



Newsletter 17th July

Head of School Update

As we reach the end of another wonderful school year, it has certainly been a busy final week at Dame Dorothy's! From Sports Day and our 100% Attendance Bowling Treat to Beach Day, the children have enjoyed every opportunity to be active, spend time outdoors and make lasting memories with their friends. It has been the perfect way to finish a year that has been full of learning, achievement and fun.

These events reflect so much of what Dame Dorothy is all about. We love keeping busy, embracing new experiences and making the most of opportunities to learn and play together. Seeing the smiles on the children's faces this week has been a wonderful reminder of the importance of creating memorable moments alongside their academic learning.

I would like to extend a huge thank you to all of our staff for organising and supporting these events. None of them would be possible without the dedication, enthusiasm and generosity of our incredible team, who willingly give their time and energy to ensure our children have such enriching experiences.

As this is our final newsletter of the year, I would also like to thank all of our families for your continued support throughout the year. Working in partnership with you makes a real difference to the success of our school and to the opportunities we are able to provide for our children.

We wish all of our families a happy, safe and restful summer break, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in September. For our Year 6 leavers, we wish you every success and happiness as you begin the next exciting chapter of your journey.

Have a wonderful summer.

Laura Tullock
Head of School

Supporting St Benedict's Hospice - Go Yellow Day!



A reminder that Yellow Day will take place on Tuesday 21st July in support of St Benedict's Hospice. This very special charity has provided support to families within our school community, and we are looking forward to coming together to raise money and give something back.

Children are invited to come to school dressed in yellow, and both children and parents will have the opportunity to take part in a fun assault course on the school field. We are asking for a donation, however big or small, from those taking part, with all money raised going directly to St Benedict's Hospice.

Parents and carers are invited to join their child at the following times:

- **2.15pm** – Early Years
- **2.30pm** – Years 1 and 2
- **2.45pm** – Years 3 and 4
- **3.00pm** – Years 5 and 6

These staggered times have been planned to allow parents with children in different year groups the opportunity to participate with each child.

After completing the assault course, children will return to their classrooms until all year groups have finished taking part at 3.15.

We hope you will be able to join us for what promises to be a fun afternoon, while raising money for a truly special local charity.

We look forward to seeing a sea of yellow on Tuesday!



100% Attendance Superstars

A huge well done to our 23 amazing children who achieved 100% attendance!

To celebrate their fantastic commitment to coming to school every day, they enjoyed a well-deserved bowling treat!

We are so proud of your brilliant effort, positive attitude, and dedication to learning. Thank you to our wonderful families for your continued support in helping our children make every school day count.

Keep shining, superstars, we can't wait to celebrate more amazing achievements!



Beach Day

Our children enjoyed a fantastic day at the beach this week, making the most of the sunshine and creating wonderful memories with their friends. The day was filled with fun, laughter and plenty of seaside adventures, including building sandcastles, taking part in beach games and exploring the coastline. Throughout the visit, the children demonstrated excellent teamwork, kindness and enthusiasm, with smiles all around.

Experiences like these provide valuable opportunities to develop friendships, build confidence and enjoy learning beyond the classroom in our local environment. A huge thank you to all parents and carers who volunteered their time to support the visit. Your help and encouragement played a vital role in making the day such a success.

It was a wonderful day for everyone involved and one that will be remembered fondly by the children.



Sports Day

What a fantastic Sports Day we enjoyed this week!

The field was filled with energy, excitement and plenty of smiles as children took part in a range of races and activities. Every child gave their best effort, demonstrating determination, resilience and a wonderful sporting spirit throughout the day. It was fantastic to see children cheering one another on, celebrating each other's successes and showing kindness and encouragement from start to finish. The enthusiasm and positivity on display made the day truly special.

A huge thank you to all of the parents, carers and family members who came along to support. Your cheers, encouragement and involvement helped create such a positive atmosphere and made the event even more memorable for our children.

We are incredibly proud of every child who took part. Whether they were running, skipping, throwing or supporting their friends from the sidelines, they represented our school brilliantly. Well done to everyone involved for making Sports Day 2026 such a fun, energetic and successful event!



Goodbye Year 6

We have been privileged to have such a wonderful group of Year 6 children pass through our school. They are genuinely one of the kindest, funniest and most caring cohorts we have ever had. Each and every one of them has brought something special to our school community, and they will leave a significant gap when they move on in September. I would like to extend my personal best wishes to all of our Year 6 pupils as they embark on the next exciting chapter of their education. We hope they continue to build on the potential, resilience and character they have shown during their time with us at Dame Dorothy. We are incredibly proud of all they have achieved and have no doubt that they will go on to accomplish great things in the years ahead. Good luck, Year 6 you will be greatly missed.



School Meals Update

Please note that from September, the cost of a school meal will increase from £2.40 to £2.50 per day.

We remain committed to providing healthy, nutritious meals for our children, and this small increase will help us continue to maintain the quality of our school food provision. Thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Safeguarding

We are nearly at the end of our school year and looking forward to some time at home over the summer. This week, we are sharing some top tips with you of how to keep your children safe online.

[Free E-Safety Guide | Keep Children Safe Online Over Summer](#)

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 KEEP CHILDREN SAFE ONLINE OVER SUMMER

School's out ... for summer! Yes, it's that time of the year again: around six weeks at home for ecstatic youngsters. For many young people, a bumper stint off school means a welcome chance to spend even more time with their games console, phone, tablet or smart TV. So whether your children are likely to be scrolling on Snapchat, nestling in front of Netflix or trying foes on Fortnite, we've put together some top tips to help you keep them safe online this holiday.

THERE'S NO NETWORK LIKE HOME

Teenagers, especially, tend to be delighted to find that a coffee shop, restaurant or shopping centre offers free WiFi. These public networks are much less secure than home WiFi, though, so discourage your child from making online purchases or entering personal details when out and about.

IT'S 'THE GREAT OUTDOORS' FOR A REASON

For most northern hemisphere-dwellers, this time of year is a rare opportunity to enjoy the outside world in pleasant weather. Remind your child how amazing it is to feel the sun on their back and fresh air in their lungs. Disney+ and Minecraft will still be there on dizzly Sundays in October.

PRIVATE INFO STAYS PRIVATE

It's worth checking your child's social media or gaming profiles occasionally to make sure they aren't inadvertently giving away too much information. Details such as their full name, address or where they go to school could all be used to track them down by individuals with sinister intentions.

KEEP TALKING

It sounds blindingly obvious, but having regular chats with your child about who they're talking to online, what games and apps they're using and what shows they're streaming is a huge benefit. It doesn't have to be every day or even every week, but it can signal potential issues well in advance.

LIGHTS OUT, SCREENS OFF

This is a golden rule: try to limit how much screen time your child has towards end of the day. Staring at the screen of a phone or tablet for too long before bed severely impacts a child's quality of sleep - which can play havoc with their concentration, mood and energy levels the next day.

FOCUS ON FACTS

The internet is phenomenal at spreading gossip. When children of certain ages aren't in daily contact at school, the digital rumour mill can go into overdrive. Remind your child not to believe everything they're told online - especially if the person involved isn't around to provide their side of the story.

WATCH FOR EXCESSIVE GAMING

With no school, children often take every opportunity to fit in 'just one more go' on their favourite game - sometimes at the cost of their daily routine, or having family time. A little extra gaming is to be expected in the holidays, but it could become problematic if it evolves into a recurring habit.

LIMIT SOCIAL AUDIENCES

When they're old enough, young people love to broadcast their summer holiday highlights all over social media. The unfortunate truth, however, is that we don't always know who might be viewing this content. Check the settings to ensure that only friends and family can see your child's posts.

DEMONSTRATE GOOD HABITS

Children often learn their digital behaviour from watching the grown-ups around them. So make sure your child observes you being positive and supportive on social media, for example - and, especially, sees that you know when it's time to switch the screen off, even though you're having fun.

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Book Recommendations

'Today a reader, tomorrow a leader.'

Margaret Fuller

The summer holidays are the perfect time to relax with a good book. Whether you're in the garden, at the beach, on a long car journey or simply curled up on the sofa, reading can take you anywhere!

To help keep children inspired and enjoying books over the summer, we are sharing some more reading recommendations that your children might enjoy. We hope they discover a new favourite story and make plenty of time for reading during the break.

Happy reading



[Top Children's Books Summer 2026](#)

Diary Dates

21 st July	St Benedict's Hospice Go Yellow Day!	St Benedict's Hospice in Sunderland is launching a <i>Go Yellow Day</i> fundraising campaign. This wonderful charity has provided support to families within our school community, and we would like to give something back by holding our own Yellow Day in school.
22 nd July	Guard of Honor	We will be staging our leavers' Guard of Honour at 3pm where we say our final farewell in front of all the children, staff and parents. Not to be missed!
22ND JULY– LAST DAY OF TERM – SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 3:15PM		
2ND SEPTEMBER – CHILDREN RETURN TO SCHOOL		