



Derwent Primary School Newsletter

Our value for May is:
Thoughtfulness

Dear Parents and Carers,

Another busy but fantastic week here at Derwent. Pupils have been outside enjoying the weather and making the most of the sunshine. The gardening club are doing a fantastic job getting all of their plants sown and fruits and vegetables started- many thanks for the donations of these that have been received. We have had a military awareness assembly on Monday with invited guests to speak to the children – a huge thank you to the people involved in making this happen, KS 1 had a visit from the police to link in with their topics in PSHCE of people who help us, ongoing swimming for year 4, external music teachers preparing for an end of year show and our wonderful celebration assembly to end the week.

Some staffing update for you:

Mrs Adu (Hedgehogs class teacher) will be leaving us on Friday 15th May to have her second baby. Miss Fisher (who currently works Monday – Wednesday) will now also work a Thursday and we welcome back Mrs Gill to teach Hedgehogs on a Friday. Many of you will remember Mrs Gill from teaching in Reception last year.

We welcome Mrs Laddin to the reception team and Miss Whitten to the midday supervisor team.



Issue No 29:

Friday 1st May 2026



School Calendar :

Keep an eye out on the Dojo calendar for updates on school and PTA events in the future. We have recently sent out dates for sports events and end of year performances to parents.

Word of the Week for the week:

For EYFS:

Route

For KS 1 and KS 2:

Maypole (noun)

A maypole is a tall wooden pole decorated with flowers and ribbons, around which people dance to celebrate May Day (May 1) or spring festivals.



Sign of the Week:



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Other key bits of information

- Please ensure pupils have the correct school uniform and PE kit. We do have quite a stock of second hand uniform if required – please ask at the school office about this.
- Please remember summer uniform is now permitted. This can be the usual school skirts / trousers or shorts with a white polo shirt or the yellow gingham dress / skirt / shorts.
- Please do remember water bottles. Please ensure all are labelled.
- Please ensure you speak to a member of staff if you have concerns and do not address these yourself with children or parents on the school playground. This can lead to conflict and unnecessary responses. We are here to help.
- School lunches continue to be provided by AIP. Please use the school Food United app to order all meals by 8am on the day otherwise the meal of jacket potato and beans will be served.
- Please ensure you have booked and paid for all WAC sessions, Pre-School lunch sessions and chargeable sessions via Arbor in advance.

As always, if you have any concerns, questions or issues, please do contact the office or SLT.

Have a lovely long weekend!

Rimmer

Mrs Rimmer Head of School and the leadership team.



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.



Star Awards

Ladybirds: Alfie

Caterpillars: Harry

Hedgehogs: Zeke

Squirrels: Sonny

Rabbits: Quinn

Hares: Freddie

Owls: Eddie

Ravens: Georgia

Mice: Ariella

Voles: Emilia

Foxes: Lila

Wildcats: Elizabeth

Harriers: Ava

Kestrels: Harrison

Eagles: Melody

Hawks: Amelia

Certificates will go home with the children today



Please note, the fire alarm will be tested every Monday morning at approx. 9:30am





If your child goes to wrap around care, please note the mobile number for use when the School Office is closed:
07526 852262

Derwent and Southill Academic Calendar 2025/2026

School Holiday

Bank Holiday

Pupil Day

Training Day




September 2025			October 2025			November 2025			December 2025							
Mon	1	8	15	22	29	Mon	6	13	20	27	Mon	1	8	15	22	29
Tue	2	9	16	23	30	Tue	7	14	21	28	Tue	2	9	16	23	30
Wed	3	10	17	24		Wed	8	15	22	29	Wed	3	10	17	24	31
Thu	4	11	18	25		Thu	9	16	23	30	Thu	4	11	18	25	
Fri	5	12	19	26		Fri	10	17	24	31	Fri	5	12	19	26	
Sat	6	13	20	27		Sat	11	18	25		Sat	6	13	20	27	
Sun	7	14	21	28		Sun	12	19	26		Sun	7	14	21	28	

January 2026			February 2026			March 2026			April 2026					
Mon	5	12	19	26	Mon	2	9	16	23	Mon	6	13	20	27
Tue	6	13	20	27	Tue	3	10	17	24	Tue	7	14	21	28
Wed	7	14	21	28	Wed	4	11	18	25	Wed	1	8	15	22
Thu	8	15	22	29	Thu	5	12	19	26	Thu	2	9	16	23
Fri	9	16	23	30	Fri	6	13	20	27	Fri	3	10	17	24
Sat	10	17	24	31	Sat	7	14	21	28	Sat	4	11	18	25
Sun	11	18	25		Sun	8	15	22	29	Sun	5	12	19	26

May 2026			June 2026			July 2026			August 2026						
Mon	4	11	18	25	Mon	1	8	15	22	Mon	3	10	17	24	31
Tue	5	12	19	26	Tue	2	9	16	23	Tue	4	11	18	25	
Wed	6	13	20	27	Wed	3	10	17	24	Wed	5	12	19	26	
Thu	7	14	21	28	Thu	4	11	18	25	Thu	6	13	20	27	
Fri	8	15	22	29	Fri	5	12	19	26	Fri	7	14	21	28	
Sat	9	16	23	30	Sat	6	13	20	27	Sat	1	8	15	22	29
Sun	10	17	24	31	Sun	7	14	21	28	Sun	2	9	16	23	30

Term 1 - 75 days, Term 2 - 85 days, Term 3 - 85 days, = 195.
 Pupil contact will amount to 180 of the 195 days. Schools will be closed on 5 of the 195 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, 1st January 2026 and 12th April 2026. Training day 5 will be made up of several twilight sessions determined by individual schools.



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



Lunchtime Clubs.



Day	Club	Staff member and room.
Monday		
Tuesday	Games club/ Homework 12:15 - 12: 45pm	Miss Kell/ Miss Manaher - Ravens room.
Wednesday	Games/ Homework Club 12:15 - 12:45pm School Council 12:35 - 12:55pm KS2 Gardening Club - 12:30 - 1:00pm. TT Rockstars club- LKS2 12:50 - 1:15pm	Miss Kell/Mr Summers- Ravens room. Mrs Kumar - Rabbits Classroom. Mrs Amner. Mr Masterson - Mice Classroom.
Thursday	Purple fun club - invite only (Open at breaktime) Games club/ Homework 12:15 - 12:45pm UKS2 Origami Club from 12:15pm	Miss Kell & Mrs Jassova - In the Library. Miss Kell/ Mrs Bavington - Ravens room. Mrs Goward, Kestrels Classroom.
Friday	TT Rockstars club- UKS2 12:15 - 12:30pm KS1 Gardening club - 10:15 - 10:35am.	Mr Masterson - Hawks Classroom. Mrs Amner.

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

Dates for your 2025/26 diary

May

4th May – Bank Holiday

5th May – All Children Back to School

8th May – Yr 3&4 Bikeability

15th May – Yr 3 Sharing Assembly (Mice)

18th-22nd May – Central Beds Walk to School Week

20th May – Yr 6 Parents Residential Information Meeting

20th May – Yr R Shuttleworth Trip

22nd May – Pyjamarama Day (Wear Pyjama's to school day)

25th May – Bank Holiday

25th – 29th May – Half Term

June

1st June – All Children back to school

4th June – Yr 1 Trip Standalone Farm

17th June – Yr 5 British Schools Museum Trip

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 2025/2026 Academic Year.

Please read

Arbor

Dear Parents and Carers,

This is a gentle reminder to please ensure that you have booked and paid for your child's wrap around care and pre-school lunch sessions for May 2026. If you are booking these on a monthly basis, please ensure you are thinking ahead to the next upcoming month and pre-booking with plenty of notice.

Please also note that your Arbor account balance should always be in credit – payments are to be made up front and not paid in arrears.

Uniform Shop

Please see the link for our new uniform shop: <https://derwent-school-uniform.sumupstore.com/>

Break time Snacks

A gentle reminder that any snacks brought to school for break time need to be a healthy choice as per our food policy. Please see below the snack section from the policy:

Snacks:

- Children from Pre-School to year 2 are supplied with a healthy snack at break time, free of charge.
- All pupils are welcome to bring a healthy snack from home for their break, for example a piece of fruit, vegetable portion or healthy bar.

Please note that crisps, chocolate bars etc, are not to be consumed at break time. **Also a reminder to all parents that we are a nut free school. This means no nuts or nut products are allowed in school. We respectfully ask for all parents' co-operation with this.**

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Morning drop off and afternoon pick up – reminder of times

Just a gentle reminder to please ensure that you are dropping your children at school on time.

Pre-school drop off is 8.50am and for children in Reception to Year 6 it is 8.40am.

We are seeing an increase in the number of children being dropped off much later than these times and on many occasions past 9am. We understand if there can sometimes be road closures, or traffic but this isn't the case every day.

8:30am	Gates open
8:40am	Bell on main playground rung and Reception - Year 6 children go to class. Reception - Year 6 wrap around care children go to class
8:50am	Pre-School children go to class Pre-School wrap around care children go to class
8:50am onwards	Late arrivals are to report to the main office to be signed in and taken to class
9:00am	Gates locked. Late arrivals are to report to the main office to be signed in and taken to class.

The office team is often disrupted from important tasks such as completing the school registers when they are having to take children who arrive late to their classroom.

We also request prompt collection at the end of the day at 3.20pm for pre-school and 3.30pm for children in Reception to Year 6.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Vacancies at Derwent

We are advertising for a Teaching Assistant to join our team from September 2026. Please see link below to the vacancy should you or anyone you know be interested in applying for the position.

Teaching Assistant link – <https://mynewterm.com/jobs/109457/EDV-2026-DPS-76259>