

DUKE STREET PRIMARY SCHOOL

1ST NOVEMBER 2024



Head Lines

READING PERCENTAGES

- ACORN: 65%
- ROSE: 70%
- TULIP: 73%
- ACER: 48%
- SPRUCE: 70%
- REDWOOD: 50%
- MAPLE 55%
- BEECH: 88%
- ROWAN: 44%
- POPLAR: 81%
- SYCAMORE 69%
- CHESTNUT: 36%

Welcome back to Autumn 2. We hope all our families had some enjoyable family time over the half term break.

We have started the week with yet more celebrations. We have had classes completing their 'ATTENDANCE' class charts for 100% attendance and have had our first punctuality prize day on Tuesday.

It has been lovely to see children and staff sharing stories during our 'Snug Story' and 'Spook Street at Duke Street' after school reading events this week. Every child who attended has also taken a book home. A big thank you goes to Miss Pierce and Miss Parkinson for arranging these events and to staff who set up some really cosy classroom spaces.

Parent consultations will be taking place next Wednesday. Please get in touch with class teachers if you are still needing to make an appointment.

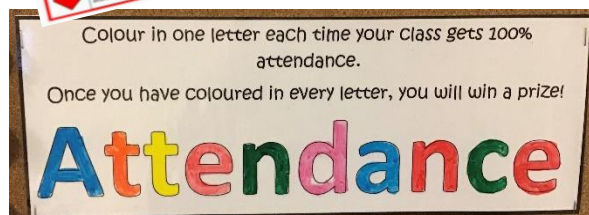
The house point board in the hall has been reset this week. We look forward to seeing who this half term's winning team will be.

WEEKLY ATTENDANCE

- ACORN: 85.0%
- ROSE: 95.8%
- TULIP: 92.4%
- ACER: 95.4%
- REDWOOD: 92.9%
- SPRUCE: 94.8%
- MAPLE: 89.5%
- BEECH: 93.5%
- ROWAN: 95.3%
- POPLAR: 96.2%
- SYCAMORE: 93.3%
- CHESTNUT: 93.3%
- OVERALL: 93.2%**
- School Target: 96%**

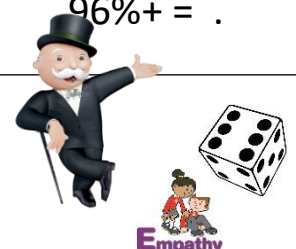
Baby News

We are really pleased to announce the safe arrival of baby Mellor-Clark. Mr Mellor-Clark reports that both mum and baby are doing very well.



We would love to see every class rolling the Classopoly dice next week!
Class Attendance

96%+ = .



Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) information

For parents/carers of children with SEND or concerned regarding a possible need you can access all relevant information on the following link on our school website; <https://dukestreet-pri.lancs.sch.uk/about-us/sen/send-policy>

You can also contact the school office if you wish to make contact with Mr Reay (SENDCo) and an appointment can be made at a convenient time. Additionally the Local Authority have lots of useful information on the following links;

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities/>

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities/getting-help/send-newsletter/>

<https://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities/things-to-do/break-time/>

Outreach Information

Sleep is a superpower.

We all need sleep, and some of us would like even more of it! This webinar aims to provide an overview for parents and carers on the purpose of sleep, the impact of poor sleep, and advice and strategies to improve sleep and overcome some common sleep difficulties. The strategies may be applied to both adults and children and young people.

Parent/Carer Registration Link: <https://bit.ly/SleepWebinar2024>

Upcoming Reading Café Dates

Maple: Thursday, 7th November

Beech & Rowan: Thursday, 14th November

Poplar: Thursday, 28th November

Sycamore & Chestnut: Thursday 5th December



General Reminders

School Times



Reception Children: 8.45 am to 3.05 pm
Yr1 to Yr 6 Children: 8.55 am to 3.15 pm.

Please ensure your child is on time so that they do not miss Early Bird Maths and incur a late mark.

Absence Reporting

To report your child's absence please ring school (239950) and select Option 1 to leave a message, clearly stating your child's name, class and reason for absence. Do not select Option 1 to speak to the Office staff as the mornings are very busy. The absence needs to be done on every morning of the absence unless it is a contagious condition, such as Chicken Pox when we are aware the child needs to be off for a certain period of time. A reminder that if children have Sickness and/or Diarrhoea, they must stay off school for 48 hours from the LAST symptom.

Contacting the Outreach Team

If you wish to speak to Emma or Rachel, please ring 239950, option 3.

Dogs in School



Dogs including puppies either on a lead or being carried are not allowed on the school premises including the playground and inside the fencing.

Mobile Phones



We have noticed an increased number of expensive mobile phones being brought into school, mainly by Year 6 pupils. If it is essential for your child to bring in a phone you will need to send a note on the first day of every half term, or on the first day of bringing it during the term, so that we know that you know your child has a phone with them. Your child must switch their phone off and take it to Mrs Nicholls in the School Office on arrival at school.

Parking



We would really appreciate your co-operation to make arriving at school and leaving at the end of the day, as safe as possible. We are a large school, in a very built-up area, so we know that parking is a challenge. We ask for drivers to be considerate towards pedestrians. The double yellow lines and zig-zag lines are there to protect pedestrians. Parking in these parts of the road endangers the lives of children and adults alike. Parking slightly further away from school, towards the Pall Mall end of Duke Street, or indeed into Brindle Street, will help to keep our children safe and also help you to get more fitness steps in. Thank you in anticipation of your support in this matter.

X (Formally Twitter)

Follow us at @DukeStPrimary to see updates on what the children are doing in school



Smoking/Vaping Please do not smoke or vape on the school premises.



Award Winners

CLASS	MATHS	ENGLISH	ICARE
Acorn	Bella	Lucas	Caleb
Rose	Lottie	Harlee Rose	Layla
Tulip	Millie	Naomi	Grayson
Acer	Elizabeth	Reggie	Aydan
Spruce	Maya	Archie	Husna
Redwood	Oscar	Lincoln	Leo
Maple	Isabelle	Miraal	Kayson
Beech	Lydia	Hajra	Harry H
Rowan	Jonathan	Finley	Phillip
Poplar	Elliot	Freddie	Thomas
Sycamore	Freddie	Delilah	Poppy
Chestnut	Logan	Grace	Charlie

KS1 Numbots Highest Coin Earners



1st: Aydan from Acer

2nd: Mahirha from Spruce

3rd: Omar from Redwood

KS2 T.T.R.S. Highest Coin Earners



1st: Yasin from Chestnut

2nd: Ali from Chestnut

3rd: Zeynep from Rowan

CLASS

OVERALL ACTIVE MINUTES

Spruce	94
Acer	67
Redwood	0
Maple	27
Beech	30
Rowan	49
Poplar	25
Sycamore	35
Chestnut	42

Asda Cash Pot Total

£ 700



Photo Gallery (see X for more pictures)



Year 2 enjoyed showing off their PE skills

Well done Poplar class! Tremendous timekeeping!



Developing fine motor skills in Reception

Acer class enjoyed spending time playing with toys..



TERM DATES

Term ends Fri 20th December 2024

Spring Term 2025

Term starts Mon 6th January 2025

Half-term Mon 17th to Fri 21st Feb 2025 (inclusive)

Term ends Fri 4th April 2025

Summer Term 2025

Term starts Tue 22nd April 2025

Bank holiday Mon 5th May 2025

Half-term Mon 26th May to Wed 4th June 2025 (inclusive)

Return after half-term break Thursday 5th June 2025

Term ends Fri 18th July 2025

Diary Dates

Wednesday 6th November: Parents Consultations, 2pm to 6pm

Monday 9th December: Breakfast with Santa

Monday 9th December: Y3 Christmas Bingo, 2.15 pm

Tuesday 10th December: Y4 Christmas Crafts, 2.15 pm

Wednesday 11th December: Yr 5 Christmas Decorations, 2.15 pm

Thursday 12th December: Christmas Dinner

Friday 13th December: Enrichment Day

Monday 16th December: Reception and Year 6 buddy songs around the Christmas tree

Wednesday 18th December: KS1 Christmas play performance (pm)

Thursday 19th December: KS1 Christmas play performance (am)



On Line Safety

At The National College, our WakeUpWednesday guides empower and equip parents, carers and educators with the confidence and practical skills to be able to have informed and age-appropriate conversations with children about online safety, mental health and wellbeing, and climate change. Formerly delivered by National Online Safety, these guides now address wider topics and themes. For further guides, hints and tips, please visit nationalcollege.com.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

FORTNITE

AGE RESTRICTION
PEGI
12

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Fortnite was launched back in 2017, but it remains massively popular – with more than 650 million active players. That's partially due to the competitive nature of its player-vs-player combat, its pop culture crossovers and its constantly shifting map. Significant updates are rolled out with each new version of the game – known as 'chapters' – and within these sit shorter 'seasons'.

ALWAYS ONLINE

There's no single-player offline mode in Fortnite: it can only be played online. Internet access can sometimes be an issue when you're out and about (both in terms of connectivity and using up data), so you may find that dedicated young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about trips away – such as days out and holidays – than you might expect.

IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – cosmetic 'skins', music tracks and LEGO items – which don't really impact on gameplay but can cost a significant amount. These items are bought with in-game currency, V-Bucks – earned through completing the Battle Pass (which also costs V-Bucks) and can also be purchased from the game's store for real money.

POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from movies and TV shows like Family Guy and Avatar: The Last Airbender to comic book characters including Batman to other games such as Street Fighter. This means you could have children asking questions about the monster from Alien or Geralt from The Witcher a little sooner than you otherwise might have.

CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

D@#!

Fortnite is popular with many gamers of various ages. 'Crossplay' lets friends play with each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo Switch or PC – while the 'party chat' feature allows them to talk to each other during the game. This can, however, put youngsters at risk of hearing inappropriate language from older players in the heat of virtual combat.

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

At its core, there's no avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them from the contest. That said, there's no blood or gore. The violence is rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood, such as fishing mini-games and dancing emotes. Machine guns, shotguns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, however, so discretion is advised.

FREQUENT UPDATES

The game's developers release content in 'seasons' that usually run for around ten weeks. Each fresh update sees items added to the in-game store, changes to the environment's map and a different over-arching theme (such as 'medieval', 'pirates' or 'party'). These regular renewals help to hold players' interest – but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep coming back.

Advice for Parents & Educators

MATCH GAMING TIMES

Younger players tend to play Fortnite with their friends. With that in mind, it could be worth speaking to the parents and carers of a child's social group and coordinating their gaming around certain times of day. Safety in numbers is obviously a factor here, but it will also help children feel that they're getting adequate opportunities to socialise with their friends online.

SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into buying sought-after items before they disappear for weeks or months. This could lead to surprise transactions on bank cards if children are tempted into an impulse purchase. Parents could consider getting a prepaid card for the child or ensuring that purchases require adult authorisation. This can be done through parental settings on a console or account settings in the Epic Games app on PC.

USE UPDATES AS REWARDS

Fortnite's seasonal updates are free, but each also brings the option of a 'battle pass', unlocking exclusive rewards for playing the game and completing set challenges. The passes cost around £8 and are also available as part of larger bundles. The purchase of passes can be an effective reward to young Fortnite fans for good behaviour or academic performance, or as an incentive for completing chores like tidying their room.

BE WARY OF SCAMS

The immense popularity of Fortnite with younger audiences – that are generally more trusting – means there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they never ask for a player's account password outside of the game: make sure any young player knows this.

ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously on the same console or computer. This can be a good option for siblings or for when a child's friends visit, but it also offers an opportunity for parents and carers to do something fun with their child, while also making sure they're playing the game safely. Who knows? You might even teach them a thing or two!

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is Editor in Chief of gaming and esports site GGRecon and has worked in the gaming media for around four years. A long-time gamer, he is also a parent and therefore a keen advocate of online safety. Writing mainly about tech and fitness, his articles have been published on influential sites including IGN and TechRadar.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

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