

Derwent Vale Primary & Nursery School

Newsletter

16th October 2026



★ Star of the Week ★

Nursery & Reception

Gracie – for trying very hard with her phonics

Year 1/2

Reggie – for a brilliant effort in phonics

Year 3/4

Sidney – for a great effort with his writing

Year 5/6

Rory – for a fantastic piece of myths and legends writing

Highest Attendance this week:

Year 3/4 97.8%

Nursery Applications

We are now accepting applications to our nursery for children who are due to start in January and April 2027. If you have a child who will turn 3 before January or April or know someone who does, please contact the school office for an application form or more details.

Parking

Please could we remind parents/carers and anyone who is dropping off/collecting children to park away from school in order to ensure the safety of our whole school community. Your support with this issue is much appreciated. Thank you.

Halloween

For Halloween this year, we will be having the following activities:

- Nursery/Reception, Year 1/2 will be going on a trip to Stephney Farm near Calder Bridge on the afternoon of Thursday 22nd October where they will be taking part in some Halloween themed activities.
- Years 3-6 will be having a Halloween disco during the school day on Friday 23rd October and children are welcome to bring a costume to get changed into.
- There will be a whole school pumpkin carving/decorating competition (£1 per entry to be paid on School Hub). Decorated pumpkins should be brought into school by Tuesday 20th October.



Paired Reading



Achieving Together

Whole School Attendance

96.4%

On target!

Our Local Authority target is 96%.

Upcoming dates

Monday 19th – Friday 23rd October

Walk to School Week

Monday 19th October

School photos

Tuesday 20th October

Nursery/Reception, Year 1/2
Gymnastics

Wednesday 21st October

Graphic Design After School Club
(last one)

Thursday 22nd October

Nursery/Reception Stephney Farm
Halloween trip

Friday 23rd October

3.15pm School closes for half term

Monday 2nd November

School re-opens after half term

Tuesday 3rd November

Year 3/4, 5/6 Gymnastics

Year 3/4 Multi Sports After School Club

Feet First 5 day Active Travel Challenge

Our school will be taking part in the county wide Feet First 5-day Active Travel Challenge starting on **Monday 19th October** and finishing on **Friday 23rd October**.

The challenge is for pupils and their families to choose an active way of getting to school as many times as possible over the 5-day period, supporting active journeys on the school run.



There are prizes for everybody who completes the challenge, as well as the chance to win a whole school prize, so we would love everyone to take part. Walking, using a mobility aid such as a wheelchair, cycling, skating, scooting, and park & stride are all active ways of travelling, and we hope by taking part in the challenge it will:

- Improve health and wellbeing of our pupils and families
- Encourage pupils and families to be more active
- Reduce congestion and parking problems around our school
- Reduce our school community's collective carbon footprint
- Promote active travel for the school run and encourage families to continue to do this after the challenge ends
- Be good fun!

Each child will receive their own card to record their active journeys. Those pupils who have recorded at least one active journey on the card at the end of the challenge will be awarded an individual prize.

We understand that it's not always possible for families to walk with their children to school for the entire journey, but if you live a long way from school, you can still take part by parking further away and walking the last part of your journey, (Park & Stride), or by car sharing with another family. Children who use school transport during the active challenge week will be able to collect stickers as this helps to reduce individual car use. Thank you.

