



# St Denys Primary School News Flash



1<sup>st</sup> May 2026

Dear Families,

Welcome to our newsletter. The Summer term is now well underway at St Denys and the children continue to impress us with their enthusiasm for learning, dedication to the St Denys Way and drive to make their school and their world a better place.

Over the past two weeks we have enjoyed watching the school grounds get greener thanks to 'Operation Greenify', as all the children in the school helped with building planters, planting a range of flowers, fruits and vegetables and thinking about ways to make our school site more biodiverse as part of this National Education Nature Parks initiative, supported by the £5000 grant secured by our Operation Greenify team from Years 5 and 6. School Council enjoyed judging our Clean Air competition (though it was a tough task with so many fantastic entries!) and you will see the winning entries turned into a banner which will be displayed outside school very soon. They are continuing to think about how we can play our part in making the air around St Denys cleaner and are planning to organise some fundraising to put towards more bike / scooter storage next half term.

We are all looking forward to our International Bake Sale next Friday (8<sup>th</sup> May) and the second St Denys Talent Show which will take place just before half term. These ideas have all come from our pupils and help contribute to our fantastic community, as well as giving children a chance to showcase their many talents, creativity and teamwork.

Thank you so much to everyone who took the time to complete our recent Parent/Carer survey; your feedback is extremely useful. We are delighted that so many of you are happy with St Denys and feel your children are doing well, as well as very grateful for your suggestions for how we can continue to improve. A full summary of the responses is available later in the newsletter.

Best wishes  
Mr. Davies and Mrs. Andrews



# CONGRATULATIONS!

## CLEAN AIR COMPETITION

Thank you so much for the absolutely incredible entries to the Clean Air Banner Competition. The standard was very high and School Council had a tough job with the judging. They were glad to have the help of Amber, who works for SCC Clean Air Team.

A massive congratulations to our winners, Laney in Class 5 and Ellie in Class 1. We are looking forward to seeing their designs turned into a banner for outside school very soon, encouraging everyone to use active travel (walking, cycling, scooting) whenever possible and, when in the car, to turn off their engines while queuing / stopped to reduce pollution. Well done Laney and Ellie!

## SDSS NEWS

**Our Coppers Competition is well underway and Tanya has had some very heavy bags to count after emptying your collection pots! Well done everyone and keep bringing in those coppers...the competition runs until the end of term and there is still everything to play for. Watch out on Dojo next week for an update on the top 3 classes!**

**SDSS are meeting in the school library today (Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May) after school pick up. Please do come along to find out more about what we have planned – it's not long until our Summer Fair and we will need help to make it even bigger and better than last year.**

**Can you help? We are always looking for more members. If you would like to get involved, please email [stdenyspta@gmail.com](mailto:stdenyspta@gmail.com) or chat to Tanya in the playground.**

## ATTENDANCE MATTERS

The research is clear that every day at school makes a difference to children's learning and improving attendance continues to be a key priority at St Denys. We are pleased to share that our whole school attendance continues to improve – it is currently 94.9% which is 1.3% higher than last year. Thank you for all your efforts in getting your children to school every day and avoiding absence wherever possible, especially term-time holidays. We are getting ever closer to our whole school target of 96% for all pupils.

Please remember that we are unable to authorise any term-time holiday requests and be mindful of this when booking any family holidays, ensuring that they take place within school holiday periods. We have placed INSET days after half term holidays again next year to support with accessing slightly cheaper travel during these periods.

A key part of attendance is also punctuality and at the moment we are seeing a growing number of children arriving late to school. Please make sure your children are in class before 8:45am in the morning so they don't miss any valuable learning time. Thank you.

If you have any questions about, or would like support with your child's attendance, please talk to us—we are here to help.

## WRAP AROUND CARE AT ST DENYS

Our breakfast and after-school club has now been running for just over a year. It is open from 7:35am in the morning and until 6pm every evening, every day of the school year. Staffed by St Denys' staff (the fabulous Mrs. Short and Miss Sahid), and packed full of fun activities and yummy breakfast / snacks, all the children who go give it rave reviews (we've seen more than 1 parent picking up early being asked by their child to go away and come back closer to 6pm!). To find out more, or to book a session for your child, visit the Premier Education website: <https://www.premier-education.com/parents/venue/courses/22373/>

## RESULTS OF PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE APRIL 2026

Thank you to everyone who completed our Parent/Carer Questionnaire. We were really pleased with the very positive responses and helpful comments. We are particularly proud that 100% of respondents felt their children feel safe at school and are well looked after, that you feel able to come to us with any concerns and especially that 100% of you would recommend us to other parents.

We are always looking for how we can improve St Denys further and provide the best support for all our children and families. Your feedback and comments are a key part of helping us to reflect and develop, and we really value them all. Some of your positive comments reflected changes we have put in place based on feedback from previous surveys. For example:

<i>“the school uniform give aways are an amazing idea as we often give and receive making things more affordable.”</i>	The idea to start offering this came from a previous survey. Thank you to the brilliant SDSS team who make it possible by organising and running the giveaways.
<i>“the WAC is a life saver, We often feel guilty about having to keep xxx in provisions later but knowing its school staff that help with it so he has familiar faces and the fun he has there makes it that bit easier to accept.”</i>	Following parents telling us in surveys they had a need for wrap-around childcare at school, we investigated potential options and the breakfast and after-school club has now been running for over a year. We are so pleased the children who attend enjoy it so much.
<i>“I also love the free extra classes you are offering after school. Xxxx loves the arts and crafts class”</i>	Last year, several of you asked for more after-school clubs. This year we have supported our teachers and TAs to enable them to offer after-school clubs in a range of interests and have loved seeing children from across the school enjoying choir, chess, drama and art & craft clubs, as well as Mr. Fielder’s fantastic sports clubs. We’ll keep working to increase the clubs we can offer. If you know of any opportunities or have the availability to support with running clubs, please let Mrs. Andrews know.

In this survey, we asked you about some changes we tried last term to Celebrations of Learning and the Disco. 75% of you said you preferred Key Stage Discos rather than one disco for the whole school, so we plan to continue with this model going forward, with perhaps one whole-school disco a year. 64% of you preferred being able to choose between 2 dates / times for Celebration of Learning and a further 31% did not have a preference, so we will continue to offer a choice of dates / times to attend in future. Some of you said that while you liked visiting your child in their classroom, you also appreciated when there was a presentation style aspect to Celebrations of Learning so we will consider how we can include this in some events going forward. We recognise that having the event during the school day is more challenging for working parents: we’ll continue to give as much notice as possible of planned events and please do remember that if you can’t make the official Celebration of Learning, you are always welcome to arrange a time with the class teacher to see your child’s work before / after school.

### What could we do better?

Communication came up in several comments: some of you mentioned missing notifications on Dojo and that you would also like reminder texts / emails for important events. You asked for more notice of events like the cookery challenge. You would like us to consider how we communicate with parents who aren’t available at pick up and drop off, to make sure that you get direct communication.	We recognise that text / email reminders can be helpful so are looking at systems we could use to offer these again (the previous system we used is no longer in operation). We will share newsletters by email as well as on Dojo as they contain dates of key events for the year, to give you as much notice as possible. We will increase the notice we give for events like the cookery challenge (at least 2 weeks, more if possible). We have asked teachers to consider how they communicate with parents who aren’t available at drop off and pick up. If you have a preferred communication approach, please do let the class teacher know and we will accommodate it wherever possible.
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## RESULTS OF PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE APRIL 2026

Tidiness of school site	We are in the process of sourcing a company to remove items that are no longer needed from the car park area – if you have any contacts, please let us know! We are reviewing how we organise the Year 1 area so that the walk into school is more pleasant. Mr. Schofield has been busy repairing and repainting fences around the school site.
Safety concerns raised re: helmets for scooters and scooter handle covers	The scooter handles have been repaired. Helmets are now available for children to wear when riding scooters at school.
Some of you asked about resources for parents to support your children's learning at home, particularly in maths	We share a curriculum newsletter each half term to show what your child will be learning, so we will review these to see how we can make them more useful. We will add some useful links to the website by the end of the Summer term, and look at more specific resources that we could create and share with parents. If you have specific concerns or questions about your child and their learning, please contact their class teacher.

Once again, thank you so much for your valuable feedback. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please do talk to us – no need to wait for a survey! We really appreciate your support in helping us do the best for all our children and families.

### IMPORTANT DATE REMINDERS

<b>BANK HOLIDAY (School closed)</b>	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> May
<b>YEAR 1 MARWELL TRIP</b>	Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> May
<b>INTERNATIONAL BAKE SALE</b>	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> May
<b>YEAR 6 SATS WEEK</b>	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> —Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> May
<b>ART ON WHEELS – Y2</b>	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> May
<b>LIFESKILLS GROUP LONGDOWN TRIP</b>	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> May
<b>Y6 PARENTS FAIRTHORNE MEETING</b>	Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> May, at pick-up
<b>SCHOOL TALENT SHOW</b>	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May
<b>LAST DAY OF SUMMER 1 TERM</b>	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May
<b>FIRST DAY OF SUMMER 2 TERM</b>	Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June
<b>NEW RAINBOW PARENTS MEETING</b>	Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June
<b>YEAR 6 ACTIVITY WEEK</b>	Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> —Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> June
<b>RAINBOW LONGDOWN DAIRY FARM TRIP</b>	Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> June
<b>YEAR 4 ANCIENT EGYPTIANS WORKSHOP</b>	Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> June
<b>CLEAN AIR DAY – Non-uniform day</b>	Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> June
<b>SCHOOL DISCO</b>	Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> June
<b>YEAR 1 NEW FOREST TRIP</b>	Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June
<b>SUMMER CONCERT (at St Denys Church, all welcome)</b>	Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> June (NEW DATE)
<b>YEAR 2 SEACITY TRIP</b>	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July
<b>SUMMER FAIR</b>	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> July
<b>PARENTS EVENING (for queries following reports)</b>	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> July
<b>SPORTS DAY</b>	Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> July
<b>SPORTS DAY (Reserve date)</b>	Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> July
<b>iROCK CONCERT</b>	Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> July, 10am
<b>YEAR 6 LEAVERS PERFORMANCE</b>	Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> July
<b>YEAR 6 PIZZA PARTY</b>	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> July
<b>CHILDREN FINISH FOR THE SUMMER HOLIDAYS - Y6 LEAVERS ASSEMBLY 9am</b>	Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July
<b>SCHOOL CLOSED FOR STAFF TRAINING</b>	Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> June, Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> July, Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> July, Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July
<b>START OF AUTUMN TERM 2026 FOR CHILDREN</b>	Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> September