



# St Denys Primary School News Flash



28th January  
2025

Dear Families,

We have had a busy start to the term and the children have come back full of enthusiasm. In our daily walks around the school, we have been really impressed by the learning seen, the children's enjoyment of their time within their lessons and their behaviour around the school. As you know, writing is a focus area for us this year and in Celebration Assembly on Friday we really enjoyed hearing some Year 4 children reading their latest pieces of writing aloud. Across the school, we are seeing children's stamina in writing and their focus on the purpose of each piece of writing developing well.



As you will have seen through our posts on Class Dojo, we have been further developing "Pupil Voice" through the work of the School Council, which is made up of the four House Captains and a member of each class. The School Council meet fortnightly to discuss ideas and suggestions put forward by pupils throughout the school and then make decisions on what to do to improve the school for the pupils who attend. The pupils wanted to have more opportunities at lunchtime and wanted to have more resources and equipment available to be used. They decided that one way to help with this was to raise money to buy some new resources, which led to our very successful Bake Sale last Friday raising over £230. The School Council will meet next week to decide, after reviewing the donations of toys and games from parents, what resources they would like to buy to be used at lunchtimes. These decisions will also involve the use of some of the money raised by the SDSS before Christmas. Thank you very much for your fantastic support of the children and school with the bake sale and your generous donations.

Best wishes

Mr. Davies and Mrs. Andrews

## Year 4 Swimming Update

As Year 4 parents will be aware, we had to postpone the Year 4 swimming lessons that were due to start after Christmas because of a burst pipe at Bitterne Leisure Centre. Swimming lessons will now take place when pupils return after February Half Term, on Tuesday 25th February. Those children in older year groups who have been offered additional swimming lesson will start these on Monday 10th March.



## The Dentist

South Cliff Dental group have availability for children to see the dentist. It is an NHS dentist meaning children do not have to pay. If you are interested, there are some leaflets at the office.



## Wraparound Care Update

Thank you again for your feedback on our last Parents' Survey, especially on the topic of Wraparound Care. We have been working with an external agency and St Denys Church to investigate how, as a partnership, we can offer Wraparound Care for pupils who attend St Denys at a reasonable cost to parents. We very much hope to have some positive news that we can share in the next few weeks.

## SDSS NEWS

SDSS would once again like to thank you for all of your support so far this academic year. We are working with school to buy some new playground equipment for all children to have access to during playtimes. Our next fundraising event will be our **EAST-ER RAFFLE** with a **NON-UNIFORM DAY** in return for donations of chocolates, Easter eggs and children's craft activities. Children can come to school in non-uniform on Friday 14th February in exchange for a small donation (chocolate or craft) for our raffle.

### 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](mailto:stdenyspta@gmail.com) so we can add you to our group. Once again, thank you for your continued support.

## 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

We are working hard to improve our attendance, particularly as we have had so much illness at the end of last term and this half-term as well. If you are unsure whether your child should be in school, there is helpful guidance on the NHS website below:-

### **[Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)**

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 93.3%. 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 school by 8.45 a.m. Children who arrive late miss important learning which can affect both their well being 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.
- 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.

## IMPORTANT DATE REMINDERS

<b>Y6 UoS AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMMES START (your child will receive a letter if invited)</b>	Monday 27th January
<b>Y3 BUTSER FARM TRIP</b>	Thursday 6th February
<b>NSPCC WORKSHOPS (Y6, 5 &amp; 2)</b>	Thursday 13th February
<b>SDSS NON-UNIFORM DAY (Chocolate raffle donations) &amp; LAST DAY OF SPRING 1 TERM</b>	Friday 14th February
<b>SPRING HALF TERM</b>	Monday 17th—Friday 21st February
<b>SCHOOL CLOSED (INSET DAY)</b>	Monday 24th February
<b>FIRST DAY OF SPRING 2 TERM</b>	Tuesday 25th February
<b>Y4 SWIMMING STARTS (rescheduled)</b>	Tuesday 25th February
<b>Y4 MENTAL HEALTH EMOTIONS WORKSHOPS</b>	Weekly for 4 weeks, starting on Monday 3rd March
<b>WORLD BOOK DAY (Wear PJs / comfy clothes)</b>	Thursday 6th March
<b>SCHOOL DISCO</b>	Wednesday 12th March
<b>Y2 FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE WORKSHOP</b>	Thursday 13th March
<b>Y6 &amp; Y4 MY BNK MONEY WORKSHOPS</b>	Weekly for 3 weeks, starting on Wednesday 19th March
<b>PARENTS' EVENINGS</b>	Tuesday 25th & Wednesday 26th March
<b>SDSS CHOCOLATE RAFFLE</b>	From 1st—4th April
<b>M&amp;M THEATRE PRODUCTION</b>	Thursday 3rd April
<b>EASTER BONNET PARADE &amp; LAST DAY OF SPRING TERM</b>	Friday 4th April
<b>FIRST DAY OF SUMMER TERM</b>	Tuesday 22nd April
<b>Y5 BIKEABILITY</b>	Starts Tuesday 6th May
<b>Y1 MARWELL TRIP</b>	Wednesday 7th May
<b>Y6 SATS WEEK</b>	Monday 12th—Thursday 15th May
<b>SUMMER INSTRUMENTAL CONCERT</b>	Tuesday 20th May
<b>SUMMER HALF TERM</b>	Monday 26th—Friday 30th May
<b>SCHOOL DISCO</b>	Thursday 19th June
<b>Y6 FAIRTHORNE RESIDENTIAL</b>	Tuesday 10th—Friday 13th June
<b>CLASS PHOTOGRAPHS</b>	Monday 23rd June
<b>KS2 VR WORKSHOPS</b>	Friday 27th June
<b>SUMMER FAIR</b>	Friday 4th July
<b>LAST DAY OF SUMMER TERM</b>	Friday 18th July
<b>SCHOOL CLOSED FOR STAFF TRAINING</b>	Monday 24th February, Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd July.
<b>START OF THE AUTUMN 2025 TERM FOR CHILDREN</b>	Wednesday 3rd September 2025

# NON UNIFORM



14TH FEBRUARY

IN RETURN FOR DONATIONS  
FOR OUR

*Easter* **RAFFLE**

PLEASE BRING INTO SCHOOL  
ON 14TH FEBRUARY ANY OF  
THESE:

EASTER EGG  
CRAFTS ACTIVITIES  
CHOCOLATE BARS

RAFFLES WILL BE BETWEEN  
31ST MARCH AND 4TH APRIL

