday 12th December
CHRISTMAS JUMPERS CAN BE WORN	From Monday 15th December
SDSS CHRISTMAS RAFFLES	Monday 15th—Wednesday 17th December
CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT	Wednesday 17th December, 2pm
CHRISTMAS LUNCH AND PARTIES	Thursday 18th December
LAST DAY OF AUTUMN 2 TERM	Friday 19th December
FIRST DAY OF SPRING TERM	Monday 5th January
Y4 SWIMMING	Monday 5th—Friday 16th January
SOUTHAMPTON YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA VISITING KS2	Wednesday 4th February
SOUTHAMPTON YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA VISITING YR & KS1	Wednesday 11th February
LAST DAY OF SPRING 1 TERM	Friday 13th February
FIRST DAY OF SPRING 2 TERM	Monday 23rd February
SCHOOL DISCO	Wednesday 18th March
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 1st June, Monday 20th July, Tuesday