



Dovedale Primary School

Autumn 1 newsletter | October 2026

It has been a busy and productive half term, with plenty to celebrate. Thank you for your support as the children have settled into the school year. Here are some of our highlights and the dates to look out for after the break.

A brilliant start

Our new Reception children have settled in really well and have quickly become "Dovedale children". They are showing respect, kindness and care, applying themselves to their learning and having lots of fun!

Around school, we have been working on behaviour; 'everything all of the time' is our new motto and the children have really risen to the challenge. Walking around school is calm and sensible, and those paper towels are finally getting pushed into the bins!

We have had even fewer children in reflection time than this time last year, and we are really proud of how our older children behave as role models for our younger children- it really makes a difference.

Experts

Our first Expert Group afternoon of this year took place at the end of September. The children loved working with pupils from different year groups on activities linked to their interests. We are already looking forward to December, when our art experts will support children around school with their art activities.

Democracy

Our school parliament elections brought democracy to life. Children campaigned to become class MPs, and everyone visited the hall to cast a secret vote in the ballot boxes. Congratulations to our new MPs! Last year's representatives will now move into our House of Lords.

Harvest

Thanks to your generous donations, our Harvest Festival collection provided 267.5 kg of food for the local foodbank. Seeing what we can achieve together helps the children understand the difference they can make to others. Thank you for supporting us.



We have celebrated Black History Month and the European Day of Languages, and explored the British value of individual liberty in assemblies. Our assembly rota next half term covers topics such as anti-bullying, oracy, collective worship, respect and inclusion and keeping safe.

A big thank you to our wonderful PTA for organising the reception welcome party and spooky disco. The children thoroughly enjoyed both.

Dates to remember and useful reminders

Looking ahead to next half term

Monday is an INSET day. Staff will join colleagues at Sawley Infants and Junior Schools for training, and our school choir has been invited to open the day by singing for staff from all eight of ONE Academy's schools.

We look forward to welcoming children back on Tuesday 3 November. Our Diwali celebration week will begin with an Indian drumming assembly for everyone and workshops for Years 3, 4 and 5. All children will take part in a Diwali activity afternoon on Friday.

Keeping safe online

During the darker months and holidays, children may spend more time on devices. These resources offer practical advice for parents and carers:

[NSPCC — Talking to children about AI](#)

[LEGO — Raising digitally smart children](#)

[Childnet — Advice and resources for parents and carers](#)

A couple of reminders

Please make sure children bring a coat after half term.

Teachers may switch off ClassDojo over the holiday, so please email if you need to get in touch.

headteacher@dovedale.derbyshire.sch.uk

We hope you have a lovely half term and look forward to seeing everyone safe and well on Tuesday 3 November.

Dates	Event
5 November	School photographs.
11 November	Remembrance service. Serving and former service personnel are warmly invited to join us. Please let me know if a relative or friend would like to attend. Children may wear their Cubs, Brownies or other uniformed group uniform.
13 November	Children in Need. Children may wear non-uniform and bring a small donation.
28 th November	Christmas fair on Saturday morning
10 and 11 December	Christmas jumper days. Children may wear a Christmas outfit on both days. Santa will also be visiting; details of how to buy tickets will follow nearer the time.

A fantastic well done to all of the children who auditioned and performed for our Dovedale's got talent and to our super winners. They are a talented bunch indeed!