

ENJOY LEARNING:  
EMBRACE CHALLENGE!

# SOUTH DARLEY C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL



School Newsletter

Autumn Term 2 2025

Dear All

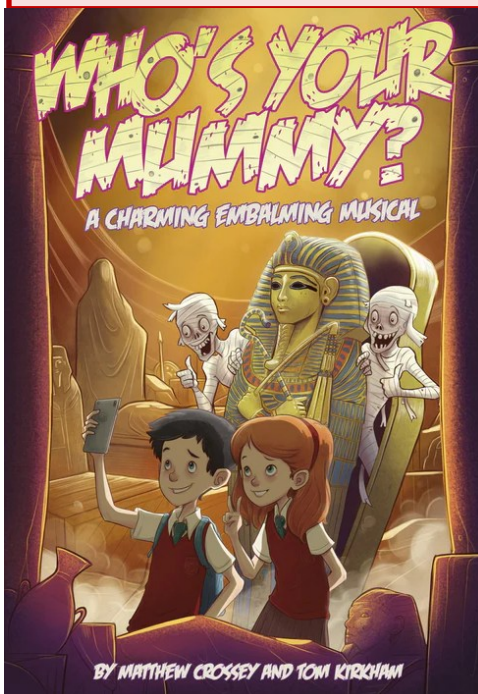
So Christmas is upon us and at this time of year there is no better place to be than at a Primary School where children's excitement is everywhere, even if it is the end of a long and busy term. This includes our infant children doing splendidly well putting on the Nativity, really showing the best of their abilities. We were so proud of all of them and it is lovely to think that generations of South Darley families have trodden the same path down the years.

Thinking of traditions at Christmas, I hope that most families will find time this festive period to do things together. I know that in an age of incredible technology with smart devices and streaming services, families often find themselves more apart than together but if you can play board games, do jigsaws or build Lego together, read books together, or simply go for a walk together then that really helps children mentally refresh and relax, connects them with their families and builds a good sense of wellbeing that is essential in life.



Happy Christmas

Paul Wilde, Headteacher.



Coming to a Village Hall near you in March.....presenting the pupils of South Darley CE Primary School in 'Who's Your Mummy?'.

When Pharaoh Kafele falls in love with Nafrini, a servant girl, the last thing he expects is for his own mother to poison her. Still, death is a part of life in Ancient Egypt, and Pharaoh remains intent on marrying his true love.

3000 years later, Verity and Reginald's school trip to the British Museum takes an unexpected turn when two mummies awake from a very, very long sleep. Friendly and inquisitive, but permanently tongue-tied, the mummies latch onto the shocked children, eager for their help.

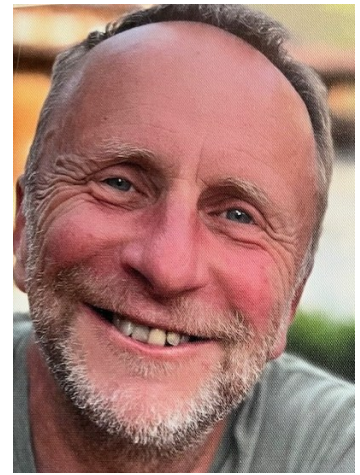
Can Verity and Reginald unravel the mystery of the mummies? Will Pharaoh and Nafrini finally get to tie the knot? Only if they can evade Inspector Bucket and Sergeant Spade as they frantically (and farcically) attempt to apprehend the elusive 'mummy-smugglers'. Stitch up your sides and swathe yourself in bandages, this uproarious comedy caper delves deep into history and discovers that it is never as dead and buried as you might think.

**Don't forget.....to apply for your reception school place.** You must apply by 15th January 2026 for a place at primary school if your child was born between 1st September 2021 and 31 August 2022. With small class sizes, high quality teachers, and a curriculum designed to give children the very best opportunities, it is no wonder that the school has seen consistently excellent academic results and, more importantly, produced pupils to be proud of. From forest school to fabulous shows, successful sports teams to residential adventures and from musical opportunities to Indian links, the staff and community at South Darley CE Primary School offer something special to every child, underpinned by Christian values permeating daily school life. If you need a school place and haven't yet made your mind up about which school to apply for then please visit us to see first hand all the wonderful opportunities we provide for our children.

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

## A full compliment of Governors... and a big welcome to Mark and Paul to our Governing Body.

Following Maureen Wilson and Ricky Sanderson's departures, the Governing Body at South Darley CE Primary School is pleased to announce a full compliment of Governors, with Mark Mallinson joining as a foundation governor and Paul Watts joining as a Local Authority governor.



Pictured right, Mark commented 'I was recently approached by St Mary's Church to become the new foundation governor at South Darley CE Primary School. I am looking forward to being part of an already successful inclusive community where children flourish. I have many years of experience working in primary education and I look forward to playing my part in the continued success of the school'.



With Mark moving into the Foundation Governor role, it has been agreed with Rev Stephen Monk that Jeremy Higham will move across into the vacant ex-officio foundation governor role.

Paul, pictured left, has lived in Oker for over 30 years and is now semi-retired following a career in international technology businesses. He is pleased to join the governing body and is keen to actively support the school and help ensure its long-term success for current and future pupils.

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!

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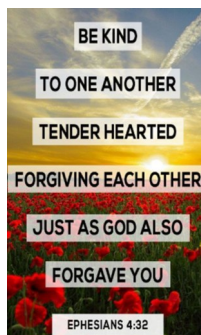
Pre-School and Toddler  
stay and Play Group

Little Darlings!

at South Darley CE Primary School  
 (DE4 2JT, between Darley Dale & Winster)

All the fun at Little Darlings returns on  
 Wednesday 7th January 2026

10.30am and 12 noon in term time. £2 per family.  
 Call 01629 732240 to find out more or just turn up on the day!



### Our Value this term is: **FORGIVENESS**

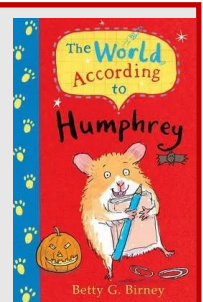


We will be finding out about:

- \* Saying sorry and being forgiven - the story of the lost son;
- \* Being forgiven and starting again- Jesus and the taxman;
- \* Amazing Grace- the story of John Newton;
- \* 'Forgive us our sins as we forgive others'- the Lord's prayer;
- \* The cross- symbol of forgiveness.

### Safeguarding Risk—please take action!

Please check if you have copies of any of the "According to Humphrey" books. We have been made aware that several titles in the series 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 that should not be accessed by children at any age.



Morning Club Advanced Bookings and After-school Club options are now available to book for Spring Terms 3 and 4 2026. As in previous years, morning clubs will be available at the advanced rate of £25 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 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.

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



## Keeping children safe in the cold weather

Are you aware that children are more vulnerable to the cold? Children's bodies are smaller and they lose heat quicker than adults so here are some top tips to keep children warm and safe in the cold weather.

### Be prepared!

Think about signing up to the Met office alerts and watch the weather forecast to help you prepare for colder weather.



Ensure you are aware of the procedures that your child's nursery or school has in place in case of bad weather - this will help you to avoid unnecessary travel. It would help to have a plan in place in case of school closures.

Living in a cold home has negative impacts on a child's health and wellbeing.

Many families are facing the rising costs of heating bills and it is important to be aware of the available support.

### Clothing - think layers

Make sure children are layered up. Start with a vest and then a t-shirt and another layer on top.

These can be taken off throughout the day



[www.derbyshire.gov.uk/staywellthiswinter](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/staywellthiswinter)

### Keeping warm

Dress children warmly in winter coats, gloves and hats.

Remember as children play and learn outside, to provide your child with a warm coat they can move around in.

It's always handy to have pockets to put a glove in each to keep them from disappearing!

### Staying safe outside

Keep an eye on children playing outside in the cold weather - if they are not moving around much or start to shiver, bring them inside to warm up.

Watch out for symptoms of hypothermia such as shivering, lips going blue, slurred speech and lack of coordination.

Introducing active games such as obstacle courses, jumping, and riding bikes can encourage movement and keep children warm.

Adults also need to remember to stay warm and layer your clothes too!



Look out for others by checking in on older neighbours or relatives - especially those who live alone or who have serious illnesses, to make sure they are safe, warm, and well.

[www.derbyshire.gov.uk/staywellthiswinter](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/staywellthiswinter)

## Well enough to be at school?

Attending face-to-face education is hugely important for children's health and their future. But when is a Child too ill to attend? The school can advise parents of recommended/statutory absence following any specified type of illness and we encourage parents to follow the latest UK Health Security Agency guidance 'Health Protection in children and young people settings, including education' and help us to maintain a safe and healthy school environment. You can view the guidance at [public health exclusion table](#).



Current advice from the Health Protection Agency is that all children remain off school for a period of **48 hours** from the last episode of vomiting or diarrhea and that your child should not swim until two weeks after the last episode. Where there is a high incidence of infection within the school the School Health Service may advise that this exclusion period be extended to 72 hours.



Parents need to notify school by 9:15am that their child will not be in school on each day of absence unless otherwise agreed with the school office. School dinners cannot be cancelled after this time and become chargeable even if your child is not in school on that day.

By adhering strictly to these guidelines in the last few years the school has greatly reduced the incidence of illness in school, to the benefit of all in the school community, and so would ask that you follow this advice in the event of your child becoming ill.

# Festive fun for families

If you're looking to keep the family entertained in the festive season, the Trans Pennine Trail 2025 Christmas Holiday Activity Pack is now available FREE to download from its website.

The pack is bursting with festive fun for families, and you'll find nature-themed challenges like a winter scavenger hunt, creative crafts such as making a bird feeder, and a delicious cake pop recipe to try at home. The pack also features sensory games, puzzles, and a heart-warming story adventure with the trail's friendly mascots, encouraging everyone to explore the great outdoors.

You can use it on the trail, in your local park, or indoors.

With colourful characters leading the way, this activity pack inspires kids to discover winter wildlife, get creative and enjoy the magic of the outdoors. There are even opportunities to share their adventures and earn a digital certificate.

The [Trans Pennine Trail](#) is an exciting route for walkers, cyclists, wheelers and horse riders. Sections begin in both York and Leeds before extending south. [In Derbyshire](#) it runs from just north of Killamarsh to Chesterfield. Stretches also run from the Irish Sea to the North Sea. Download it from [TPT Activity Packs | Trans Pennine](#)



## Giving every child the best start in life.

From April 2026, a new government initiative to support families comes to every Local Authority. The initiative outlines how the government will improve child development and ensure that all children have the chance to achieve and thrive. It intends to improve family services by providing high quality support to parents and children from pregnancy to age 54 and will make it easier and cheaper for families to access early education and care. It will also aim to improve the quality of education and care that children receive in early years settings, childminders and reception classes. It launches with Best Start in Life Family Hubs. These Family Hubs will provide essential services including parenting support, healthcare, and early education under one roof. The goal is to improve child development outcomes and reduce disparities, particularly for disadvantaged families, by making support more accessible and coordinated across local services. For more information please visit <https://www.beststartinlife.gov.uk/>



Advice and support for your child's development.

## FRIENDS OF SOUTH DARLEY SCHOOL

Thank you to all who attended our recent Christmas Fayre. We are pleased to tell you that the event raised approximately £700.00. School have asked FOSDS to assist in purchasing more playground equipment and furniture as well as gardening and forest schools equipment.

Costs are rising but there is help out there.



Don't miss out. Visit: [www.derbyshire.gov.uk/costofliving](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/costofliving)

HELPING YOU WITH THE COST OF LIVING



**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 Tuesday 6th January 2026.**



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