

ENJOY LEARNING:
EMBRACE CHALLENGE!

SOUTH DARLEY C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL



School Newsletter

Spring Term 4 2025

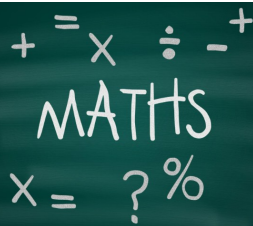
Dear All

I write this as the clocks have gone forward, spring is definitely in the air, and the school show Mission Implausible has been a fantastic success. At times like these, it makes me very happy and proud to be head of this amazing school. But what is most amazing are the staff and pupils which make it all happen. Watching children on stage be so confident saying lines, singing songs, and acting with great timing, always makes me think of how far they have come during their time at South Darley. We have a big Year 6 group this year and not many would have been too confident to put themselves forwards for larger parts in the past. However they have seen the examples of past year groups, know the expectations we have of them, and rise to the occasion when it is their time to shine. Well done all of you!

I would also like to highlight and thank the two student teachers, Melissa Coulton and Lauren Browne, who have worked with Year 3 and 4 at different points over the year. They have both seamlessly become part of our team and have got truly involved with the life of the school. They constantly say how fantastic the children are and have loved spending time with us. We are sure they will both have great teaching careers ahead of them.



Paul Wilde, Headteacher.



Do you know your times tables well? Or are you a division whizz? You may be able to help.....

Are you fond of numbers? If so.....can you help the school by volunteering for maths sessions? You don't need to be an expert maths problem solver or know how

to complete complicated equations but if you know your fractions or you can recite your times tables then we need you! Much like our volunteer readers, who come into school to listen to children read, we need maths volunteers. You don't need hours to spare – 30 minutes of your time each week would help us. You could stay for 30 minutes after morning drop off or arrive 30 minutes early for collection and help us by helping individual pupils improve their maths skills. Please speak to any member of staff if you think you fit the bill and could help out – every 30 minutes



Free school meals

Could you be eligible for free school meals?

Lots of Derbyshire families qualify for free school meals but haven't signed up yet. If you receive certain benefits your child could be eligible to receive them. It not only provides children with a free, nutritious meal but it also means that school can access additional funding to support the qualifying child's education. Even if your child receives the universal free lunch in reception, Year 1 and 2, it is still worth checking if they could continue to receive them as they get older. **It's easy to check online here** and find out more information .

Morning Club Advanced Bookings and After-school Club options are now available to book for Summer Terms 5 and 6 2025. Morning clubs are available at the advanced rate of £25 per child for each day in the summer 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 on the school website. 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.

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

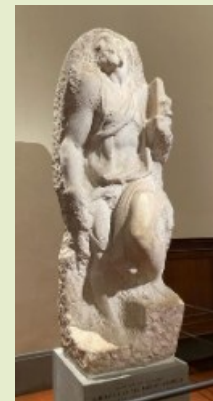
Dear All

Many of you will have heard me speak over the years and will recognise that I have a great passion for Italian Renaissance art. I was fortunate enough to spend some time travelling around Europe by train recently and had a particularly wonderful time in Florence. After 30 years of waiting, I finally visited Michaelangelo's David; a truly life-affirming moment for me.



As you approach what is arguably the world's greatest sculpture there is a series of 'unfinished' sculptures, also by Michaelangelo, called 'The Hall of Prisoners'. With these sculptures, as well as with David, we see Michaelangelo's utterly brilliant creative process. It is debated by art historians whether Michaelangelo deliberately or accidentally left these sculptures unfinished - but that for me became irrelevant as I took them in.

For me, I saw how Michaelangelo captured life itself as a creative process; a struggle to break free from that which constrains and binds us and so to step into life. I saw the action as it was about to happen without another's interpretation. I saw David poised, tentative and thoughtful as he prepared to face Goliath – the stones in his hand, his gaze fixed in concentration and contemplation.



So often, our only focus is on the end result. We focus on the prize or the finish line (the Ofsted outcome?) and forget all about the life along the way. I know that I often thought that way when I was a school leader. I was always keen to rush on to the next key action towards improvement. Of course, this is not a bad thing – we are in the business of school improvement after all! But I wonder whether we can also take moments to step back, acknowledge and be grateful for the process; for life itself as a process. We may not have the genius of Michaelangelo but we all have the opportunity to work like him – chipping away at what may seem like an unpromising block of stone, to enable something remarkable to emerge; and in doing so, we can celebrate each small chisel stroke along the way.

“Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.” Philippians 4:8

With every blessing, Carolyn Shoyer, Diocesan Director of Education, Derby Diocesan Board of Education

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



Derbyshire's Families Information Service (FIS) - helping families thrive with reliable information and support!

The Families Information Service (also known as FIS) provides free, impartial information and guidance to any family caring for children or young people aged 0—19 (or up to 25 years, for children and young people with SEND).

FIS can support with:

- Finding the right childcare and information on eligibility for childcare funding schemes
- Finding family support services locally and nationally for parents at every stage, from infancy to adolescence.
- Information on maintaining family health, supporting mental well-being, and finding healthcare resources.
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- Information about local family activities and events across Derbyshire.....plus much more.....

You can find us on Facebook by searching for the Derbyshire Families Information Service or by visiting [Families Information Service \(FIS\) - Derbyshire County Council](#)

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



New waste regulations now in effect...how you can help the school comply—packed lunch waste

New government legislation has brought in important changes to how businesses, including schools, handle and dispose of their waste from the 1st April 2025. Under the new rules, schools are now required to separate and pay for the removal of food waste and mixed dry recycling (plastic, metal, glass) as well as normal black bin waste (residual waste). Paper and card also needs separating from all other waste.

This means that the more waste the school produces, the more it will cost to have it removed—and that includes items left over from packed lunches.

To help reduce our waste (and keep costs down so that we can continue to prioritise spending on teaching and learning), we are kindly asking that all children bring home any uneaten food, packaging and containers from their packed lunches. This will include fruit peel, yoghurt pots, wrappers and food waste/leftovers. We understand that this might not be ideal for everyone, and we will work with children to make it as easy and mess-free as possible (for example, helping to close lids and pack bags properly).

There are also some important benefits to this approach in that you will be able to see exactly what your child has eaten from their packed lunch—helping you to make choices that suit their appetite and preferences, there will be less food waste at school meaning a cleaner, greener site and fewer issues with smells and pests, especially over school holidays when the bins are often not collected for additional weeks and greater awareness for children about reducing waste and being responsible for their own rubbish.

We know that some children may feel anxious about bringing waste home, especially if items spill in their lunch bags or boxes. We will do our best to support them and encourage the use of leak-proof containers or bags to help avoid any mess or spillages.

Together we can reduce waste, protect the environment and help our school make the most of its funding. Thank you for your support.

PLASTIC BOTTLES, POTS, TUBS AND TRAYS

✓ Yes please

- Plastic bottles
- Cartons
- Plastic pots, tubs and trays

✗ No thank you

- Food waste
- Liquids
- Plastic film or wrap
- Paper and card
- Glass bottles and jars
- Metal packaging of any kind

GENERAL WASTE

✓ Yes please

- Coffee cups
- Polystyrene containers and packaging
- Crisp packets
- Paper towels and tissues
- Sweet wrappers
- Single use cutlery and plates

✗ No thank you

- Paper
- Cardboard
- Food and drinks cans, foil, and metal tubes
- Plastic bottles
- Plastic pots, tubs and trays
- Food waste
- Glass
- Cartons

FOOD WASTE

✓ Yes please

- Tea bags
- Coffee grounds
- Fruit and veg peelings
- Leftovers
- Inedible food

✗ No thank you

- Coffee cups
- Liquids
- Plastic film
- Paper towels or tissues
- Packaging of any kind
- Single use cutlery or plates
- Glass

PE returns to Darley Dale Cricket Club

As in previous years, in the summer term we will be having our PE at Darley Dale Cricket Club on a Friday afternoon. As we start to use the cricket club for PE sessions it is an ideal time to say a very



big **THANK YOU** to the club for letting the school use its facilities and pitch. We are very lucky to be able to use the cricket club so please ensure that you don't let children play with any equipment/property that belongs to the club, in particular the cricket club nets which cost the cricket club a lot of money to maintain and repair and please do not allow children to wander further afield, especially near the area close to the river embankment.



School staff will walk the children down to the cricket club after lunch and you are expected to pick up your children from there rather than from school at their normal collection time. In the event of poor weather, we may cancel PE and stay at school instead. If this is the case then we will send a message out.

At the end of each session, as teachers release children back into your care, please take them off the grassed areas and return to your cars. Please do not let them come back and play with those who are awaiting collection with teachers as it becomes difficult for school staff to know who has and who hasn't been collected.

Children should come to school dressed in their PE kits on a Friday and in sunny weather will also need sunscreen and their school sun hat.



Summer is nearly here...and with the sun comes the issue of sun/skin protection and hydration.

During summer months please ensure your child has appropriate sun/skin protection. Please ensure your child is sent to school with sunscreen already applied as school staff are not able to apply sunscreen to a child, where a sunny day is forecast. If a top up is required, please send your child in with a named bottle of sunscreen—they must be able to apply it correctly to themselves though.



As part of the school uniform children require a red sun hat (preferably legionnaire style). FOSDS kindly provide all children with a hat upon entry to the school – if your child's hat needs replacing please order a new one in the school office. The cost is approximately £6.50 per hat. Parents can also purchase a plain red sunhat for their child from most leading retailers. It is a Y5/6 privilege for children to bring and wear their own hats. Please make sure that hats are suitable for the sun and do not contain any logo or writing that others might find offensive. You can find out more by reading our sun awareness policy which is available to view on the school website.

Named water bottles are just as important. Please make sure your child has a named water bottle in school every day.

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