



Derwent Primary School Newsletter



Dear parents and carers,

We have made it to the end of another school year, and what a year it has been.

Firstly, I would like to thank all of you for your continued support, engagement and effort with all that we ask of you. I know we may not always get all decisions right and we won't please everybody all of the time but please know that we always try our best and every single child in the school is at the heart of the decisions we make. Everything we choose to do is for their benefit.

I would secondly like to thank all of the staff. They work tirelessly in whatever role they do in school to ensure the children are safe, are care for, have fun and enjoy their time in school and they are the best team in the world to work alongside. I honestly could not do my job without them, they make my role easier. It is an absolute privilege to work alongside them. They truly deserve all of the thanks and lovely messages they have been receiving from you and a well-earned rest!

Finally, a thank you to the children. They make us proud every day with their spirit, engagement, focus and progress. They make me smile daily and nothing is better than watching them grow and develop over the years in to the wonderful young people they become by the time they get to year 6.

For those children, in year groups other than year 6, who are leaving us today, we wish you so much luck and happiness for your future. We hope you look back on your time at Derwent fondly.

For year 6, I told you all just how much we would miss you both in your leavers' assembly and our final celebration assembly today. You are a wonderful bunch and you have made us so proud both academically, in your amazing SATs results, and in everything else that you have done. Your performance of Robin Hood was outstanding. You are wonderful role models to the younger pupils and have demonstrated exactly what it means to be year 6, the top of the primary school. Good luck in all of your future endeavours – we will miss you! Thank you to all of the parents who also contributed to a great send off with a party, ice-cream van and numerous treats and gifts.

We also have some staff leaving us today so I need to write a few words of thanks about these wonderful human beings also. Mrs Sidoli, our front of house face, has been such a wonderful addition to the school and we are going to miss her smiling face terribly. She is always so bright, welcoming and friendly and we are grateful for everything she has done for us. Mrs Paine, our wonderful Ladybirds' teacher is retiring. She has made such a difference in our pre-school and every year gives the children the best start they could ask for to their schooling. The effort she goes to ensure the children are happy and engaged is unbelievable and we will really miss her. Miss Bell, although not leaving us permanently – she isn't allowed to – she is off on maternity leave from today. We wish her and her family so much joy and happiness with their new addition and can't wait to meet her when she arrives!

Issue No 39:

Friday 17th July 2026

Finally, and this person gets a paragraph all of their own, Mrs Barlow. She has been with us for a little over three years but the impact and difference she has made to this school is immeasurable. We have become an even greater place than we were already and this is down to her guidance and leadership. They are very big shoes to fill but I am so excited, honored and proud to be able to follow on from her and will ensure the school stays every bit as wonderful as it is now.

PTA updates:

A Message from Your PTA

As another fantastic school year comes to an end, we'd like to take a moment to thank everyone who has supported the PTA. Whether you've attended an event, volunteered your time, donated prizes, bought raffle tickets or simply enjoyed an ice lolly at one of our sales, every contribution has helped make a real difference to the children at Derwent.

Over the past three academic years, together we have raised an incredible **£16,279.41** (after event expenses). Of that, **£15,698.54** has been invested directly back into enriching school life for our pupils.

Academic Year	Funds Raised (After Expenditure)	Invested in Pupil Enrichment
2023/24	£5,652.98	£4,720.31
2024/25	£5,156.53	£4,490.72
2025/26	£5,623.04	£6,487.51
Total	£16,432.55	£15,698.54

We've recently met with Mrs Rimmer to explore further opportunities for the PTA to enhance and enrich the experiences of pupils across the school. We'll continue to work closely with her over the summer holidays and into September to identify priorities and confirm how the PTA can best support the school in the coming year. Thanks to your generosity, we've been able to fund a wide range of projects and experiences, including:

- New playground equipment
- An exciting dinosaur visit that brought learning to life
- Christmas gifts and Easter eggs for all the children
- Christmas pantomimes for all students to watch
- Compost for the Gardening Club.
- Classroom fans to keep pupils comfortable during warmer weather
- Playground shades to provide shelter from the sun
- New playground markings to encourage active play
- Goal posts, netball nets and bibs to support sport and physical activity
- New books for the school library
- ...and so much more.

Seeing the enjoyment these opportunities bring to the children makes every event, meeting and fundraising challenge worthwhile. None of it would have been possible without the support of our wonderful families, dedicated staff, generous local businesses and our fantastic team of volunteers. Thank you for helping us create experiences and memories that will stay with our children for years to come.

As some of you may know, this year we've been co-chairing the PTA while also continuing in our roles as Secretary and Treasurer. After much thought, we've decided that the time is right for us to step down from these committee roles in September. While we're handing over these responsibilities, we won't be going far! We'll remain active members of the PTA and will be on hand to support those taking on these roles, helping to ensure a smooth transition and continuing to support the fantastic work of the PTA.

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It has been a privilege to be part of the PTA, and we're incredibly proud of everything we've achieved together.

The PTA is always looking for new volunteers, and we'd love to see some new faces join this wonderful team. Whether you can spare a few hours at an event, help behind the scenes or would be interested in taking on a committee role, every contribution makes a real difference.

If you'd like to find out more about getting involved, please email us at pta@derwentschool.co.uk. We'd love to hear from you and help you discover just how rewarding being part of the PTA can be.

Thank you once again for all your support.

Emily & Corinne

On behalf of the whole of Derwent Primary School, we want to extend our thanks to both Emily and Corinne for the amazing job they have done. Giving up so much time and energy to raise money for the school to ensure all children benefit – they really have been amazing. I am glad they are not leaving the PTA completely and can help support the new team to follow on in their footsteps.





Word of the Week for the week:

For EYFS:

plants

Culmination refers to the final, often climactic end point or result of a process, development, or long period of work. It represents the highest or crowning achievement of an endeavour.

The culmination of a year's hard work.

For KS 1 and KS 2:

what are other words for culmination?

climax, apogee, pinnacle, peak, completion, acme, summit, apex, zenith, consummation



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Sign of the Week:



Have a wonderful summer with your families and we will see you back here on Monday 7th September.

mine

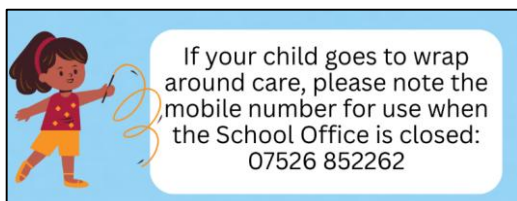
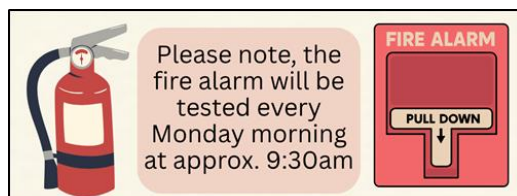
Mrs Rimmer Head of School and the leadership team.



Star Awards

Ladybirds: Arthur
Caterpillars: Whole Class
Hedgehogs: Whole Class
Squirrels: Tommy
Rabbits: Whole Class
Hares: Whole Class
Owls: Wilfred
Ravens: Ronnie
Mice: River-Mae
Voles: Whole Class
Foxes: Olivia-Rose
Wildcats: Whole Class
Harriers: Lyra
Kestrels: Whole Class
Eagles: Whole Class
Hawks: Lilia

Certificates will go home with the children today



Derwent and Southill Academic Calendar 2025/2026

School Holiday

Bank Holiday

Pupil Day

Training Day

September 2025

Mon18152229

Tue29162330

Wed3101724

Thu4111825

Fri5121926

Sat6132027

Sun7142128

October 2025

Mon5132027

Tue6142128

Wed7152229

Thu29162330

Fri30172431

Sat10172431

Sun111825

November 2025

Mon3101724

Tue4111825

Wed5121926

Thu6132027

Fri7142128

Sat11182529

Sun29162330

December 2025

Mon18152229

Tue29162330

Wed310172431

Thu4111825

Fri5121926

Sat6132027

Sun7142128

January 2026

Mon18121926

Tue6132027

Wed7142128

Thu8152229

Fri29162330

Sat10172431

Sun111825

February 2026

Mon291623

Tue3101724

Wed4111825

Thu5121926

Fri6132027

Sat7142128

Sun181522

March 2026

Mon29162330

Tue310172431

Wed4111825

Thu5121926

Fri6132027

Sat7142128

Sun18152229

April 2026

Mon6132027

Tue7142128

Wed8152229

Thu29162330

Fri5121926

Sat6132027

Sun7142128

May 2026

Mon4111825

Tue5121926

Wed6132027

Thu7142128

Fri18152229

Sat29162330

Sun301724

June 2026

Mon18152229

Tue29162330

Wed3101724

Thu4111825

Fri5121926

Sat6132027

Sun7142128

July 2026

Mon6132027

Tue7142128

Wed8152229

Thu29162330

Fri30172431

Sat4111825

Sun121926

August 2026

Mon310172431

Tue4111825

Wed5121926

Thu6132027

Fri7142128

Sat18152229

Sun19162330

Term 1 - 75 days, Term 2 - 90 days, Term 3 - 85 days, Term 4 - 85 days.
Pupil contact will amount to 100 of the 185 days. School will be closed on 5 of the 185 days. In accordance with Teachers' Conditions of Service, five days will be used to enable teacher training to take place.
Training days set are as follows: 1st September 2025, 2nd September 2025, 9th January 2026 and 13th April 2026. Training day 5 will be made up of several twilight sessions determined by individual schools.



Derwent Primary School Safeguarding

safeguarding@derwentschool.co.uk

Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Samantha Barlow

Deputy Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Tenille Rimmer, Mrs Chloe Bell, Mrs Sonya Read, Miss Hayley Kell and Mr Callum Masterson

Safeguarding Governor: W.O. Sarah Tuckwell

Do you have any safeguarding concerns regarding a child? If so, please feel free to contact any of the above in confidence via the email address at the top. This email is accessible by the above members of staff only.



**STRICTLY NO SMOKING
OR VAPING ON
SCHOOL GROUNDS
THIS INCLUDES THE
CAR PARK**



Dates for your diary **Please check here regularly for added dates throughout the year**

Dates for your 2025/26 diary

September

3rd September – Inset Day

4th September – Inset Day

7th September – All Children back to school

Why not look at the full calendar on the school website (<https://www.derwentschool.co.uk/Calendar/>). Here you will find what we have planned for the 2026/2027 Academic Year.

Please read

Wrap Around Care and Pre-school sessions 2026/27

Please note that bookings will go live for you to book any wrap around care sessions and pre-school lunch/chargeable sessions from midnight on the 1st September 2026.

Any existing bookings for 2025/26 **will NOT** roll over from September so please ensure that you have booked your child in for their sessions.

If you are going to be paying with childcare vouchers, please let Mrs Fowler know (wac@derwentschool.co.uk) ASAP so that she is able to set your account to 'pay with vouchers'.

If you have any difficulty in booking your sessions or logging in to Arbor, please email wac@derwentschool.co.uk and we will respond to your email upon our return to the office on the 3rd and 4th September.

Please see attached to this dojo a reminder of the WAC terms and conditions for your information along with the Arbor quick guide to booking sessions which you might find useful. This information can also be found on our school website <https://www.derwentlower.org.uk/Parents/After-School-Club/>

Please can we also reiterate that your Arbor account should always be in credit and not in arrears. If your account is in arrears, you may risk your sessions being cancelled.

There have also been improvements made to card payments in Arbor. You will now be able to enter and save your card details and pay by Apple or Google Pay on your desktop.

Vacancies at Derwent

We are advertising for a Clerk and Admin Assistant to join our team from September 2026. Please see links below to the vacancies should you or anyone you know be interested in applying for the positions.

Clerk link - <https://mynewterm.com/jobs/109457/EDV-2026-DPS-71793>

Admin Assistant job - <https://mynewterm.com/jobs/109457/EDV-2026-DPS-86869>



Summer 2026 Football Camps
By 4 Corner Coaching

FUN **FRIENDS** **FOOTBALL**

Venue: **Sandy Sports Centre (Astro) SG19 1BL**

Week 1 Tues 21st & Thurs 23rd July
Week 2 Tues 28th & Thurs 30th July
Week 3 Tues 4th & Thurs 6th Aug
Week 4 Tues 11th & Thurs 13th Aug

Costs £20 per person per session. Ages 5 - 14

UEFA B coaches – Youth Award Level 3 - Enhanced DBS
Safeguarding – BFAS (Basic First Aid for Sport)
Contact: **Mark** - 07419764033 mark@4cornercoaching.co.uk
Natasha - 07957980492 natasha@4cornercoaching.co.uk

www.4cornercoaching.co.uk

GIGGS & Company



Barnwell Music

music Summer Camp

Only £6.50 p/h 20-24 JULY

For Ages 5+

Exciting Activities Include
Musical Theatre, Percussion, Songwriting, band practice, dance and many more!

REGISTER NOW:
Email: admin@barnwellmusic.co.uk
Phone: 07736 901549



SHOWSTOPPERS PRESENTS MUSICAL THEATRE CLUB

SEPTEMBER – DECEMBER 2026 THURSDAYS 3:30PM – 4:30PM ALL AGES WELCOME

Join us for a fun-filled term of singing, dancing, acting and musical theatre magic!

BUILD CONFIDENCE **LEARN SONGS FROM YOUR FAVOURITE MUSICALS** **EXPLORE CHOREOGRAPHY AND PERFORMANCE SKILLS** **MAKE NEW FRIENDS** **AND HAVE LOTS OF FUN!**

HOW TO BOOK:
<https://www.dinisshowstoppers.com/>
Spaces are limited, so book early to secure your place!



Blues Foundation MULTISPORT 4 DAY CAMP

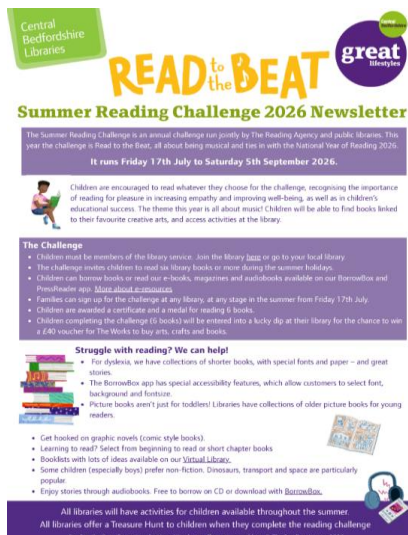
JOIN US FOR SUMMER ACTIVITIES & SPORTS!

Dates & Locations:
Flitwick Football Club
• Monday 10th August - Thursday 13th August
• Monday 17th August - Thursday 20th August
• Monday 24th August - Thursday 27th August
The Sports Hall Sandy
• Monday 17th August - Thursday 20th August
• Monday 24th August - Thursday 27th August

Drop off time: 10am
Pick up time: 3pm
Ages: 6 - 12 years old
Cost: £15 per day, or **FREE** if you qualify for Free School Meals.
FREE child's ticket to watch Bedford Blues for all participants!
Hot food options for attendees (pre book only)

SCAN TO BOOK

Book now: www.bluesfoundation.org.uk/holiday-provision



Central Bedfordshire Libraries READ to BEAT great libraries

Summer Reading Challenge 2026 Newsletter

The Summer Reading Challenge is an annual challenge run jointly by The Reading Agency and public libraries. This year the challenge is Read to Beat, all about being musical and ties in with the National Year of Reading 2026. It runs Friday 17th July to Saturday 5th September 2026.

Children are encouraged to read whatever they choose for the challenge, recognising the importance of reading for pleasure in increasing empathy and improving well-being, as well as in children's educational success. The theme this year is all about music! Children will be able to find books linked to their favourite creative arts, and across activities at the library.

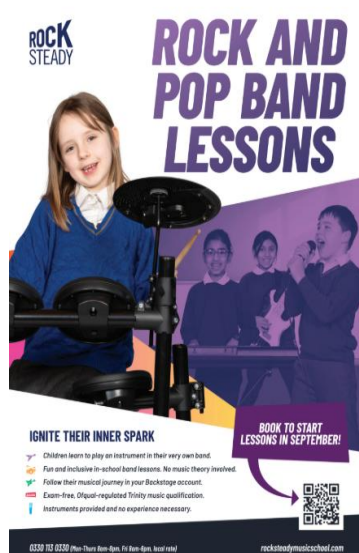
The Challenge

- Children must be members of the library service. Join the library tag or go to your local library.
- The challenge invites children to read as many books as they like during the summer holidays.
- Children can borrow books or read our e-books, magazines and audiobooks available on our Borrowbox and PrimeReaders apps. More about e-resources.
- Families can sign up for the challenge at any library, at any stage in the summer from Friday 17th July.
- Children are awarded a certificate and a medal for reading 6 books.
- Children completing the challenge (6 books) will be entered into a lucky dip at their library for the chance to win a £40 voucher for The Works to buy arts, crafts and books.

Struggle with reading? We can help!

- For dyslexia, we have collections of shorter books, with special fonts and paper – and great stories.
- The Borrowbox app has special accessibility features, which allow customers to select font, background and font size.
- Picture books aren't just for toddlers! Libraries have collections of older picture books for young readers.
- Get hooked on graphic novels (comic style books).
- Learning to read? Select from beginning to read or short chapter books.
- Books with lots of ideas available on our Digital Library.
- Some children (especially boys) prefer non-fiction. Dinosaurs, transport and space are particularly popular.
- Enjoy stories through audiobooks. Free to borrow on CD or download with Borrowbox.

All libraries will have activities for children available throughout the summer. All libraries offer a Treasure Hunt to children when they complete the reading challenge. Read to Beat is available in all libraries. Libraries and how to find them: www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/libraries



ROCK STEADY ROCK AND POP BAND LESSONS

IGNITE THEIR INNER SPARK

Children learn to play an instrument in their very own band. Fun and inclusive in-school band lessons. No music theory involved. Follow their musical journey in your Rocksteady account. Exam-free, Ofqual-regulated Trinity music qualification. Instruments provided and no experience necessary.

BOOK TO START LESSONS IN SEPTEMBER!

0530 152 0530 (Mon-Thurs 9am-5pm, Fri 9am-5pm, Sat 10am-12pm)

rocksteadymusicschool.com



LEARN TO PLAY MUSIC IN A BAND THAT'S FOR EVERYONE.

Choose from: Drums, guitar, bass, keyboard or vocals.

Inclusive and hassle-free! Takes place in school. Instruments provided and no experience necessary!

Have fun and learn by playing Children work their way through a curriculum of up to 300 musical skills.

Taught by professional musicians Rocksteady band leaders are highly trained musicians who make learning music fun.

Progress at their own pace Your child can achieve an exam-free, Ofqual-regulated Trinity music qualification!

End every term on a high note Watch your child shine as they perform in their end of term concerts.

98% of parents say their child loves or enjoys their Rocksteady lessons (ages 6-12 years)

"Rocksteady has given Campbell a true love of music. It has improved his life dramatically!" Georgia

92% of Rocksteady music reports greater confidence and self-belief (ages 6-12 years)

For details on availability and cost, visit rocksteadymusicschool.com and find your school on the sign up page. Money back guarantee for the first month. No payment is August. Cancel at any time.

BOOK YOUR CHILD'S PLACE ONLINE! 0530 152 0530 (Mon-Thurs 9am-5pm, Fri 9am-5pm, Sat 10am-12pm) info@rocksteadymusicschool.com



Barnwell Music Community Music Education

SCHOOL MUSIC LESSONS 2026

INSTRUMENTS

Piano
Guitar (acoustic, electric & bass)
Singing
Violin

1:1, 2:1 and Group* lessons available

For more information and to enrol:
<https://forms.office.com/e/tkjpFMEKjn>
or contact
admin@communitymusiceducation.co.uk



Free Summer fun Ball Games and Bubbles

FREE afternoon of fun for children of all ages.

- Tennis
- Boules
- Football
- Basketball
- Giant bubbles
- Colouring
- Refreshments

Date: WEDNESDAY 5 AUGUST Time: 13:00 TO 15:00 Location: STONDON RECREATION GROUP



READ to BEAT

Help Your Child Discover the Joy of Reading This Summer!

This summer, give your child the chance to fall in love with reading! The Summer Reading Challenge, created by The Reading Agency and delivered in partnership with public libraries, is a FREE, fun-packed way to keep kids reading and learning all summer long.

This year's theme, **Read to Beat**, is powered by Universal Music Group UK. The Challenge will celebrate the joy of music and the power it has to move, inspire, and connect us – all through the magic of reading. The Challenge is being brought to life with illustrations by award-winning author and illustrator, Harry Woodgate.

Why join?

- It's FREE! Available at local libraries and online
- Inspires a lifelong love of reading
- Boosts confidence, creativity, and imagination
- Earn rewards, certificates, and prizes
- Fun for the whole family. Visit your local library together
- 95% of children said they read more after joining!
- Children choose their own books to read, collect rewards over the summer and receive a certificate or medal when they complete the challenge.

Visit your local library or go online at summerreadingchallenge.org.uk to get started from 17th July until 5th September