



St Denys Primary School

News Flash



14th February
2025

Dear Families,

It is hard to believe that we are already over half-way through the school year. It is wonderful to see the progress all our children have made since the start of the year and we are excited about what they will continue to show us next half-term.

We are very proud of our Captivating Curriculum and in any one day we see the whole curriculum in action. From Phonics in Rainbow, to landscape painting in Year 1, to learning about the Great Barrier Reef in Geography in Class 2, to bridge design and building in Year 3, to Spanish in Year 4, to a consideration of historical sources helping us understand the Mayans in Year 5, to website design in Year 6—there is so much going on at St Denys every single day!

Earlier this week we had a visit from our School Improvement Officer who particularly commented on how universally across the school from Rainbow to Year 6 the learning environment is calm and purposeful, with all learners productive and engaged. She praised the positive behaviour of the children and how the St Denys Way supports everyone to understand and role model excellent behaviour for learning. Well done to all the children and staff on such positive feedback—we are so proud of our whole school community.

We would like to wish you all a relaxing half-term break and look forward to seeing you all on Tuesday 24th February when school re-opens.

Best wishes
Mr. Davies and Mrs. Andrews

School Council Update

Following the success of our Bake Sale, we have been thinking about other ways to raise money to make St Denys even better. Some of the things we were discussing in our latest meeting include:

- What to buy with the money we raised from the Bake Sale—balls, skipping ropes, hoops and other games have now been ordered for the playground
- Organising a Talent Show for everyone in school to join in with and show off their skills & talents
 - Whether we could sell food at the Disco to raise some more money for the school
- That we would like to raise money that could go towards the cost of school trips and residentials to help families who find it harder to pay for these.

We continue to meet every 2 weeks and will let you know when we have some more news / events.

Kids' Half Term Breakfasts

Trago Lounge in Portswood have let us know that they are running their FREE kids' breakfasts again during half term. Between 8-10am from Monday—Friday next week, they will be offering free breakfasts for kids including cereal, fruit, toast, yoghurt and juice as well as small packed lunches to take away. This is open to anyone who needs it.

Wraparound Care Update

You may have seen Mr. D's dojo post about Wraparound care. We are working with an external provider to introduce a paid Wraparound provision at St Denys. We are currently in the final stages (including Ofsted Registration) of planning for this. We expect to have more information for parents in the first week back after half-term and currently plan to have a parent information meeting after school on Monday 3rd March. Keep an eye on Dojo for further updates.

SDSS NEWS

Thank you so much for all the amazing raffle donations received today. Those of you who have been at the school for a while will know that our Easter raffle is always a great event, with hampers of chocolate and other goodies to be won during the last week of term. The raffles will take place between 31st March—4th April. We will share more updates on Dojo nearer the time.

Can you help at our next DISCO?

The next school disco is on Wednesday 12th March 5—6:15pm. If you are able to help with supervision during the disco, please email stdenyspta@gmail.com so we can add you to our group. Once again, thank you for your continued support.

School Year 2025-2026 Term dates

Start of the School Year	INSET DAY – Tuesday 2 nd September 2025
Children return to school	Wednesday 3 rd September 2025
End of Autumn 1 term	Friday 24 th October 2025
October half term holiday	Monday 27 th – Friday 31 st October 2025
Start of Autumn 2 term	Monday 3 rd November 2025
End of Autumn 2 term	Friday 19 th December 2025
Christmas holiday	Monday 22 nd December – Friday 2 nd January 2026
Start of Spring 1 term	Monday 5 th January
End of Spring 1 term	Friday 13 th February 2026
February half term holiday	Monday 16 th – Friday 20 th February 2026
Start of Spring 2 term	Monday 23 rd February 2026
End of Spring 2 term	Friday 27 th March 2026
Easter holiday	Monday 30 th March – Friday 10 th April 2026
Start of Summer 1 term	Monday 13 th April 2026
End of Summer 1 term	Friday 22 nd May 2026
May half term holiday	Monday 25 th – Friday 29 th May 2026
Start of Summer 2 term	Monday 1 st June 2026
Children finish for the Summer holidays	Friday 17 th July 2026
INSET DAYS	Monday 20 th , Tuesday 21 st July 2026
Summer holiday	Wednesday 22 nd July – Monday 31 st August 2026

ATTENDANCE MATTERS

As you know, attendance is a key focus area for us at the moment. If you have any questions or would like to discuss any support for your child's attendance after the letter you received yesterday, please come and talk to your child's class teacher, Mrs. Andrews or Mr. D.

Our target is at least 96% attendance for all pupils. Our current whole school attendance for the year is 93.3% and it was 93.7% over the last 5 days. Well done to Class 3 and Class 4 who won the attendance race last week with whole class attendances of 97%.

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. Thank you for your support in ensuring your child attends school on time every day they should (190 days over the school year).



IMPORTANT DATE REMINDERS

SPRING HALF TERM	Monday 17th—Friday 21st February
SCHOOL CLOSED (INSET DAY)	Monday 24th February
FIRST DAY OF SPRING 2 TERM	Tuesday 25th February
Y4 SWIMMING STARTS (rescheduled)	Tuesday 25th February
Y4 MENTAL HEALTH EMOTIONS WORKSHOPS	Weekly for 4 weeks, starting on Monday 3rd March
PARENT INFORMATION SESSION re: WRAP AROUND CARE	Monday 3rd March (TBC—look our for Dojo updates after half term)
WORLD BOOK DAY (Wear PJs / comfy clothes)	Thursday 6th March
SWIMMING FOR SELECTED Y5/6 CHILDREN	Starts Monday 10th March
Y4 MENTAL HEALTH WORKSHOPS—Me and My Emotions	Weekly for 4 weeks, starting Monday 10th March
SCHOOL DISCO	Wednesday 12th March
Y2 FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE WORKSHOP	Thursday 13th March
Y6 & Y4 MY BNK MONEY WORKSHOPS	Weekly for 3 weeks, starting on Wednesday 19th March
PARENTS' EVENINGS	Tuesday 25th & Wednesday 26th March
iROCK CONCERT (Parents of children doing iRock classes welcome to attend)	10am, Friday 28th March
Y2 and Y6 FIRE SAFETY WORKSHOPS	Friday 28th March
SDSS CHOCOLATE RAFFLE	From 31st March — 4th April
M&M THEATRE PRODUCTION (Oliver Twist)	Thursday 3rd April
EASTER BONNET PARADE & LAST DAY OF SPRING TERM	Friday 4th April Parents welcome to watch 9am
FIRST DAY OF SUMMER TERM	Tuesday 22nd April
Y5 BIKEABILITY	Starts Tuesday 6th May
Y1 MARWELL TRIP	Wednesday 7th May
Y6 SATS WEEK	Monday 12th—Thursday 15th May
SUMMER INSTRUMENTAL CONCERT	Tuesday 20th May
SUMMER HALF TERM	Monday 26th—Friday 30th May
SCHOOL DISCO	Thursday 19th June
Y6 FAIRTHORNE RESIDENTIAL	Tuesday 10th—Friday 13th June
CLASS PHOTOGRAPHS	Monday 23rd June
KS2 VR WORKSHOPS	Friday 27th June
SUMMER FAIR	Friday 4th July
LAST DAY OF SUMMER TERM	Friday 18th July
SCHOOL CLOSED FOR STAFF TRAINING	Monday 24th February, Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd July.
START OF THE AUTUMN 2025 TERM FOR CHILDREN	Wednesday 3rd September 2025