



# Desford Community Primary School

Kirkby Road, Desford, Leicestershire LE9 9JH

Telephone: 01455 822379 Fax: 01455 823939

E-mail: [office@desford.leics.sch.uk](mailto:office@desford.leics.sch.uk)

[www.desford.leics.sch.uk](http://www.desford.leics.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Mr Colin Wilson



## Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

### RE: End of Half Term Updates

This has been a fantastic first half term with many successes and achievements to celebrate. Our wonderful new starters in EYFS have settled into school really well, showing fantastic progress over their first 7 weeks of school ever! The year 4s made up for lost time with their Beaumanor Hall residential, having not been able to go on trips or residential due to covid restrictions previously. There have been further achievements with cross country, girls football, tag rugby and much more. Well done to all children who have represented the school this half term.

Many thanks to all the parents who have taken the time to provide some feedback on the most recent parent surveys. I will share the outcomes with you after the survey closes on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023. If you have not yet responded and would like to provide us with feedback, please find the link to the survey on our school website - <https://www.desford.leics.sch.uk/communication/> When the response rate is high, surveys help us to see what areas of school life we either need to improve or explain more about. If you have asked further questions or made suggestions on the survey, I will also respond to these as part of the feedback after half term.

**PUMPKIN AUCTION AND PARADE:** Following the success of our Be Kind Allotment in growing some lovely pumpkins, as well as other produce, Friends of Desford Community Primary School (FODCPS) will be hosting an online auction that starts on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> until Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2023. You can bid on Pumpkins from our allotment by visiting the FODCPS Facebook page on the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/381160959029149/>



On **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October**, there will be a pumpkin parade and Halloween event straight after school from **3:30-5:00pm**. Carved pumpkins stay fresh for 3-5 days, so with your help, we would like to host an atmospheric Halloween event where you put your carved pumpkins on display in the main hall, and you all come in to admire the designs. Everyone is welcome to bring their carved pumpkins in, not just winners of the auction. After the event, you can take your own pumpkin away with you for using in your own Halloween celebrations the following night. **There will be hot dogs, a tuck shop and free teas and coffees.** We will also be showing The Nightmare Before Christmas as part of this Halloween treat! All in the setting of your glowing pumpkins. The event is free entry with any money from hot dogs and tuck shop going to FODCPS. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

**COMMUNICATION & DATES:** The letter at the start of this term gave an overview of how communication works at Desford Community Primary School.

- **School Office/Parent Mail:** Most communication comes out from the school office. Please also ensure all messages about absence or collection arrangements are always called through to the school office to ensure that they have been received and can be acted upon.
- **Class Dojo:** Teachers share class news and respond to brief messages, and parents can send brief questions or request a meeting via Class Dojo.
- **School Website:** Information about what your children will be learning over the course of the year is in the 'children' section of the website. Other information such as the latest school menu and school policies are also on the website.

## CHRISTMAS CONCERTS AND CELEBRATIONS

Next half term is full of lots of excitement and celebration. There is the EYFS nativity, KS1 Carols in the playground, and KS2 carol concerts. The dates were circulated before the start of term, but please make sure you have saved a space in your diary to attend these events. The dates are repeated on the following pages.

## MUSIC LESSONS

As is usual in most primary schools, 1-2-1 and small group music lessons are offered by private music teachers or companies. These are not employees of the school, so all enquiries about lessons should be directly with them.

NAME	CONTACT	INSTRUMENT LESSONS OFFERED
Jonquil Sargeant	<a href="mailto:JQMusicAcademy@gmail.com">JQMusicAcademy@gmail.com</a>	Violin, Viola, Piano
Nicola Martin	<a href="mailto:bourne2teach@yahoo.co.uk">bourne2teach@yahoo.co.uk</a>	Piano
Francesca Hatton-Murden	<a href="mailto:Francescahattonmurden@gmail.com">Francescahattonmurden@gmail.com</a>	Guitar
Leicestershire Music	See our website ( <a href="#">click here</a> )	Various

## SCHOOL ATTENDANCE MONITORING

Children's attendance is monitored regularly, and families are supported by the school and other agencies when they are finding it challenging to maintain good attendance. As we move further into the Autumn Term, schools are required to contact all families with children whose attendance falls below 90%, reminding them about attendance requirements, and offering support to help them to improve.

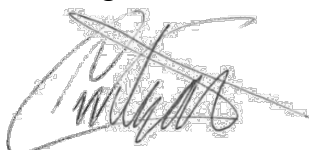
## SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

The deadline for Secondary School Admissions for next academic year is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023. Please visit the following website to access the portal for applying for school place.  
<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools-colleges-and-academies/school-admissions>

## AND FINALLY...

Wishing you all a lovely half term and looking forward to seeing you all later this month.

Kind regards



Mr C Wilson  
Head Teacher





# FODCPS

**FRIENDS OF DESFORD  
COMMUNITY PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

**If every parent would donate 1 hour of their time a year, what a wonderful program of events we could put on for our children and community.**

**FODCPS have raised thousands of pounds over the years to pay for laptops, ipads, playground equipment, the bandstand, the Be Kind mural and the school library. These funds are essential for providing the school with enhancements at a time when school budgets are stretched.**

**If you can support us, please email FODCPS at - [fodps@desford.leics.sch.uk](mailto:fodps@desford.leics.sch.uk)**

# DCPS Diary Dates and information

Updated ## Month Year



## Key Information & Dates

This page provides parents and carers with key information and dates as a point of quick reference. If there is information that you would like that is not listed, please contact the school office.

### The School Website Calendar

This contains all planned dates and is updated regularly. To view the calendar or add it to your own device, please click on the following link:

<https://www.desford.leics.sch.uk/school-calendar/>

### Assemblies & Class Visits

Children present and share learning and achievements in a year group assembly, and parents have the opportunity to come together as well. Class visits are an opportunity to look at your children's work in the classroom and chat informally with the year group staff.

	Assemblies	Class Visits 2:50 – 3:20 (Mon/Fri)
EYFS	14 <sup>th</sup> June 2:30pm	<b>Aut2/Spr2</b>
Year 1	3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2:30pm	<b>Aut 2/Spr2</b>
Year 2	26 <sup>th</sup> April 2:30pm	<b>Aut 2/Spr2</b>
Year 3	15 <sup>th</sup> March 2:30pm	<b>Aut 2 Sum2</b>
Year 4	1 <sup>st</sup> March 2:30pm	<b>Aut 2 Sum2</b>
Year 5	9 <sup>th</sup> February 2:30pm	<b>Aut 2/Sum 1</b>
Year 6	2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2:30pm	<b>Aut 2/Sum 1</b>

### Performances/Celebrations

There are a range of performances across the school year, this is a summary of some of the bigger ones. Other events will be publicised in due course and more information circulated closer to the event.

EYFS Nativity	13 Dec 2:00pm	14 Dec 9:30am
KS1 Carols	18 Dec 2:50pm (in the playground)	
Y3/4 Carols	19 Dec 9:15am	19 Dec 2:15pm
Y5/6 Carols	20 Dec 9:15am	20 Dec 2:15pm
Year 6 Play and Leavers Assemblies	25 June 5:30 pm	26 June 1:30pm 26 June 5:30pm
Y6 Leavers Assembly	9 July 2:15pm	

### Parents' Evenings & Reports

Parents evenings and reports provide information and the opportunity to discuss attainment, progress and personal & social aspects of school life with your child's teacher.

**Autumn Term:** Week beginning 9<sup>th</sup> Oct 2023 (by appointment)

**Spring Term:** Week beginning 12<sup>th</sup> Feb 2023 (by appointment)

**Summer Term:** End of Year Report July 2023

### Sports Day

Years 3/4/5/6 Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June - morning  
EYFS/Y1/Y2 Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June - afternoon  
(reserve date – Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June)

### Residentials

Year 2 School 'Sleep Over' 21<sup>st</sup> June 2024 (1 night)  
Year 4 Beaumanor Hall 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> September (2 nights)  
Year 6 Hilltop 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023 (4 nights)

### National Assessment Dates

Please ensure that children in the following year groups are in school, illness permitting, for the following periods so that they are able to complete the national assessments that they are required to do in their year group.

EYFS	EYFS National Baseline Assessment: 29 <sup>th</sup> August to 6 <sup>th</sup> October 2023
Year 1	Phonics Screening Check: 10 <sup>th</sup> –14 <sup>th</sup> May 2024
Year 2	KS1 SATS: 1 <sup>st</sup> –24 <sup>th</sup> May 2024
Year 4	Multiplication Tables Check: 3 <sup>rd</sup> –14 <sup>th</sup> June 2024
Year 6	KS2 SATS: 13 <sup>th</sup> –17 <sup>th</sup> May 2024

### Communication & Engagement

In addition to the website, assemblies, class visits, performances, parents' evenings and reports, there are several other ways in which parental communication and engagement is enabled.

- **ParentMail and Class Dojo** are the main forms of written communication – information about these is in the general information on the following pages.
- **The classroom door:** Staff welcome brief questions and queries at the end of the school day. Please approach staff at the classroom door when they have finished seeing children out.
- **Face to face or phone call:** Where more time or privacy is needed, please arrange a mutually agreeable time to meet face to face or to have a phone call.
- **School Volunteers:** After completing a safeguarding induction, we welcome parent volunteers to assist with reading or other tasks in the classroom to gain experience in schools or simply to be more involved with school life.
- **Open mornings/trips:** Parents will sometimes be invited to help out with activities with the children in school or on school trips, giving a snapshot of what it is like to be a child at DCPS.

### Pupil Sickness and Diarrhoea

Please remember to keep your child off for a full 48 hours in the event of sickness or diarrhoea. These are Public Health recommendations in order to minimise the chances of spreading germs. Guidance for this and other conditions can be found by [clicking here](#).

We appreciate that this can cause inconvenience to your own work patterns, but unfortunately, we have to treat most cases the same.



## DATES: AUTUMN 2<sup>nd</sup> HALF TERM

Date	Event	Other
23 <sup>rd</sup> October 2023	School Opens	
23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct – 27 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2023	Y6 Hilltop Residential	Info will be sent home
24 <sup>th</sup> – 26 <sup>th</sup> Oct 2023	Be Kind Allotment Online Pumpkin Auction	Online event hosted by FODCPS
27 <sup>th</sup> October 2023	EYFS 2024 intake – Open Days	Please inform the office if you like to attend
30 <sup>th</sup> October 2023	Halloween Harvest Pumpkin Parade	More information on school website
31 <sup>st</sup> October 2023	Deadline for secondary school admissions	For current Y6 starting Y7 August 2024
1 <sup>st</sup> November 2023	Y5 Space Centre	More information to follow
3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2023	Re-think your mind launch assembly	Mental Health artwork project
10 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	DCPS Remembrance Assembly	With possible live link to the war memorial
12 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	St Martins Remembrance Service	Usually about 10:45 at the War Memorial
12 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	Diwali	Events in and around Leicester
13 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	World Kindness Day	Linked with anti-bullying week activities
13 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	Anti-Bullying Week	Related activities and lessons in school
16 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	School Photos - Individual and Siblings	Wear usual school uniform
17 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	Children in Need	Related activities and lessons in school
17 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	EYFS 2024 intake – Open Days	Please inform the office if you like to attend
23 <sup>rd</sup> November 2023	PARENT OPEN MORNING Making Xmas Decorations with children	For St Martins Christmas Tree Festival
30 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	FODCP School Enterprise Fundraiser	3:00 – 4:00 More details nearer the time
<b>1<sup>st</sup> December 2023</b>	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED TO STAFF &amp; CHILDREN</b>	<b>Disaggregated day</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Dec to 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec 2023	Christmas Tree Festival	At St Martins Church, Desford
5 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	Music Evening (Instruments)	More information on school website
8 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	Christmas Jumper Day	Non-uniform/bright colours/Xmas Jumper
13 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	EYFS Nativity 2:00pm	Ticket details to follow
14 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	EYFS Nativity 9:30pm	Ticket details to follow
15 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	EYFS 2024 intake – Open Days	Please inform the office if you like to attend
18 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	Year 6 trip to Warning Zone	More information on school diary
18 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	KS1 Carols in the Playground 2:50pm	Gates open early for the performance
19 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	Y3/4 Carol Concerts (9:15 & 2:15)	Ticket details to follow
20 <sup>th</sup> December 2023	Y5/6 Carol Concerts (9:15 & 2:15)	Ticket details to follow
21 <sup>st</sup> December 2023	Christmas Dinner Day	Booking information nearer the time
21 <sup>st</sup> December 2023	School Disco	Timings TBC nearer the time
22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2023	Class Christmas Parties	Non-uniform/bright colours/Xmas Jumper
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023</b>	<b>SCHOOL CLOSING AT THE END OF THE DAY FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY</b>	

**Where applicable, more information about each event is on the school website diary and/or will be sent out to parents and carers nearer the time.**

## DATES: SPRING 1<sup>st</sup> HALF TERM

Date	Event	Other
8 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	School Opens	
15 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	Deadline for Primary School Admissions	New starters for EYFS 2024-25
2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2024	Year 6 Parent Assembly	Showcase of work/learning 2:30pm start
5 <sup>th</sup> to 9 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Children's Mental Health Week	Related activities and lessons in school
6 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Safer Internet Day	Raising awareness about online safety
9 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Year 5 Parent Assembly	Showcase of work/learning 2:30pm start
Date TBC	Safer Internet Evening for Parents	Information and tips for parents
13 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Parents Evening 3:30pm – 7:00pm	By appointment only
15 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	Parents Evening 3:30pm – 6:00pm	By appointment only
17 <sup>th</sup> February	Random Acts of Kindness Day	Further details nearer the time
23 <sup>rd</sup> February 2024	Stand up to Bullying Day	Falls during half term
<b>16<sup>th</sup> February 2024</b>	<b>SCHOOL CLOSSES AT THE END OF THE DAY FOR HALF TERM HOLIDAY</b>	

**Where applicable, more information about each event is on the school website diary and/or will be sent out to parents and carers nearer the time.**

## DATES: SPRING 2<sup>nd</sup> HALF TERM

Date	Event	Other
26 <sup>th</sup> February 2024	School Opens	
1 <sup>st</sup> March 2024	Year 4 Parent Assembly	Showcase of work/learning 2:30pm start.
7 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	World Book Day	Wear onesies or pyjamas to school.
8 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	The Roving Bookshop	Before, during and after school.
8 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	International Women's Day	Related activities and lessons in school
11 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Science Week	Related activities and lessons in school
15 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Year 3 Parent Assembly	Showcase of work/learning 2:30pm start.
15 <sup>th</sup> March 2024	Comic Relief: Red Nose Day	Further details nearer the time
2 <sup>nd</sup> April 2024	World Autism Awareness Day	During Easter Holiday
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024</b>	<b>SCHOOL CLOSSES AT THE END OF THE DAY FOR EASTER HOLIDAY</b>	

**Where applicable, more information about each event is on the school website diary and/or will be sent out to parents and carers nearer the time.**

## DATES: SUMMER 1<sup>st</sup> HALF TERM

Date	Event	Other
8 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	School Opens	
16 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	Confirmation of EYFS school places	For children starting August 2024
22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2024	Stephen Lawrence Day	Related activities and lessons in school
22 <sup>nd</sup> to 26 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	Stephen Lawrence Week	Wear something orange on the Friday
22 <sup>nd</sup> April 2024	Earth Day	Related activities and lessons in school
26 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	Year 2 Parent Assembly	Showcase of work/learning 2:30pm start.
1 <sup>st</sup> May to 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 2 Standardised Assessments Period	Reading, Writing and Maths assessments
3 <sup>rd</sup> May 2024	Year 1 Parent Assembly	Showcase of work/learning 2:30pm start.
6 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	Bank Holiday Monday	School closed for staff and children
7 <sup>th</sup> to 10 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	Bike, Walk and Roll to school week	Health and environmental awareness
13 <sup>th</sup> to 17 <sup>th</sup> May 2024	Year 6 SATS week – Statutory Assessments	Reading, Maths and Grammar assessments
<b>24<sup>th</sup> May 2024</b>	<b>SCHOOL CLOSSES AT THE END OF THE DAY FOR HALF TERM HOLIDAY</b>	

**Where applicable, more information about each event is on the school website diary and/or will be sent out to parents and carers nearer the time.**

## DATES: SUMMER 2<sup>nd</sup> HALF TERM

Date	Event	Other
3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2024	School Opens	
1 <sup>st</sup> to 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	Pride Month (LGBTQI+)	Related activities and lessons in school
3 <sup>rd</sup> to 14 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check	Statutory Assessment for year 4
4 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	Class and year 6 leavers photographs	Wear usual school uniform
10 <sup>th</sup> to 14 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	Year 1 Phonics Checks	Statutory Assessment for year 1
14 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	EYFS Parent Assembly	Showcase of work/learning 2:30pm start.
18 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	Sports Day	<b>KS2 9:15-12:00 EYFS KS1 1:15-3:00</b>
19 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	Reserve Sports Day	In case initial date is cancelled (weather)
21 <sup>st</sup> June 2024	Year 2 school sleep over (optional)	Children sleep at school for 1 night
22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2024	Windrush Day	Recognised in school
25 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	Year 6 Production – performance 1	At 6:00pm - Ticket details to follow
26 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	Year 6 Production – performance 2	At 1:30pm - Ticket details to follow
26 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	Year 6 Production – performance 3	At 6:00pm - Ticket details to follow
28 <sup>th</sup> June 2024	International Pride Day (LGBTQI+)	Related activities and lessons in school
1 <sup>st</sup> July 2024	New Class Structures shared with parents	Discover you child's teacher for next year
2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2024 (provisional)	New Class Transition Day	Date TBC with Bosworth Academy
2 <sup>nd</sup> July 2024 (provisional)	Bosworth Academy Year 6 Transition Day	Date TBC with Bosworth Academy
Date TBC	The Market Bos Sch Year 6 Transition Day	Date TBC
Date TBC	South Charnwood Year 6 Transition Day	Date TBC
9 <sup>th</sup> July 2024	Year 6 Leavers Parent Assembly	Celebration of their primary school years
<b>Wed 10<sup>th</sup> July 2024</b>	<b>SCHOOL CLOSSES AT THE END OF THE DAY FOR SUMMER HOLIDAY</b>	

**Where applicable, more information about each event is on the school website diary and/or will be sent out to parents and carers nearer the time.**

## Term dates for the academic year 2023-24

### AUTUMN TERM

Staff Inset Day	Thursday 24th August 2023
Staff Inset Day	Friday 25th August 2023
August Bank Holiday	Monday 28th August 2023
School Open	Tuesday 29th August 2023
Mid-Term Break	Monday 16th October 2023 to Friday 20th October 2023
Disaggregated Day	Friday 1st December 2023 (closed to staff and children)
End of Term	Friday 22nd December 2023

### SPRING TERM

School Open	Monday 8th January 2024
Mid-Term Break	Monday 19th February 2024 to Friday 23rd February 2024
End of Term	Friday 22nd March 2024

### SUMMER TERM

School Open	Monday 8th April 2024
May Day	Monday 6th May 2024
Mid-Term	Break Monday 27th May 2024 to Friday 31st May 2024
End of Term	Wednesday 10th July 2024

A closure day to staff and children has been built into the Autumn Term (Friday 1st December 2023). This closure day has been added to the end of the summer term meaning that school will close on Wednesday 10th July 2024 instead of Tuesday 9th July 2024.

## Term dates for the academic year 2024-25

### AUTUMN TERM

Staff Inset Day	Thursday 22 <sup>ND</sup> August 2024
Staff Inset Day	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> August 2024
August Bank Holiday	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> August 2024
School Open	Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> August 2024
Mid-Term Break	Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> October 2024 to Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October 2024
Disaggregated Day	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> November 2024 (closed to staff and children)
End of Term	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December 2024

### SPRING TERM

Staff Inset Day	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025
School Open	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January 2025
Mid-Term Break	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2025 to Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> February 2025
End of Term	Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> April 2025

### SUMMER TERM

School Open	Monday 28th April 2025
May Day	Monday 5th May 2025
Mid-Term Break	Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> May 2025 to Friday 30 <sup>th</sup> May 2025
End of Term	Thursday 10th July 2025

A closure day to staff and children has been built into the Autumn Term (Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023). This closure day has been added to the end of the summer term meaning that school will close on Thursday 10th July 2025 instead of Wednesday 9th July 2025.