



# St Denys Primary School News Flash



Monday 2nd  
February 2026

Dear Families,

The Spring term is now fully underway and, as always, it has been a busy few weeks at St Denys. All of Year 4 and some from Years 5 and 6 did a fantastic job with their swimming lessons at the start of term and should feel very proud of the progress they made during them. The School Council have been working with Amber from SCC on a 'Clean Air' project', analysing data about how people travel to school and the air pollution around St Denys. They've used this information to come up with an action plan for the next 2 terms and have lots of great ideas—watch this space for some more exciting news on this, next term. Following work all children in school did at the very start of September, around mapping our school grounds and thinking about how we can improve their biodiversity, along with some more focused work with some children in Upper Key Stage 2, we're very pleased to announce that we have been awarded a £5000 National Education Nature Parks Grant to fund 'Operation Greenify', which will enable us to add flower and vegetable planters to our main playground and help turn it from 'grey to green'.

We are so proud of our children's passion and drive to make their world a better place, and it is a pleasure to support them in making the most of the opportunities that come our way. The Leadership team have been spending lots of time in lessons over the past few weeks and our children consistently show such positive attitudes: enjoying their lessons, trying their best and demonstrating excellent behaviour for learning. Following the feedback from our Ofsted visit last year, as a staff team we have been thinking carefully about task design and the impact of this work has been evident, as teachers ensure activities in lessons are really closely matched to learning objectives and all children are given supports and strategies to ensure they can be successful. We look forward to sharing more of this work with you at our Celebrations of Learning and Parents' Evenings next half term.



Best wishes  
Mr D and Mrs Andrews



## SDSS NEWS

**SDSS would once again like to thank you for all of your support so far this academic year. We're excited for our next round of fundraising.**

**New for this year we are going to be running a World Book Day Sweet Shop—selling some of your favourite treats inspired by great books like Superworm's bugs and beetles, Harry Potter's golden galleons and the Smeds and the Smoos' spaceships. 50p per packet for sale on World Book Day (Thursday 5th March).**

**Our EASTER RAFFLE will also be back this year. Children are invited to wear NON-UNIFORM in return for donations of chocolates, Easter eggs and unused children's craft activities on FRIDAY 13th FEBRUARY (last day of the half term).**

**Thank you so much for your fantastic support.**

### CLEAN AIR CHALLENGE WINNERS

Well done to all the children who took part in the Clean Air Challenge last half term—it was great to see so many lovely entries. A special well done to the winner, Hoorain (Y5) and the runners up: Daniil (YR), Anastasia (Y6) and Havin (Y4), who all received their prizes in assembly today.

The Environment Centre, who ran the competition, have asked for some feedback about their resources and information. If you have 30 seconds to provide feedback on the air pollution and wood burning resources shared alongside the Autumn Term Clean Air Challenge, this would be greatly appreciated. Please use the short feedback form here:

<https://form.jotform.com/252443415369358>

Your feedback will help with running competitions like this in the future.

### HOW CAN I HELP MY CHILD WITH MATHS AT HOME?

In school, lots of the children's learning in Maths is focussed on developing fluency in key number facts.

This starts with counting accurately, then learning number bonds (all the ways of making numbers by adding) first to all the numbers up to 5, then to all the numbers up to 10, and then all the numbers up to 20. Children also need to know the related subtraction facts e.g. if I know  $4+5 = 9$  I also know  $9-5 = 4$ .

In Key Stage 2, children learn times tables in the following order: 2x, 10x, 5x, 4x, 8x, 3x, 6x, 9x, 7x, 11x, 12x, and the related division facts as well. One of the best things you can do at home to help your children is to give them chances to practise these facts. For example:

- Encourage them to spend 10mins+ a day on White Rose 1 Minute Maths (free app) or Times Tables Rockstars
- Pick 2-3 key facts and focus on learning them with your child—put them up on post-its on the fridge and talk about them / ask your child to remember the fact several times each day until they know it really confidently, then choose some new facts to learn
  - Use songs, rhymes, chanting (loads of great ones on YouTube & with Numberblocks)
- Play simple games to practice facts e.g. rolling 2 dice and adding / subtracting or multiplying the 2 numbers you roll.

Even when children know these facts, they need to keep practising them to keep that knowledge (and to get even quicker!). A little bit of practice every day makes a big difference to children's confidence in Maths.

### ATTENDANCE MATTERS

As you know, promoting and supporting good attendance is a key focus for schools. Research shows that regular attendance is key to your child's success at school. An attendance of 90% equates to missing one day every two weeks, or nearly 4 weeks of lost learning each year. Our target is 96% attendance for all pupils. Our current whole school attendance is 94.8%, and the attendance for the last week was 95.3%. Please help your child to make the progress they are capable of by ensuring they are in school, on time every day and following the procedures below:

- Children must be in class by 8.45 a.m (by the time the bell rings). Children who arrive late miss important learning which can affect both their wellbeing and academic progress.
- We recognise that children do become ill, however we have a duty of care to know why children are not in school. If your child is absent, please ensure that you contact the school with the reason for absence as early as possible but before 9.15 am at the latest. The NHS have helpful information about when children should stay at home with illness: **Is my child too ill for school? - NHS(www.nhs.uk)**
- We are unable to authorise any holidays and can only grant leave of absence in exceptional circumstances. If you need to apply for permission to take your child out of school this must be in writing using our 'Leave of Absence' form at least two weeks in advance. Any parent taking their child out of school for an unauthorised absence maybe liable to a penalty notice or fine.
- If you are having difficulties or have questions about your child's attendance, please talk to us. We are here to help.



## IMPORTANT DATE REMINDERS



<b>SOUTHAMPTON YOUTH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA ASSEMBLIES for KS1 &amp; KS2</b>	Wednesday 11th February
<b>LAST DAY OF SPRING 1 TERM</b>	Friday 13th February
<b>NON-UNIFORM IN EXCHANGE FOR CHOCOLATE DONATIONS</b>	Friday 13th February
<b>FIRST DAY OF SPRING 2 TERM</b>	Monday 23rd February
<b>WORLD BOOK DAY (Wear PJs / comfy clothes or costumes)/ SDSS SWEET SHOP (50p)</b>	Thursday 5th March
<b>CELEBRATIONS OF LEARNING (We are trialling a new model—parents/carers are welcome to attend either one of these sessions rather than having set dates per class)</b>	Monday 16th March 2:45—3:15pm Wednesday 18th March 9—9:30am
<b>SCHOOL DISCO</b>	Wednesday 18th March
<b>COMIC RELIEF RED NOSE DAY (non-uniform)</b>	Friday 20th March
<b>PARENT / TEACHER MEETINGS (except Y6)</b>	Tuesday 24th and Wednesday 25th March
<b>YEAR 6 PARENT / TEACHER MEETINGS</b>	Tuesday 24th and Thursday 26th March
<b>M&amp;M THEATRE PRODUCTION</b>	Thursday 26th March
<b>EASTER BONNET PARADE</b>	Friday 27th March
<b>LAST DAY OF SPRING 2 TERM</b>	Friday 27th March
<b>FIRST DAY OF SUMMER 1 TERM</b>	Monday 13th April
<b>YEAR 5 BIKEABILITY</b>	w/c 27th April
<b>YEAR 1 MARWELL TRIP</b>	Wednesday 6th May
<b>YEAR 6 SATS WEEK</b>	Monday 11th—Thursday 14th May
<b>SCHOOL TALENT SHOW</b>	Friday 22nd May
<b>LAST DAY OF SUMMER 1 TERM</b>	Friday 22nd May
<b>FIRST DAY OF SUMMER 2 TERM</b>	Tuesday 2nd June
<b>YEAR 6 ACTIVITY WEEK</b>	Monday 8th—Friday 12th June
<b>YEAR 1 NEW FOREST TRIP</b>	Tuesday 23rd June
<b>SUMMER CONCERT (at St Denys Church, all welcome)</b>	Wednesday 1st July
<b>YEAR 2 SEACITY TRIP</b>	Friday 3rd July
<b>CHILDREN FINISH FOR THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS</b>	Friday 17th July
<b>SCHOOL CLOSED FOR STAFF TRAINING</b>	Monday 1st June, Monday 20th July, Tuesday 21st July, Wednesday 22nd July