



Diocese of Norwich
Education and
Academies Trust

Dereham
Church Of England
Junior Academy

25.03.2024

Whole School Newsletter—Spring Term 2

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we approach the end of another busy term, I want to take the opportunity to say how proud we are of all our pupils. We have seen our school values being demonstrated widely across the school this term and it has been great to see the progress our children are making in their learning.

We have also seen children represent the school at a range of sporting events, showing great sportsmanship and teamwork and really enjoying competing against other schools.

Our school council have been busy this term and have organised a 'Crazy Hair' day to raise money for the Princess Trust, where we raised £211 for the charity alongside supporting Comic Relief with a non uniform day where a further £236 was raised. They are now looking at installing a 'buddy bench' to the playground to support children who would like to find new friends to play with at break and lunchtime. They will update you with more information soon!

We have also seen the launch of our Eco Club, being led by Mrs Birchenall and Mrs Kendall, which the children are enjoying.

Last week, the Bishop of Norwich visited the school to open our 'Good Shepherd's Garden' a project to create a calm, tranquil reflective space for children and staff to use during the day. Alongside the work of contractors for the hard landscaping and installation of fences and seating, there has been a very hardworking team of staff, who over the past 18 months have given up hours of their own time to plant up and grow the garden—the result is amazing. The classes have all been to visit and this will be open at break and lunchtimes from this week for all to enjoy.

Diary dates for next term have been sent out and can also be found on our website under 'News, Events and Letters' then 'Events Calendar'. Please do look at this regularly as it is kept up to date with anything happening at the school. On our website there is a wealth of information, including information about what the children are learning. Do have a look to find out more.

School Uniform—Reminder and thanks!

A **big thanks** to those families who donate items of school uniform for us to pass on to other children. If you find your child needs a new school jumper etc and you are struggling to afford a new one, **please let us know** as hopefully we will have something to fit. We do currently have more of the smaller sized items, so any larger sizes of school jumpers, skirts and trousers would be very much appreciated.

We know that the cost of living is taking it's toll on many families, which is why we have a clear and very simple uniform policy. We do allow trainers to be worn (or school shoes of course) but they **MUST** be completely black. Lately we have seen a number of children wearing a range of footwear (often very expensive items). A reminder too, that for PE clothing must be plain and we shouldn't see different coloured t shirts or football kits. Many thanks for your continued support.

Attendance

Currently, our attendance for the school sits at 94.9% which is well below our 97% target. Please remember how important it is that children attend school regularly and on time. On the plus side, we were super proud to award 214 bronze badges (for the children with 97% or higher attendance) for the Autumn term and look forward to seeing how many children gain their bronze or silver badge at the end of this week!



Governors 2023-2024

Our Local Governing Body continue to meet each half term to discuss progress we are making in achieving our school improvement objectives for the year, alongside other school related matters. Having had a parent governor vacancy for at least the past 18 months, I am really pleased to inform you that we have just appointed Ms Kirsty Jonas as a parent governor for our school.

We also said goodbye to Mr Dave Brook, who was a Trust appointed Governor at the end of the half term due to increased work commitments.

Friends of Dereham Junior

Our 'Friends of Dereham Junior' have been simply amazing this school year and have worked tirelessly to organise and run fund raising events to support the extras in school that we can not fund through our school budget. Already they have supported us through providing additional bulbs for our Good Shepherd Garden, funding the bulk of the Y6 Leaver's Hoodies, meaning we only have to ask parents and carers for a very small donation, funding our Magic Maths morning and providing individual art sets for our children to be able to use in school to support their art lessons.

School discos have been enjoyed in both the Autumn and Spring terms, as well as 2 very successful bingo nights—the most recent being a chocolate bingo, which the children and adults really enjoyed. A big thanks to all who donated to this event. The hampers were fabulous and those who won were very happy with their chocolate treasure!

Although we still have a small committee group, parents offering help and support at individual events is slowly growing too. Please do follow their Facebook page to keep up to date with all that is happening, and if you can support events, in any way, it would be very much appreciated.

Contact Details—Keep us updated!

If you change any of your contact details, such as your address or telephone numbers, please can we ask that you ensure you inform the school of these changes directly. It is essential that the numbers and contact information we have for you is up to date, so we are able to make contact in the event of an emergency.

End of term awards

This week we have celebrated successes of the term. Included in our end of term assembly were awards (one per class) for the pupil who stood out as having shown excellent effort and progress over the term, as well as a values award, given to someone from the class who lives out our school values in their words and actions in school. A huge well done to the following children:

Effort and Progress Awards

Year 3: Emily P, Luna K, Megan S

Year 4: Malakai W, Frankie I, Oliver M, Alice H

Year 5: Laila W, Lily S, Ava D, Liliana W

Year 6: Ava A, Charlie S, Grace A, Molly C-F

Values Award

Year 3: Rocco B, Ruby-May, Oscar B

Year 4: Esther B, Grace M, Eloise B, Rosie G

Year 5: Jacob B, Amber-May, Jensen H, Ashely W

Year 6: Jacob B, Ellen R, Esmae F, TJ L