



Primary Newsletter

7th February 2025



Message from Mr Hilliam

It's great to read in this Newsletter that auditions are underway for the Primary School House Music and Drama event on Tuesday 18th March. Drama is such an important part of our pupils' learning and development. It certainly helps build vital confidence, communication skills and teamwork!

We are so pleased that our offering of Speech and Drama opportunities has grown this year. Years 7 to 9 are now enjoying Drama as a timetabled weekly lesson, delivered by Mrs Simpson, our wonderful Head of Drama. The aim is to offer Drama as a GCSE option from next year!

Alongside her new role, Mrs Simpson is still seeing lots of pupils each week for their Speech and Drama lessons and helping them prepare for their LAMDA examinations, and if all that isn't enough, she is also producing our Tanzania charity fund - raising Snow White Panto!

Tickets are still available for Snow White - and it won't be long before rehearsals start for the Primary School end of year drama production in July!

Best wishes,
Paul Hilliam
Acting Head



FEBRUARY

- 7&8 Senior School Pantomime - Snow White
- 10 Achievement Assembly
Y5/6 Climbing Station Visit
- please ensure you have filled in your Google form
- 12 U10/11 Hockey v Old Vicarage School
- 14 End of Half Term
- 24 Skipping Day
-an event for all Primary pupils funded by the PTA
- 26 Primary Parent's Evening - 4pm - 5.30pm
- 28 Wear Yellow day - £1 for Air Ambulance



MARCH

ADVANCE NOTICE

- 18 Primary Performing Arts Evening - 4pm - 5.30pm - All children to attend

MESSAGE FROM MRS GENDERS

Children's Mental Health Week was thoroughly enjoyed by all our children, with a wonderful range of activities promoting wellbeing, resilience, and kindness. As you can see, we've been very busy engaging in creative and meaningful experiences that have encouraged reflection and positive mental health. ❤️

In addition, we are delighted to share that, following our NSPCC Number Day, we have made a fantastic donation of over £30 to the NSPCC. A huge thank you to everyone who took part and contributed - your generosity will help support the vital work they do for children across the UK.

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

This week, Derby Grammar School has been actively engaged in two significant initiatives – Children's Mental Health Week and NSPCC Numbers Day – both aimed at fostering wellbeing and raising awareness among our pupils.






Children's Mental Health Week began with an inspiring assembly led by Mrs Hardstaff, who emphasised the importance of mental wellbeing, self-expression, and seeking support when needed. Throughout the week, pupils participated in various activities designed to promote resilience, mindfulness, and open conversations about mental health. Sessions included discussions on managing stress, the benefits of physical activity, and the importance of kindness in our daily interactions.

On Friday, the school turned its attention to NSPCC Numbers Day, a nationwide event encouraging a love of maths while supporting the vital work of the NSPCC. Pupils took part in engaging number-based challenges and problem-solving activities, making learning fun while raising funds for a crucial cause. The day not only reinforced mathematical skills but also highlighted the importance of charity and community support.

Both events have provided an opportunity for pupils and staff to reflect on the importance of both mental wellbeing and education, reinforcing our school's commitment to nurturing well-rounded individuals.



WHAT WE DID

-  Monday: Assembly with Mrs Hardstaff to introduce the week.
-  Wednesday: KS1 created a well-being tree in Forest School, while KS2 enjoyed a movie afternoon featuring Inside Out 2.
-  Thursday morning: The children focused on mindfulness activities.
-  Thursday afternoon: We designed our own 'number' t-shirts for NSPCC Number Day!
-  Friday: Non-uniform day! Pupils dressed up with a number theme—for a £1 donation to the NSPCC. The day also featured a special maths and Free Writing Friday session.



THE IMPORTANCE OF EXERCISE FOR MENTAL HEALTH

On Tuesday, our Sixth Former Joshua Morrison delivered an engaging and insightful talk on the importance of exercise in supporting mental health. He spoke passionately about how physical activity can help to reduce stress, improve mood, and enhance overall well-being. Joshua shared his personal experiences in gymnastics and how the discipline, focus, and movement involved contribute to both physical and mental strength.

To bring his message to life, Joshua showed the children some exciting videos of his gymnastics performances, demonstrating the skill, dedication, and perseverance required in the sport. The children were captivated by his incredible routines and left feeling inspired and motivated to incorporate more movement into their daily lives.

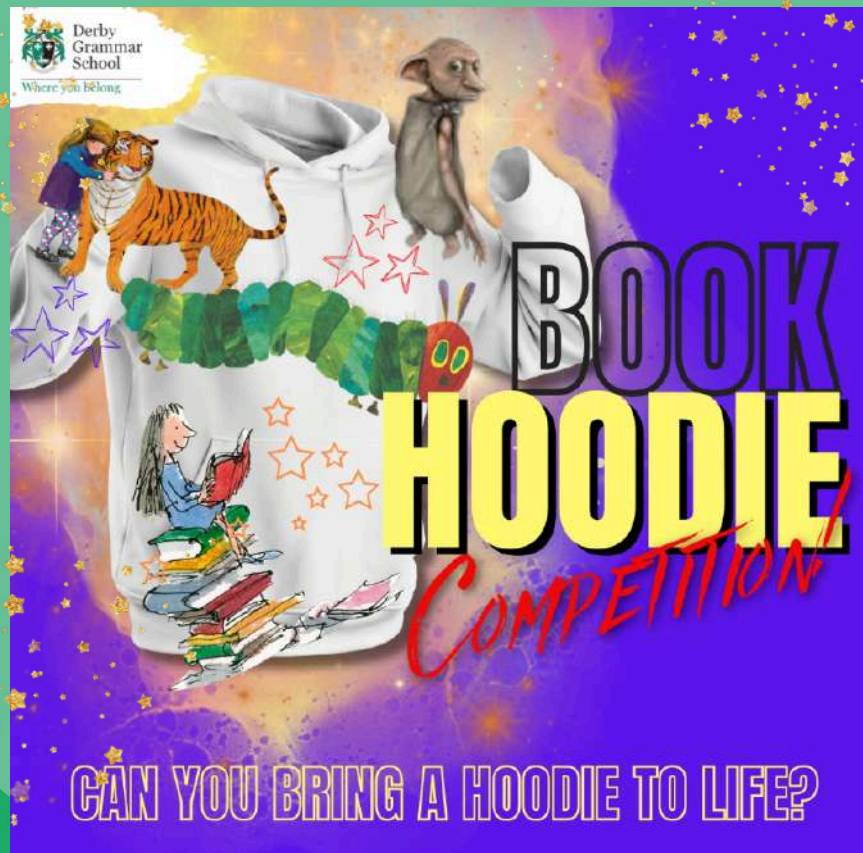
Following the talk, our infants took part in a Cosmic Yoga session, where they explored fun, interactive yoga poses designed to promote relaxation, mindfulness, and body awareness. This session allowed them to experience firsthand how gentle exercise can help with calmness and focus, reinforcing the positive message of the day.

It was a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to learn about the mind-body connection, and we hope it encourages them to stay active and prioritise their well-being. A huge thank you to Joshua for sharing his knowledge and enthusiasm with the Primary School!



BOOK HOODIE COMPETITION

Last week, the children were given the template to design their own book-themed hoodie. The deadline for the competition is 10th February. One infant and one junior entry will have their design made into a real hoodie for World Book Day. If you need another template, please ask Mrs Genders.



READING BUDDIES

Our Reception to Year 4 pupils teamed up as reading buddies, pairing older and younger students together to share their love of books. It was a wonderful opportunity for them to connect across year groups, build confidence, and enjoy their home reading books together. Smiles, stories, and a shared love of reading—what more could we ask for? Well done to all our budding bookworms!

*You can find magic
wherever you look. Sit
back and relax, all you
need is a book!*



PUBLISHED POETS IN THE MAKING!

In a recent Free Writing Friday session, our pupils took on a poetry challenge inspired by Brian Moses. Mrs Genders added her own twist to the prompt for Year 5/6, and when she shared the idea with Brian on Twitter, he was so impressed that he asked to see some of the poems!

We're thrilled to share that Brian Moses has featured the idea - and some of our children's poetry - on his blog! What an incredible achievement for our young writers. Published already - Mrs Genders is officially jealous!

Well done to all involved - we are so proud of you!

<https://brian-moses.blogspot.com>



HOUSE MUSIC AND DRAMA AUDITIONS

We're excited to offer all pupils the chance to perform a solo music or drama piece at our upcoming Primary Performing Arts Evening! At the start of February, pupils will have the opportunity to perform in their class music lessons for Mrs Davy or Mr Coley, earning a house point for their efforts. Mrs Simpson will also be discussing options with those taking Speech and Drama lessons.

From these performances, pupils across all age groups will be selected to take the stage at our special event on Tuesday 18th March.

So, get practising and good luck - we can't wait to see you perform!



ONE PAGE PROFILES

Alongside this newsletter, you'll find a one-page profile template.

Our aim is to create one for each pupil in the Primary School, helping us to better understand and support every child.

We'd be grateful if parents could complete the profile about their child over the next couple of weeks and send it to Mrs De Waal via

email at dewaal.k@derbygrammar.org

Thank you for your support! ❤️

All about Sally

Sally is a lovely girl who loves carrots but hates broccoli. She likes to hold someone's hand if she's feeling a bit sad, and doesn't like it when her hair gets wet! She can be a bit funny like that!

If she gets upset, she loves to listen to a story, anything by Julia Donaldson is her favourite...



Derby Grammar School presents

SNOW WHITE

SNOW WHITE – A PANTOMIME NOT TO BE MISSED!

The wait is over! Tonight and tomorrow, Derby Grammar School proudly presents its spectacular production of Snow White – a pantomime full of laughter, music, and fun for all ages.

Join us for a magical journey as we bring this classic fairy tale to life with a cast of talented students, dazzling costumes, and plenty of panto-style humour. Expect heroic princes, a wicked queen, seven delightful dwarfs, and, of course, plenty of “he’s behind you!” moments.

Our performers and production team have been working tirelessly to put on a show that promises to be an unforgettable experience. Whether you’re a fan of traditional pantomime or just looking for a fantastic evening of entertainment, Snow White at DGS is the perfect event to bring some joy to the end of your week!

Dates: Tonight & Tomorrow – Friday & Saturday 7th & 8th February.

Time: Doors and Bar open at 6.15pm – Show starts at 7pm

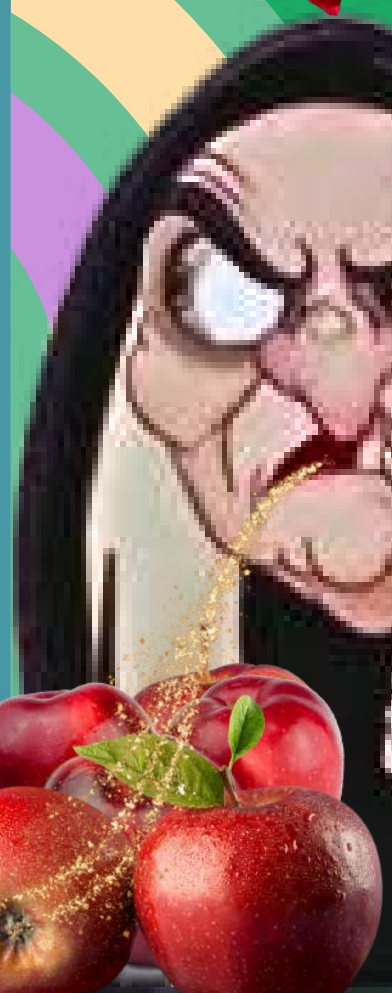
Tickets:



[Scan Me](#)

Don't miss your chance to see this magical performance! Gather your family and friends and join us for a night of fun, laughter, and panto magic.

Book your tickets now and let the fairy tale begin!





RECEPTION CLASS STAY & PLAY

We had a lovely time on Wednesday at our Love and Kindness Reception Stay and Play!

♥ It was a truly special event, fitting beautifully into Children's Mental Health Week, and our VIP guests had the best time exploring activities and taking home a goody bag filled with love!

If you know anyone who'd like to join us next time with their child (aged 3 or 4), register now via our website:

derbygrammar.org/admissions/open-days-and-events.

Our next stay and play will be on 19th March and will be Easter themed.

GROWING GRATITUDE!

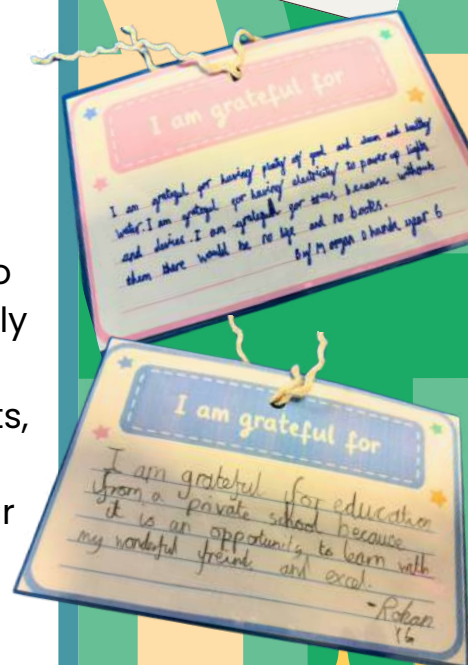
This week at Forest School, our children took part in a heart-warming activity that encouraged reflection, appreciation, and mindfulness. On Wednesday and Thursday, they worked together to create a Gratitude Tree, a beautiful display of all the things they are thankful for.

As they explored the natural surroundings, the children took time to think about what makes them happy and what they truly appreciate in their lives. From family and friends to the wonders of nature. Each message was carefully written and hung on the tree, turning it into a vibrant and meaningful symbol of appreciation.

This activity not only fostered a sense of thankfulness but also encouraged the children to recognise the positives in their daily lives.

It was a wonderful reminder that even in the simplest moments, there is always something to be grateful for.

We are so proud of their enthusiasm and thoughtfulness – our Gratitude Tree now stands tall, filled with heartfelt messages and reminders of kindness, joy, and appreciation.



IN THE CLASSROOMS WEEKS 5 & 6

EYFS

In Reception, we have been celebrating Mental Health Week. To support everyone in school, we created heart suncatchers using black sugar and tissue paper. This activity aimed to promote positive mental health for ourselves and those around us. Don't they just bring a smile to your face?



YEAR 1 & 2

This week the children have had lots of fun exploring different designs, colours and patterns ready for them to make their own African art masks! The children are so proud of what they have made. Here is the finished product!



IN THE CLASSROOMS

WEEKS 5 & 6



YEAR 3/4

Aside from making fantastic progress on their recorders, mastering the notes B, A, and G, years 3 and 4 have been thoroughly enjoying their time in Forest School. They have been working hard to clear away heaps of fallen leaves, revealing the delicate snowdrops beneath. Their efforts haven't stopped there - they have also begun creating their own compost, learning about decomposition and how natural materials break down to enrich the soil. Through these hands-on activities, they are not only developing a deeper appreciation for nature but also playing an active role in caring for their environment.



YEAR 5 & 6

Year 5/6 had an amazing trip to the theatre last week to see Floella Benjamin's book 'Coming to England' brought to the stage. (Thank you parents for your cooperation in helping this trip go ahead!). They had a brilliant time and even met the director! He asked them some questions and was very impressed with their answers!



OPEN DAY

Saturday
15th
March
10am-1pm



**a quality
co-educational
independent school
with guaranteed
small class sizes**

to register please complete the form on:
www.derbygrammar.org/admissions/open-days-and-events