Issue No 10:
Friday 20th November 2026

Derwent Primary School Newsletter

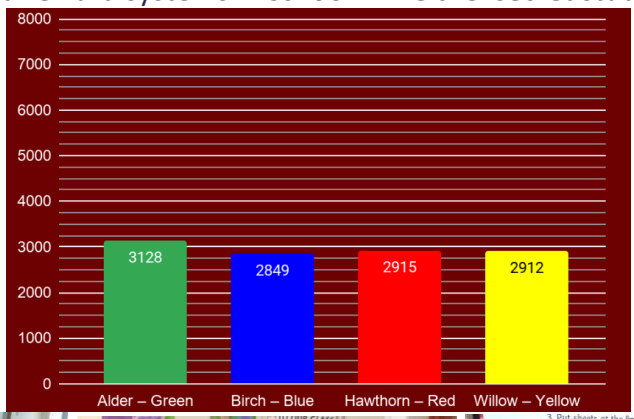
Our value for November is: Respect

Dear parents and carers,
This has been a tough week in school with a high number of staff and pupil absence due to a horrid bug. It seems this is common in the local area having spoken to many other Headteachers locally. Hopefully things will improve next week and everyone is making a recovery.
A reminder that over the next two weeks we are taking part in the Santa Challenge by CBC initiative to encourage sustainable ways of getting to school. All of the distances that children walk, scoot, bike etc. are logged to see if we can make the journey from our school to Lapland by 4th December. There is also the prize of a new scooter up for grabs!
On Monday, KS2 were visited by the Rocksteady band who led a very loud, very fun concert assembly for them. The children were excited by the experience – especially when some members of staff were invited up to join the band on stage and take part!
On Wednesday, Miss Kell arranged our first coffee afternoon for the year where professionals from Autism Beds and SNAP came to meet with parents. Please do look out for information about the next planned event. Thank you to Miss Kell for organising this.
It looks like the final total for Children in Need last week was a huge £8366.20. This went up by over £400 overnight on the Friday. A massive thank you again to all of you for supporting this and of course, to Miss Peek, for her hard work and enthusiasm in planning the event. Medals for those children who were sponsored should be delivered to school at some point but we do not have a date for this yet.
From next week onwards, we start the Christmas sharing assemblies – please do ensure you have the relevant dates in your diary for these. They are all on the Dojo calendar with updated times etc.
A reminder / plea to ensure that if someone different is collecting your child then at the very least they need to have the password ready – we will not release children to people unknown without this. It would be really helpful, if you could let the office or class teachers know if someone else is collecting just so they are prepared but I do know this may not always be possible.
Just one final thing to note is that I next week, on Wednesday, have to go and have a minor procedure done which means I will be off work for around the next 2 weeks. Please do contact the Senior Leadership Team if needed for any concerns or questions during this period. Please do also refer to our communications and complaints policies where the first stage of any queries or concerns is the class teacher.
Senior Team reminders:

- Sonya Read - Headteacher at Southill Lower and Federation lead for Early Years
- Callum Masterson – Assistant Headteacher and Lower Key Stage 2 Phase Lead
- Hayley Kell – Pastoral Lead, Family Engagement Worker and Upper Key Stage 2 Phase Lead
- Jade Fisher – Early Years Lead Derwent
- Trish Bavington – KS 1 Phase Lead

House Points:
You may have heard from the children that we have started to 'up' the profile of our houses in school. Historically they have been to organise sports day events, but we have decided to raise the profiles and do our own version of Hogwarts. Very soon we will be appointing House Captains for year 2 and year 6 to lead their houses to victory each half term as House Point winners. We are converting Dojos into points and each

week in assembly, we share the running totals which the children get so excited about. This is another incentive to raise positivity and reward systems in school – like the 'secret student' initiative.









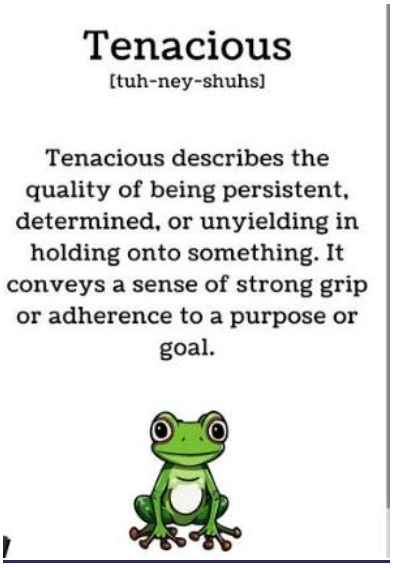
Word of the Week for the week:

For EYFS:

Transport

For KS 1 and KS 2:

Tenacious (adjective)
Definition: meaning determined, persistent, or holding tightly onto something without giving up



Issue No 10:
Friday 20th November 2026

Sign of the Week:



School Uniform Reminders:

A reminder of the link to purchase school uniform from the school:
https://derwentsouthilluniform.co.uk/

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 coats now the weather is starting to get colder and hats and gloves etc– please ensure all are named.**
- **Please do remember water bottles. Please ensure all are labelled.**
- **School lunches continue to be provided by AIP. Please use the school Food United app to order all meals by 8 am 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 great weekend!

Mrs Rimmer, Headteacher and the leadership team.

Issue No 10:
Friday 20th November 2026

Derwent Primary School Safeguarding
safeguarding@derwentschool.co.uk

Safeguarding Lead: Mrs Tenille Rimmer
Deputy Safeguarding Lead: 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.



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

Dates for your 2026/27 diary

Monday 23rd – 4th December – Santa Challenge
Friday 27th November - Year 2 Christmas Show

December

Tuesday 1st December - Year 3 Carol Concert at RAF Church
Wednesday 2nd December - Doctor Dolittle Panto KS1 & 2
Thursday 3rd December – Preschool Christmas Songs
Friday 4th December – Year 1 Christmas Show
Tuesday 8th December – Reception Christmas Performance
Tuesday 8th December – Year 2 Enrichment Day
Wednesday 9th December – Rocksteady Christmas Performance
Wednesday 9th December – Year 4 Christmas Performance
Thursday 10th December – Year 6 Christmas Performance (Hawks)
Thursday 10th December – PTA Christmas Sale
Thursday 11th December – Year 6 Christmas Performance (Eagles)
Wednesday 16th December – Year 5 Christmas Performance
Wednesday 16th December – Christmas Jumper/Dinner Day
Wednesday 16th December – Year 6 SATs Evening
Thursday 17th December – Santa and Elf Visit

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.

Issue No 10:
Friday 20th November 2026

Headteacher Award

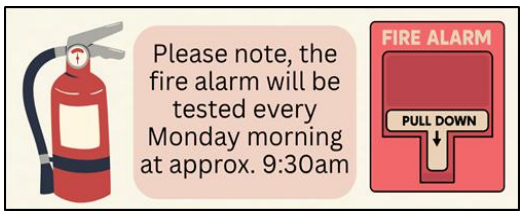
Ladybirds: Alfie
Caterpillars: Felicity
Hedgehogs: George
Squirrels: Evan
Rabbits: Dotty
Hares: Viktor
Owls: Victoria
Ravens: Ariana
Mice: Orla
Voles: Elliot
Foxes: Vihana
Wildcats: Ahmad
Harriers: Elizabeth
Kestrels: Egypt
Eagles: Lyra
Hawks: Connor

Certificates will go home with the children today









Issue No 10:
Friday 20th November 2026

Please read

School lunches

Please kindly ensure that if you have chosen a school dinner for your child, that you do not send your child in with a packed lunch. If your child would like to have a packed lunch on a day that you have selected a school dinner for them, please cancel it via the SFU app. This will help support the kitchen team in ensuring that they are preparing meals to the exact number of meals ordered and that will be taken.

Lettings

Please find below the dates of lettings scheduled between now and half term:
Sunday 22nd November – Showstoppers Performing Arts & Dini's Showstoppers (Use of car park only)
Sunday 29th November - Darwin Education CIC Christmas Bazaar
Friday 4th December to Sunday 6th December - Bedfordshire Caravan Club
Friday 11th December to Sunday 13th December - Hertfordshire Caravan Club
Wednesday 30th December to Saturday 2nd January - Bedfordshire Caravan Club

Keech Hospice

A message from Keech Hospice:
Sign up for https://keech.org.uk/whats-on/christmas-tree-recycling/ and our volunteers will collect and recycle your real Christmas tree in January across Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire in return for a donation to Keech.

Every tree helps raise vital funds for local hospice care, supporting adults, children and families. With hospices facing increasing financial pressure, your support has never been more important. It's a simple, convenient way to dispose of your tree while making a real difference.

Register your tree today and help keep hospice care thriving in your community.
https://keech.org.uk/whats-on/christmas-tree-recycling/

Please find further information in the poster section of our newsletter.

Bikes & Scooters

We would like to kindly remind parents and children that bikes and scooters must not be ridden on school premises. We ask that all children walk their bikes and scooters once they arrive at the school gates and continue to do so when leaving the school grounds, until they have reached the gate.

Thank you for your cooperation and support in helping us keep everyone safe on the school premises.

Lunchtime Clubs.

Day	Club	Staff member and room.
Monday	Young Carers check in 12:15-12:45 pm Gardening Club - Lunchtime for KS2	Miss Kell in the FEW Office. Mrs Amner - small playground
Tuesday	Purple Club (KS1 10:15 & KS2 10:40) TTRS Club (Year 4 12:45 - 1:10) Games Club (All years - 12:15 - 12:50)	Miss Kell in the Library. Mrs Sharp (Wildcats Classroom) KS1 Staff in Ravens Classroom
Wednesday		
Thursday	Origami (UKS2) Homework support 12:15 - 12:45 pm Games Club (All years - 12:15 - 12:50) Gardening Club - Lunchtime for Reception.	Mrs Goward in Kestrels room. Miss Kell in the Library. KS1 in Ravens Classroom Mrs Amner - small playground.
Friday	Gardening Club - Breaktime for KS1	Mrs Amner - small playground

Issue No 10:
Friday 20th November 2026







