

## ★ Stars of the Week ★

Year 1	Abel
Year 2	Amelia D
Year 3	Hawal
Year 4	Eli
Year 5	Izsak
Year 6	Ranvi

## Head Teacher's Award



# Alex



## House Point Winners



## Message from Mr Williamson

By now you will know that I am taking retirement at the end of the term on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and I am going to miss being part of this amazing school and community so much.

In the meantime, life goes on and the school needs to prepare for a new era. The process of recruiting a new head is underway with the support of Northern Lights with the intention of appointing someone in readiness for the summer term on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Staff, governors and children will all have a part to play in this process to ensure the right person is appointed to carry on the caring and warm family feel that has made Dame Dorothy such a special place to be.

## DAME DOROTHY'S GOT TALENT

Some of our children showcased their talents this afternoon during the heats for *Dame Dorothy's Got Talent*. There is an incredible amount of talent across our school, making the decision very difficult. Each class then selected their favourites to go through to next week's final.



# Dame Dorothy Leads the Way with Our Active School Uniform



Pupils at Dame Dorothy primary school in Sunderland wear a sports kit-style uniform that allows them to be active all day long

RICHARD LEE PHOTOGRAPHY

## Pupils in sports kit-style uniforms do better in school

A primary school is ditching blazers and trousers for activewear and its results suggest others might follow suit

We are incredibly proud to celebrate the success of our **Active School Uniform**, introduced in 2024. When we first launched it, very few schools in England had taken such a step, and we are delighted to see how far this innovative idea has travelled.

Our approach has attracted nationwide interest, with schools across the country regularly contacting Dame Dorothy to learn how they too can become an **Active Uniform School**. It's wonderful to see our children - and our school - helping to inspire positive change in education.

This week has been especially exciting as our uniform was featured in **The Times** newspaper. Following that, we were invited onto **ITV's This Morning**, where Cat and Ben spoke about why we made the change and the benefits it brings to our pupils.

We couldn't be prouder that **Dame Dorothy Primary** is leading the way nationally and helping reshape how schools think about uniform and physical activity.

Thank you for your support in making this initiative such a success.



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## HELP US KEEP YOUR CHILDREN SAFE

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Can we remind parents and carers to allow a few extra minutes when dropping off or collecting children from school. This will allow you to park in the car park and not in the danger zone on the path and on restricted zig zag markings. Unlike a lot of schools, we are incredibly fortunate to have a car park for parents, please help us keep your children safe and park safely.



## Does your child walk to school on their own?

### Road Safety: Using Traffic Lights and Zebra Crossings

Keeping our children safe on the roads is a shared responsibility. Please take a moment to remind your child of these important road-safety rules:

#### Using Traffic Lights

- Always wait for the green man before crossing the road.
- Stop and wait if the signal is red, even if the road looks clear.
- Continue to look left, right, and left again while crossing.
- Never run across the road or start crossing when the light is flashing.

#### Using Zebra Crossings

- Stop at the edge of the crossing and look both ways.
- Make sure traffic has stopped completely before stepping onto the crossing.
- Walk straight across—do not stop or play on the crossing.
- Stay alert and keep looking while crossing.

#### General Road Safety Tips

- Hold an adult's hand when crossing the road, especially for younger children.
- Avoid distractions such as phones or headphones near roads.
- Use crossings whenever possible—do not cross between parked cars.

By following these simple rules, we can help our children develop safe habits that protect them now and in the future. Thank you for supporting road safety in our school community!

\*\*\*\*\* *Farewell Mrs Wheatman* \*\*\*\*\*

We are sad to announce that Mrs Wheatman will be retiring from her role on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February. She has been a valued member of our team for the past five years, and her kind and caring nature has meant so much to the children in Early Years, who will miss her greatly. We would like to thank Mrs Wheatman for her dedication and wish her every happiness in her retirement.

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## ATTENDANCE

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Attendance is so important for children to get the most from their education and the aim should always be 100%.

This week's attendance winners with **97.4%** are **Year 1 & 5**.

Children with **5** late arrivals will miss out on prizes and awards even if they are at **98%**.

**School starts at 8am with our free breakfast club, open to anyone in Reception – Year 6 classes but must enter before 8:30am, classroom doors open from 8:45 - 8:55. Any children arriving after this time should enter via the school office, where a late mark will be given.**

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## DERWENT HILL

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**There is a meeting for parents and carers of children who are going to Derwent Hill on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February in school at 3:20pm. Please make every effort to attend as important information will be given and any questions can be answered.**

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## DIARY DATES

- 2 - 6<sup>th</sup> Feb - Mental Health Week
- 10<sup>th</sup> Feb - Internet Safety Day
- 13<sup>th</sup> Feb - Y5 Visit to Centre for life.
- 17<sup>th</sup> Feb - Derwent Hill Meeting 3:20pm for parents in school
- 23 - 27<sup>th</sup> Feb - Half Term – School re-opens on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March

# Year 5 Newsletter Special!

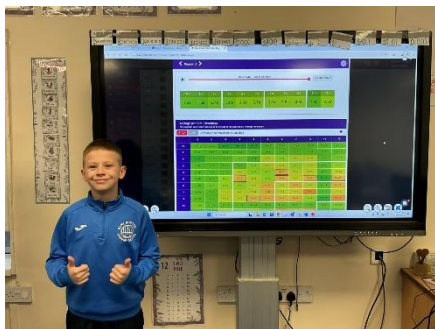
**Literacy** Year 5 have been working incredibly hard in Literacy this half term, using *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* to inspire their writing. They have been applying their SPaG targets with growing confidence, using cohesive devices such as subordinate clauses, fronted adverbials and prepositional phrases to move the narrative forward. We have also explored planning from different characters' viewpoints, studying Hermione's traits and how to reflect these in our writing. The children are now excited to begin their independent pieces, writing from Ron's perspective during the dramatic chess game and putting all their skills into action.



**History – Child at War** To end our *Child at War* topic in unforgettable style, Year 5 were “evacuated” to Whitley Bay. The journey became a valuable learning experience as the children used the Metro, read maps and changed at stations, realising that longer journeys don't need to feel daunting. At Spanish City, they visited the Cenotaph, viewed the lighthouse and linked the experience to their classroom learning before enjoying delicious fish and chips in Trenchers Restaurant. The tour that followed completely captivated them as they explored the building's wartime history and compared historical photographs with the Spanish City of today. A huge thank you goes to Paul Makings, PMC and Kymel for funding the trip through MOBIE.



**Maths – TT Rockstars** Year 5 are now fully set up on TT Rockstars, with every child using their own login to practise essential multiplication and division facts. Mrs Campion checks progress daily, and TT Rockstars forms a key part of homework three times a week, with at least ten minutes expected each session. In class, we track speed and accuracy using our red-amber-green chart, celebrating progress and encouraging everyone to aim for their personal best. Strong times tables knowledge is vital for our upcoming topics — long multiplication, short division, area and fractions — and regular practice is already boosting the children's confidence.



**Science – Alchemy and Changing States** In Science, Year 5 have linked their *Harry Potter* novel to the magical world of alchemy, exploring the real life chemistry behind changing states of materials. They have investigated what can turn a solid or liquid into a gas, and how mixtures and solutions can be separated back into their original materials. With a few “spells” and plenty of scientific thinking, the children are becoming confident young chemists. We are now looking forward to our visit to the Centre for Life, where they will continue exploring changing states in well-equipped laboratories.