

ENJOY LEARNING:
EMBRACE CHALLENGE!

SOUTH DARLEY C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL



School Newsletter

Autumn Term 2 2023



Dear all,

As we reach the end of another year, and what feels like a long term, it is a good point to reflect, take stock and appreciate everything we have in our school and wider community. This has been particularly evident this month in several events. During our Nativity, our youngest children took their opportunity to shine by performing brilliantly. Our Christmas fair raised roughly £600 thanks to the generosity of our community and the hard work of the children, staff and FOSDS volunteers. Even during Storm Pia, where trees came down on Eversleigh Rise, members of the school and wider community came together to help and protect motorists, living the Christmas message of goodwill. Christmas and other traditions bring communities together and seeing parents and even grandparents who had experienced the Nativity and Christmas Fairs as children made us appreciate the 'circle of life' that is evident in our community. We are proud of the part we play in this and long may it continue.

I am pleased to add that this was fully recognised in our SIAMS church inspection report, which has just been published. Further information about the inspection is below.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

Paul Wilde, Headteacher.

SIAMS Church School Inspection Success for South Darley 'We are Flourishing'!

We have just received our SIAMS report and we are really pleased with how the inspector has seen all the good things we offer and has confirmed that we are living up to our foundation as a Church school, enabling pupils and adults to flourish.

It is important to state that the reporting side of church inspections has changed and whereas previously we had been graded as 'outstanding', there are no longer one-word gradings and instead the report gives insights into our strengths, as well as points out areas we could develop. We feel that the report reflects our strengths well. We would encourage you to read the whole report, which will be sent out and put on our website in the new year, but the opening paragraph can make everyone feel really proud:

"There is a real sense of Christian love and fellowship as you enter South Darley Church of England Primary School. It is intrinsic and in every aspect of the life of the school. This is an inclusive and caring community where all are valued and treated with respect and kindness. The recently established Christian vision of 'living as children of light' is lived out daily by all. Pupils flourish because they are known as unique individuals and cared for by all staff. As a result, this rural Church school has the feel of a loving family where there is a strong and positive sense of belonging. The nurturing aspect of the vision is reinforced each morning as staff welcome everyone with warmth. Pupils articulate passionately that

caring for younger children is important and everyone gets along, this creates a caring environment allowing all to thrive. Leaders, governors and staff speak with confidence about how the vision and values of the school support their high expectations for pupils."

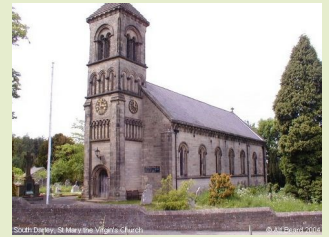


John 15:13 "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends".



Dignity Bags

It's a fact that financially, like many charities our Church's are not as safe or stable as we'd like. I say this not because I want to see lots of money in our accounts but so that we can serve our communities and preach the Gospel of Christ. Often people think we 'get' lots of money from the Church of England; the fact is we don't. Each parish has to pay money into the Diocese for the services they provide. And yet, let us be honest in our society— there are more and more people falling through the cracks, more needing our foodbanks, drop ins, and our young people need breakfast clubs so they can be in a position to learn. All these things we support but during Advent, in December, I would like to invite you to take a bag from the back of our churches to prepare for a Charity in Chesterfield which serves and supports homeless men and women. Please ask the Church Wardens where the list of the requirements for these bags can be found. We call them dignity bags for a reason – in the eyes of Jesus everyone has a precious dignity. If anyone would like to sponsor the bags please drop me an email or speak to your treasurer or churchwardens. Wishing you all a lovely Christmas. Rev Stephen Monk



Services are held in St Mary's Church on the 1st Friday in every month (Celebration) and the 3rd Tuesday of every month (Family) and normally start at approx. 9.10am. We look forward to seeing all the children and parents there!



Dear school communities

Wow – the longest term is nearly finished. I did not expect it to go so fast and cannot believe that we will soon be ending 2023.

It is always a pleasure to come and visit schools and to watch them in action. There is so much variation between the schools but each one is truly reflective of what your community needs. So, a huge thank you to all the school staff for their dedication and hard work in leading their school communities.

As the end of term approaches with nativities and carol services in full swing, I wonder which carol you enjoy the most. As I look at Classic FM's list to determine The Nation's Favourite Christmas Carol, most of them remind me of a certain person or time in my life and I find it hard to pick one out as my favourite. Listening to carols brings me peace and happiness and I hope that over the next few weeks you will find a moment to pause and enjoy the celebrations.



From all the team at the DBE, we wish you a peaceful Christmas and a happy New Year.
Liz Seymour, Diocesan Deputy Director of Education

Our value this term is:



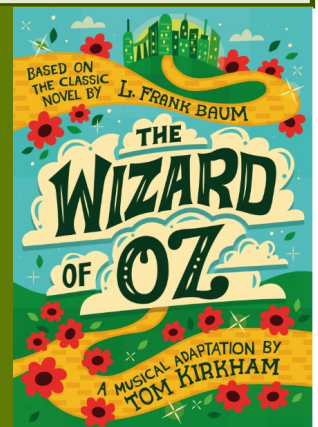
We will be finding out about about:

- The story of Queen Esther serving her people
- How a country recognises special contributions
- Reflecting on special gifts and how they are used to help others



We are off to see the Wizard!

Cyclones, munchkins, witches and wizards, a yellow brick road and an emerald city: welcome to Oz, where anything can happen and a huge amount does, most of it involving a little girl called Dorothy, her dear dog Toto, her three unforgettable companions – the scarecrow, the tin woodman and the lion – and one very wicked witch.



With spellbinding songs, a gripping script and a heart-warming story, this brand new musical adaptation of the much-loved book will entertain all generations! Tickets on sale in the new year.

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Rucksack/bookbag use

We are noticing an increase in the numbers of pupils who are using rucksacks as school bags and this is causing storage/health and safety issues in our school corridors. The space for our pupil pegs is small and rucksacks mean that pupil belongings including coats/bags often end up on the floor. These then can become damaged, as pupils clamber over them to get to their pegs and more importantly the over-crowded pegs and items that end up on the floor then become a health & safety trip hazard. Emergency exits/fire doors cannot be fully opened when pegs close to the doors contain rucksacks and this becomes a fire evacuation risk.

Rucksack use by pupils is a Year 6 privilege. All other year group children should not be bringing in rucksacks for daily use and should instead be using their red book bag, which should be placed in the classroom bookbag box. Lunch boxes should also be placed in the classroom lunch bag box. Rucksacks (including those with the school logo on, which can be ordered online through our supplier) should only be used by juniors on school swimming days or by Year 6 pupils, whose privilege it is to use a rucksack instead of a bookbag. Pupils who need to bring in a weekend or overnight bag for various reasons, should speak to Mrs Manning so that safe storage for overnight bags can be provided.

If you need to order a new school bookbag then please visit our uniform supplier 'My Clothing'.



10 Questions asked of our Governors

Behind every great school is a great Governing Body! School Governors contribute to the work of the Governing Body in raising standards of achievement for all pupils. Governors volunteer their time and expertise to help ensure clarity of vision, ethos and direction for the school. But do you know who our governors are? For the final time, we focus on Miss Gill and Mrs Manning. Miss Gill represents school staff on the Governing Body. Mrs Manning, although not a Governor, attends meetings as the Clerk.



- 1. What is the most exciting part of being on the Governing Body?** Miss Gill: After having lots of fun and trying to impart some knowledge with the children, it is good to spend time being more strategic and make decisions about the longer term future of the school. Mrs Manning: following the conversations and listening to the reasonings that lead to key decisions being taken.
- 2. What is something you are proud of?** Miss Gill: Completing the Couch to 5K—I never thought I would be a runner! Mrs Manning: Lucas. His journey evolves every year and he faces every challenge with a smile.
- 3. What was the last book you read?** Miss Gill: The Patience of a Spider by Andrea Camilleri. Mrs Manning: I can read books time and time again. I am currently re-reading the Inheritance Cycle by Christopher Paolini.
- 4. What is your favourite movie?** Miss Gill: The Freedom Writers. Mrs Manning: Lots of favourites but anything Marvel/Star Wars.
- 5. What is something you find challenging about being a governor?** Miss Gill: It can be frustrating when we know what we would like to do but the resources just aren't there. Mrs Manning: From a Clerks perspective, listening to Governors becoming frustrated with local and national constraints and difficult financial challenges that the school has often faced.
- 6. Do you have any pets?** Miss Gill: A cat called 'Lilly' who is very beautiful but scared of everything, especially plastic bags! Mrs Manning: No, not since my whippet 'Mischief' and my thoroughbred 'Linkman' passed over the rainbow bridge.
- 7. Have you ever met anyone famous?** Miss Gill: I was photobombed by Vernon Kay who landed in my lap wearing a feather boa (not just!) at a wedding. Mrs Manning: I went to school with a 'Dragon' from Dragons Den if that counts....Piers Linney. We were in the same maths and English sets at secondary. He wasn't known by that name back then though!
- 8. What is your role on the Governing Body?** Miss Gill: I am a staff governor, elected by the staff. Mrs Manning: I am Clerk to the Governors and guide Governors through the legalities of school governance, recording decisions taken and the reasons behind those decisions.
- 9. Do you have any hidden talents or hobbies?** Miss Gill: I perform and stage manage for Buxton Drama League. Stage managing the Opera House is the biggest thrill until something goes wrong and then it is terrifying! Mrs Manning: I am a reasonable horse-rider (although falling off still happens and hurts more now!).
- 10. What are the 3 items you would want to take with you to a deserted island?** Miss Gill: My pillow, my audible subscription and a supply of red wine! Mrs Manning: My Kindle, some Pinot Grigio or Cava and a blow up boat (so that I have somewhere soft to sleep, I could use it for shade or shelter and eventually to rescue myself when I've had enough of my own company!)

John 15:13 "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends".

FRIENDS OF SOUTH DARLEY SCHOOL

Thank you to all our helpers, staff, parents, grandparents and children for making our 2023 Christmas Fayre such a success. We raised in excess of £550 which will go towards renewing or upgrading items that enhance our children's learning experience here at South Darley CE Primary School.

Don't forget—the school calendar 'Dates for Your Diary' is no longer sent out by e-mail. It now features on the school website alongside the latest school letters, events and information. You can also click on events in the calendar to see any associated letters which contain team names/instructions. Please visit www.southdarley.derbyshire.sch.uk.

GOOD NEWS! FOSDS have been successful in their application to the Co-op Local Community Fund and FOSDS is now one of three local good causes that will be supported over the next 12 months by the Matlock and Darley Dale stores and Funeral care. FOSDS want to help the school to enhance the visual appeal of the school playground, in turn encouraging pupils to engage with nature and learn how to look after plants. **What we need you to do:** We need our wider community to apply for membership at the Co-op and nominate FOSDS as their chosen charity. Every time members shop at the co-op and swipe their loyalty membership card, FOSDS will get 2p for every £1 spent on Coop goods. The good news is that this works at any Co-Op, not just the local ones, so you can get Co-op shoppers from all over the UK to support us. Membership costs just £1 and gives applicants access to lots of other benefits. If you are already a Co-op loyalty card member then please remember to update your chosen charity by logging on at [Sign In - Co-op \(coop.co.uk\)](http://Sign In - Co-op (coop.co.uk)). Our cause page is here: <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/83074>.



Morning Club Advanced Bookings and After-school Club options are now available to book for Spring Terms 3 and 4 2024. As in previous years, morning clubs will be available at the advanced rate of £20 per child for each day in the spring term and can be paid for through Parentpay. Forms to make advanced bookings for after-school club have also been emailed to all parents and are also on the school website. Hard-copies

of the form can be requested through the school office. Booking after-school clubs in advance allows you to guarantee childcare each day (apart from Fridays when the club does not operate). We can still accommodate most late booking requests but only where there are other children already booked in and to the latest time slot already requested for that day.



Bad Weather/School Closure arrangements

As winter continues, we would like to remind you of arrangements in the event of school closing. We try our very best not to close the school at short notice but recently rather than heavy snowfall, it has been river levels that have been the issue. The decision to close school is never taken lightly and considers a variety of factors including accessibility and condition of roads to and from our location, condition of the school site itself, ensuring that the school is a safe place for our staff and pupils, ensuring adequate staffing and that those staff who are in school, can get home safely.



In the event of needing to close the school, we notify parents by text. Where pupils are already at school and where staffing levels and weather conditions allow, the school will give parents the option to collect their children early. School will remain open as long as possible. Only when the weather conditions deteriorate or the kitchens at Darley Dale Primary School are unable to supply our school dinners will the school fully close. At this point, children will need to be collected straight away. The school will contact the School Closure page of the Derbyshire County Council (DCC) website and a notice will be published. Please ensure that you have registered with DCC for notifications for this service.



A very big and heartfelt thank you from all the staff at South Darley CE Primary School for your continued support and thank you all for the lovely presents and cards you and your children have brought into school. Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please stay safe and well over the festive period and we look forward to seeing you all on the first day of Term 3 on Monday 8th January 2024.



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