**DELVES LANE PRIMARY SCHOOL**
Delves Lane, Consett, Co Durham, DH8 7ES
Head Teacher: Mrs R A Woods
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**READY RESPECTFUL SAFE**

Friday 23rd October 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of our first half term, we would like to wish everyone a wonderful half term and well-deserved rest! We look forward to seeing you all again after the holidays on Tuesday 3rd November.

## Glo Week Visit

Yesterday we had a visit from Liz Twist MP and a team including the Road Safety, Emergency Services and Elddis. This event was held in partnership with the Acquired Brain Injury Trust, to raise awareness about the importance of being seen, not hurt, when the days become shorter in the winter months. The visit included vehicles from the fire service, Elddis Transport and the Police so that children could learn about the dangers and blind spots of vehicles and traffic in line with GlowWeek awareness. This was for our Year 5 and 6 children in Pine, Oak and Beech Classes. There was lots of excitement, especially when the children were looking at the vehicles. We all thoroughly enjoyed the visit and would like to say a big thank you to Liz Twist and the team of visitors who came along to share such important messages about being seen and not hurt during the shorter days ahead.

## Parents Evening

It was great to see so many of our parents and carers come along for parents evening. If you didn't manage to see your child's teacher, please contact the school office to arrange an appointment. Thank you.

## Halloween Disco

All of the children have had a spooktacular day celebrating Halloween early in school Today! It was amazing to see the efforts the children (and parents!) had gone to with their superb costumes. The children boogied away at the Halloween discos and enjoyed some great party games.

## Harvest Festival Donations

A big thank you for all of your generous donations for Glenroyd House! We were absolutely overwhelmed with the amount of food brought into school. This will be distributed to those who need some extra support in the community.




**DLPS School Council Tuck Shop**

Yesterday we had our very first tuck shop at DLPS over lunchtime. The queue ran all the way down to the field for the first ever event. It was an extremely busy and successful hour and the children were an absolute credit to the school, helping each other, being so thoughtful and kind and also so very generous. Our staff offered lots of help which was really appreciated as well!

We can't thank our children and families enough, because we managed to raise an eye-watering £484.26 to go towards school funds for new resources, trips and events.

Thank you to everyone including our fabulous school council for running such a successful event! Our next Tuck Shop will be organised with school council. This will be held at the end of next half term and will have a Christmas Theme!

**Poppies**

On our return to school from Tuesday 3rd November, our Year 6 children will be visiting every class during the afternoons for the week selling poppies. Children can bring money into school to purchase poppies and other merchandise. All poppies and merchandise are £1 each.

**Attendance at DLPS - Everyday counts!**

Excellent attendance at school is important to allow your child to fulfil their potential and for them to have the best possible start in life.

Although we aim for 100%, each year we set a target for attendance and this is used to compare us to other schools nationally. Our current target is 96% attendance.

Here are just some of the reasons why it is so important children attend school:

- To learn
- To have fun and make new friends
- To understand responsibility
- To experience new things
- To develop awareness of other cultures, religions, ethnicity and gender differences
- To achieve
- To gain qualifications
- To develop new skills
- To build confidence and self-esteem
- To grow as individuals

Please help us to help your child by encouraging regular school attendance.

Regular attendance helps children to develop confidence and to make lasting friendships.



## Weekly Class Attendance Winners

| Class | 11.09.26 | 18.09.26 | 25.09.26 | 02.10.26 | 09.10.26 | 16.10.26 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Cherry** | 92.39% | 94.57% | **96.20%** | 95.65% | 93.5% | 95.11% |
| **Hazel** | 97.45% | **98.72%** | 95.65% | 95.57% | 91.1% | 94.94% |
| **Juniper** | **100.0%** | 96.7% | 91.7% | **96.1%** | 97.2% | 96.1% |
| **Maple** | 97.92% | 93.75% | 95.14% | 95.14% | **97.4%** | **97.62%** |
| **Poplar** | 93.18% | **100.00%** | 97.20% | 93.75% | **99.5%** | 98.86% |
| **Elm** | 97.06% | 94.09% | **98.00%** | **99.01%** | 92.6% | 94.06% |
| **Birch** | **99.52%** | **100.00%** | 97.80% | 95.19% | 98.9% | **100.00%** |
| **Pine** | 93.98% | 94.91% | 94.90% | 95.83% | 89.4% | 91.67% |
| **Beech** | 88.69% | 84.52% | 90.30% | 84.43% | 77.5% | 87.76% |
| **Oak** | | 89.47% | 90.10% | 97.37% | 97.4% | 91.45% |

**Fantastic news for Maple and Birch, well done!**

## Star of the Week

We are very proud of all our stars this half term. The Star of the Week biscuits continue to be very popular!

| SOTW | 11.09.26 | 18.09.26 | 25.09.26 | 02.10.26 | 09.10.26 | 16.10.26 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Cherry** | | Archie | | Billy-Joe | Denver | Holly |
| **Hazel** | Dana | Dana | Harrison | Madison | Millie | Ellie |
| **Juniper** | Freya | Noah | Lionel | Daniella | Ella | Beauden |
| **Maple** | Noah | Archie | Alby | Rudy | Elsie-Lu | Teddy |
| **Poplar** | Isaac | Toby | Nova | Hank | Heidi | Jimmy-Connor |
| **Elm** | Lilly-Rose | Nathaniel | Kaique | Harper-Grace | Carter | Amaya |
| **Birch** | Harleen | Sydney | Ollie | Nora | Andrew-Jorge | Isla |
| **Pine** | Alfie | Lesley | Elsie | Ivy | Lexi | Skander |
| **Beech** | Ellie-Mai | George H | Elise | Charlie | Rudy | Blair |
| **Oak** | George | Emily S | Abby | Mason | Maddison | Evie |

**Congratulations to all of our STARS!**

## Reader of the Week

| ROTW | 11.09.26 | 18.09.26 | 25.09.26 | 02.10.26 | 09.10.26 | 16.10.26 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Cherry** | | | | | Phoebe | Emily |
| **Hazel** | Ronan | Theo | Elaina | Jude | Jaxon | Asnat |
| **Juniper** | Delilah | Octavia | Maya | Jenson | Joshua | Tadisa |
| **Maple** | Anaiya | Izzie | Grace | Reggie | Elsie | Carter |
| **Poplar** | Jazmine | Harper | Darcie | Kai | Lucas | Nova |
| **Elm** | Rose | Niamh | Sophie | Jacob | Ella-Mae | Poppy |
| **Birch** | Lochlaan | Rome | Alec | Harry | Robyn | Evie |
| **Pine** | Reagan | Emilee | Jaime-Leigh | Sri | Lilly-Mae | Aria |
| **Beech** | Dylan | David | Jorgie | Renea | Byran | George |
| **Oak** | Brooke | Isaac | Andrew | Kaia | Eva | Mason |

**Well done to all of our READERS!**

## Golden Welly Winners

| Date | Name & Class |
|---|---|
| 25.09.26 | Noah – Maple<br>Mason – Beech |
| 02.10.26 | Daniella, Denver & Holly – Juniper – Chery<br>Evie-Jorge, Emilee, Jaime-Leigh & Ivy - Pine |
| 09.10.26 | Asnat & Millie – Hazel<br>Millie - Beech |
| 16.10.26 | Darcey & Denver – Cherry<br>Nora, Poppy & Isla - Birch |

## House Points




| Date | Griffin | Unicorn | Minotaur | Phoenix |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 11.09.26 | 368 | 341 | 362 | 371 |
| 18.09.26 | 371 | 308 | 337 | 401 |
| 25.09.26 | 351 | 314 | 359 | 368 |
| 02.10.26 | 360 | 333 | 367 | 357 |
| 09.10.26 | 377 | 385 | 396 | 427 |
| 16.10.26 | 278 | 278 | 373 | 297 |

## Online Safety

We have sent out our monthly Online Safety newsletter but we are aware of continued concerns around the use of WhatsApp.

WhatsApp Channels and Parental Controls - Users must be at least 13 years old to use WhatsApp. Children under 13 can access WhatsApp through a parent managed account.

WhatsApp Channels - WhatsApp Channels are a one-way broadcast tool to send updates to followers. Channels can be found in the Updates tab. From here you can view a whole host of channels, including channels that will not be age appropriate and may include adult content. If your child has their own WhatsApp channel, then you need to be aware that they are public. Anyone can view and follow a channel and anything you share on your channel is public. We would strongly recommend that parental controls are used to prevent children creating and accessing WhatsApp channels.

Parent Managed accounts - Parent managed accounts are required for those under 13. These accounts have additional safety restrictions and do not allow access to features such as Channels, Meta AI and location sharing. You also have control over which groups they can join.

Please ensure you keep your child safe by carefully monitoring their online activity.

More information can be found here: https://www.whatsapp.com/parentalcontrols

**Uniform Reminder**

Our uniform consists of simple functional clothing suitable for the range of activities which may be encountered during the school day. We believe children should feel part of the school community.

All children should come to school in our school uniform.

➢ Navy blue or black trousers
➢ Pale blue or white polo shirt or blouse
➢ Navy blue jumper/cardigan
➢ Suitable black shoes (not sandals, Ugg style boots or crocs)
➢ Blue checked dresses and grey shorts are suitable for the summer

**Wellies and Waterproofs**

At lunchtimes we encourage the children to make full use of our wonderful school grounds, including all our zones. However, with the recent wet weather making the grass muddy and waterlogged, we are unable to allow children onto it in their school shoes.

To help with this and to protect their clothing and shoes, we kindly ask parents to send in wellies and waterproof clothing in a labelled carrier bag. Children will then be able to change into them at the beginning and end of playtimes, ensuring they can continue to enjoy all areas of our grounds whatever the weather.

**Year 6 Parents & Carers (Oak and Beech Class)**

SECONDARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS 2027 – FINAL REMINDER TO APPLY. The deadline to apply is the 31 October 2026. Please apply on-line at www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions

When you apply on-line you will receive an acknowledgement and you will receive an email on 1 March 2027 containing a link to obtain your offer of a school place from the Document Download Portal. Please save your log-in details.

If you do not wish to apply on-line, you can contact the School Admissions Team by email or telephone to request a form. Email: schooladmissions@durham.gov.uk or telephone 03000 265 896

**Watches and Earrings**

Watches

Watches are not allowed in school; this includes any type of SMART watch or fitness band.

If a pupil is found in possession of a smart watch, then the following procedures apply:

- On the first occasion the smart watch will be confiscated, and the pupil may collect the watch from their class teacher at the end of the school day.
- On the second occasion a member of staff will contact parents via a phone call, text, email or letter. Parents will be requested to collect the smart watch at the end of the school day.
- In the event of a pupil refusing to hand over a smart watch when requested to do so, we will contact parents immediately.

Earrings

Should you choose to allow your child to wear earrings in school now or in the future, despite the Health and Safety risks, the following information applies:

- Children can wear ONE pair of earrings (**small plain studs ONLY**)
- Children MUST be able to remove their earrings independently for ALL physical activities (PE lessons, swimming etc.)

- Parents MUST give their consent if they wish their child to wear earrings in school. Consent must be given via the Arbor Parent Portal then Parental Consents.

**Parking outside DLPS**

We would like to remind parents and carers to please park safely, legally and considerately around our school. Safer parking around schools improves the safety of your children and you.

Please can we remind parents and carers not to park anywhere near the school gates. Here are some guidelines for safe parking:

- Park away from school gates to reduce congestion
- Keep clear of zig zags, school entrances, dropped kerbs, junctions and residents' driveways
- Stop for a school crossing patrol when asked
- Do not park on pavements in a way which stops pedestrians, disabled users or parents with prams/pushchairs from using the pavement
- Do not park on corners - this will make sure our children can see cars and drivers can see our children
- Do not stop on school 'keep clear' markings or safer crossing place
- Do not block a road which could prevent emergency vehicle access
- Do not stop in the middle of the road to drop your child off - this makes it dangerous for children

The over-riding priority around schools is the safety of our children. Parents who choose to take their children to school by car must follow the parking regulations in place.

**Calendar of Events – Reminder**



**Staff News**

Goodbye to our lovely Mrs Randell, after 18 years at Delves Lane, it's hard to imagine the school without you. Your dedication, hard work, and unwavering commitment have touched the lives of countless children, families, and colleagues. Like all the best Disney stories, your journey here has been filled with magic, laughter, adventure, and heart. You have made a lasting difference to our school community, and your impact will be felt for many years to come. Thank you for everything. We wish you happiness, success, and plenty of magic in your future adventures.

We would like to welcome to Mrs Elliot, who will be teaching in Birch Class temporarily whilst we recruit a new teacher to join our Delves Lane Primary School family.




Enjoy the half term holiday and Halloween

We look forward to welcoming you back on Tuesday 3rd November!

*B Woods*

Mrs Woods

**Headteacher**