

ENJOY LEARNING:
EMBRACE CHALLENGE!

SOUTH DARLEY C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL



School Newsletter

Autumn Term 1 2025

Dear all,

The cool chill of Autumn has definitely arrived and so it is with relief that by the time you read this our new boiler and heating system should be fully installed and keeping all of us warmer. This is part of the constant renewal of our school which we strive to undertake. As the juniors have been learning about the Industrial Revolution, including factories and workhouses in the area, it is worth remembering that our school building dates back to 1860 when conditions for the local population were very different to today. It sometimes seems difficult to 'keep up with the times' but we hope our new wifi and internet systems which have also been installed this term will future-proof us for the next decade at least. Our children too face an ever-changing world and so it was good to see some parents at an online safety briefing recently. The online world has so much to offer but it is important we protect our children from the inevitable hazards that are out there.

The Friends of South Darley School have also helped us keep on top of technology by funding 10 new iPads for the children to use alongside the 10 we have already. It will mean that every child in a class will be able to use their own iPad for a particular lesson. FOSDS have also funded a set of 10 new glockenspiels and 6 new planters which will enable our children to grow and care for plants and flowers. It is down to your generosity in supporting FOSDS events that we have been able to do this so thank you – we very much appreciate it.



Paul Wilde, Headteacher

Term Time Holidays. In September 2013 the government introduced new regulations making it clear that Headteachers must not give approval for any leave of absence during term time, including holidays, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Any requests for term time leave should be made on a Term Time Holiday Request Form available from the parent information folders outside the upper junior classroom, from the school website under useful forms or by request from school office and handed in 2 school weeks before the first date of the requested absence whenever possible. You must have received written authorisation before your child can be absent from school.

Parent/carers may be issued with a penalty notice fine or prosecution should leave of 5 days or more be taken which is not authorised by the Headteacher, or where repeated incidents of leave in term time for less than 5 days occur or where the unauthorised absence contributes to wider poor attendance that meets the legal threshold. Absence deemed for the reason of unauthorised leave in term time will be marked in the register with the Attendance code G.



You may be issued with a Penalty Notice should leave be taken which is not authorised. If unpaid this could lead to prosecution under section 444(1) of The Education Act 1996.

Calling all parents and carers.

Has your child had an eye test recently? All children can get free NHS eye tests up to the age of 18 whilst they are in full-time education. A child does not have to be able to read for their vision to be checked.

It's important to remember that not all children will show signs of having a vision problem. However, there are some signs that could indicate that a child may have a problem.

These include having headaches or eyestrain, complaining of blurred vision, falling behind with their schoolwork, attention/concentration issues, issues with hand eye coordination, being unusually clumsy, having family members who wear glasses or have eye problems and appearing upset or angry at a particular task, pushing it away. Not all children will show signs of vision problems, so without regular tests there is a risk an eyesight issue may not be spotted.



Speak to a GP or go to an optician if you have any concerns about your child's vision at any stage.

Proverbs 2:6: "For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding"



News from the Diocese of Derby Board of Education

Carolyn Shoyer, Director of Education for the Diocese of Derby, who has been seconded to Derby for the past four years by the Diocese of Leicester, is to return to Leicester full time from the end of October. Following consultation with the Diocesan Board of Education, The Bishop of Derby has invited Liz Seymour, currently Deputy Director of Education, to act as Interim Director of Education from the beginning of November.

Bishop Libby said, 'Over the past four years Carolyn's leadership has significantly strengthened the work of Derby Diocesan Board of Education as it seeks to serve all our schools. She has been a valued colleague and leader in the Diocese. I am profoundly

grateful for the impact she has had with our DBE, and the difference her leadership has had for good in the building of an effective team, in the development of more robust governance, and in the shaping of systems and process that both ensures compliance and supports flourishing schools. I have always been encouraged and challenged by Carolyn's unwavering commitment to the children in our care and her passionate advocacy for children at the heart of the Kingdom. I am grateful to the Board of Education for Leicester Diocese for our partnership these past four years – Carolyn's leadership has been a great blessing to us.'

We offer our thanks to Carolyn for all her hard work and congratulate Liz on her new temporary role.

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!

Our Value this term is: Wisdom

We will be finding out about:

- Wisdom from the tree of life—well known proverbs
- The wisdom of building on firm foundations—from Matthew 7
- Learning wisdom from our parents—words from Proverbs 7
- The Wise King and wise decisions—the story of King Solomon from 1 Kings.



Is it time to apply for a school place?

Secondary School—if your child is moving to secondary school next September you need to apply for their place now. The application deadline is Friday 31st October. Please visit **Derbyshire County Council—apply for a secondary school place** for more information.

Primary School—if your child was born between 1st September 2021 and 31st August 2022 they will be eligible to start school during the 2026/2027 academic year. Application facilities open on 10th November—please visit **Derbyshire County Council Primary, Infant and Junior school admissions page** for more information on how and when to apply.

Values Team 2025

Meet our new Values Team for 2025. Our volunteers are looking forward to working with Miss Gill to help shape Collective Worship in school and around the parish during the next academic year.



Dates Announced for Parent/Reception place school viewings

Pupils and staff alike will be opening the school doors to parents and children looking for primary school/reception places on various dates during November and December 2025 and January 2026, in time for application deadlines and we would love to see lots of new faces. Tours of the school will be provided by Mr Wilde, and will showcase all of our wonderful classrooms. Everyone attending will be able to view examples of pupil work all around the walls of each room. Parents and children will have the opportunity to talk to all of our fabulous teachers and ask as many questions as they want. Any parents wanting to attend don't need to book and can just come to the front school door. If these dates are not convenient then parents are welcome to visit the school at any time as every day can be an unofficial open day! Please ring the school on 01629 732240 to arrange a suitable time and date when Mr Wilde is free or alternatively please feel free just to call in and if a member of staff is free, we can show you round immediately.



SOUTH DARLEY C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL




Need to apply for your child's primary school place?

Not sure which school will suit your child?
Then visit

South Darley CE Primary School


on one of their Open Sessions taking place on



Monday 10th November, Thursday 20th November and Monday 15th December from 10am until midday and Thursday 27th November, Tuesday 2nd December and Wednesday 7th January 2026 from 1.30pm until 3pm


"Children in Reception learn in a caring and nurturing environment" and "A typical comment from parents is that the school is 'wonderful, warm and caring.'" – Most Recent Ofsted

If this date is not convenient then please ring to arrange a suitable time and date
At South Darley we strive to be living as Children of Light (Ephesians 5:8), for if we walk in the light, as Jesus is in the light, we will have fellowship together. (1 John 1:7)



Contact us: South Darley CE Primary School, Cross Green, MaBook, DE4 2JT Tel: 01629 732240 Website: www.southdarley.derbyshire.sch.uk E-mail: office@southdarley.derbyshire.sch.uk



SAFEGUARDING ALERT

Do you have copies of these books? Please Act Now!

We have been made aware that several titles in the *Spy Dogs*, *Spy Pup*, and *Spy Cat* series by **Andrew Cope** contain a weblink at the back of the book that no longer directs people to information about the books. Instead, the link has been compromised and now leads to inappropriate and unsafe material, containing pornographic content with no age restrictions.

We have confirmed that we do not have copies of the book in our classroom book corners.

Please see the images of some of the front covers in the series to help you identify the books should you have any at home. We advise you remove them immediately. Should any be the property of the school, please return them and we will dispose of them.




Celebrate Secret Freedoms with us!
A full day of events at LEVEL Centre,
Darley Dale Station and on Peak Rail!

SATURDAY 1st NOVEMBER 11AM-3PM

Got the half term blues? Stuck for something to do? Then look no further....how about a visit to Level at Peak Rail for a day of interesting facts, things to do and fabulous artwork displays?

Did you know that.....during WW2 Matlock was home to the School of Military Intelligence and the Matlock Secret Army? Join Peak Rail and Level for an amazing day at Level Centre, Darley Dale Station and on Peak Rail on Saturday 1st November from 11am—3.30pm.....all aboard the Secret Freedoms Express! For more information and to book your tickets please visit <https://levelcentre.com/ourfreedom/>

Proverbs 2:6: "For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding

Share your voice

The Childrens Commissioner recently carried out a 'census' of schools in England to find out how they are supporting all children and young people academically and pastorally. She found:

- There are a wide range of needs in and out of classrooms but schools don't always know what those needs are.
- Schools are trying to fill the support gaps for children with additional needs.
- Children who face multiple challenges in their lives have an increased risk of not doing well at school.
- Support and services differs between schools and are often delivered through costly external partners.

The commissioner knows how much schools already do and that they want to do more but often don't have the resources. The Commissioner is asking the government to

- Make sure every child has an ambitious education no matter the challenges that they might face.
- Increase the understanding of children's needs and what qualifies for extra help.
- Help schools become the central place where children can get the help they need.
- Ensure no child loses their current level of support and more children receive the right help.
- Improve all the external services working with schools.


Youth Voices:

Schools supporting children

September 2025

Every child has the right to a great education. You should be able to attend a brilliant school, close to home and friends, that supports your needs. You should feel engaged and enriched at school, with fun, meaningful experiences that allow you to thrive. You should be encouraged to achieve academically and developmentally, and you should be supported to excel and succeed with great careers education and a focus on independence.

CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONER



Take part in The Big Conversation Survey.

FRIENDS OF SOUTH DARLEY SCHOOL



Our Annual General Meeting, coupled with a social night is

taking place on **Wednesday 19th November 2025 at 7.30pm** at the Square and Compass Pub in Darley Bridge. FOSDS needs your attendance—there are some spending decisions to be made that need at least double the amount of people attending as there are committee members and without your support important decisions cannot be taken.



Welcome walk finds a gap in the clouds.

Intrepid families joined members of the FOSDS and school staff on their annual 'Welcome Walk'. Having met at school, the group walked to Oker Tree and then round the gated road before adjourning to the Square and Compass for warm drinks, sandwiches and chips, courtesy of FOSDS. The walk provided our families, old and new, time to chat and forge new friendships.

Thank you to the Square and Compass for accommodating our last minute change of date following the cancellation of the walk a week earlier, due to the yellow weather warning that was in place at the time.



Dates for your diaries



The next cake sale is due to take place on Thursday 6th November at 3.30pm. Please bring in your cake donations to the school office in the morning.

The FOSDS Christmas Fayre will take place on Friday 5th December at 3.30pm. Volunteers needed!