

Your
half-termly
Scoop on
All Things
DPS

Issue 2 Autumn 2 2025

HEAD'S WELCOME



Welcome to Issue 2 of the DPS Download. The second half of the Autumn term has been filled with exciting learning opportunities, memorable experiences for our children, wonderful community events and, of course, plenty of Christmas excitement.

It has been a real pleasure to see many of the systems and structures introduced at the start of the year having such a positive impact on children's learning and progress. This has been particularly evident in our recent review of reading across the school, which highlighted some very encouraging developments—there will be more information about this later in this issue. Another personal highlight has been the fantastic community events that have taken place, including the Christmas Fair and our Carols on the Playground. These occasions helped to create a real sense of togetherness and excitement, reinforcing the strong and supportive DPS community that we are so proud of.

SCHOOL EVENTS

Year 6 Visit to Bletchley Park

Year 6 enjoyed a fun and informative trip to Bletchley Park, bringing their learning to life. Staff and members of the public commented on how well the children conducted themselves, making us extremely proud.



Bikeability

Many of our children took part in Bikeability sessions, learning how to ride safely, confidently and respectfully. They approached these important life skills with great focus and enthusiasm.

Year 5–6 Football

Well done to our Year 5–6 football team. While results were mixed, the children showed excellent determination, teamwork and sportsmanship throughout.



Christmas Cracker Week

Christmas Cracker Week was full of festive fun, including parties and carol singing and of course the Reception nativity. We hope you enjoy the cards and calendars the children created, showcasing the art skills linked to their year group expectations.

PCSO Visits – Blue Butterfly Assembly

We welcomed our local PCSOs for the Blue Butterfly assembly, helping children identify trusted adults they can talk to if they are ever worried—an important and reassuring message.



School Christmas Fair

The Christmas Fair was a huge success, raising a fantastic amount of money for the school and creating a real community buzz. Thank you to everyone who supported it.

Carols on the Playground

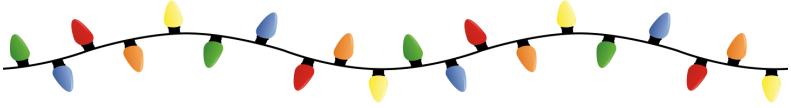
Carols on the Playground captured the festive spirit and truly got us into the Christmas mood. Thank you to everyone who attended.



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BEHIND THE SCENES

School and Eco council



Our newly elected School Council and Eco Council have settled into their roles brilliantly and are already holding regular meetings to help improve our school and ensure children's wonderful ideas are heard. This term, they have been sharing valuable pupil voice on our behaviour strategy and exploring exciting legacy projects that will make a lasting difference for everyone in our school community. We feel incredibly fortunate to have such thoughtful, enthusiastic, and creative groups of children leading the way.



Assessment week

Assessment Week has taken place to help celebrate all the wonderful learning that has happened so far this year. The purpose of these assessments is not simply to give each child a 'score', but to identify strengths and areas for development in both individual and group learning, helping us shape the most effective teaching going forward. We were incredibly proud to see every child demonstrate our core values of effort and focus throughout these challenges.



Website relaunch

Behind the scenes, lots of work has been taking place on our new-look school website. Our aim is to create a streamlined, easy-to-navigate site that brings together all the important information families may need, while also signposting key support and services. We are aiming to launch the updated website in the New Year and look forward to sharing this helpful, user-friendly resource with our whole school community.



Enhanced PE Provision—Free style

After Christmas, we will be enriching our PE provision by welcoming FreeStyle PE to DPS. Their team brings a wealth of experience and expertise in high-quality PE teaching, and they will be leading a range of engaging PE sessions across the school. In addition, they will be supporting our teachers with their continued professional development, helping to further strengthen the teaching of PE for all our children.



HEAD GIRL AND HEAD BOY



Hello, we are Maddie and Teddy and we are very happy to be your new Head Girl and Head Boy. We would like to tell you a little about ourselves and our plans for the year ahead.

Hi, I'm Maddie and I love roller-skating, cats, reading and food! I am in Year 6 and have been at Deanshanger since the start of Reception.

Hi, I'm Teddy. I enjoy football, gaming and biking. I have also been at Deanshanger since reception and I am also in Year 6.

Although it is only the early stages of our term of office, we have already begun to create some exciting ideas for projects. For example, we are working with the school council to explore the possibility of creating an allotment area in school. Each class would have a chance to grow their own fruit or vegetables over the year. We are also working on developing 'Boards of Brilliance' in each classroom. These would show which children in the class have recently won awards such as Deanshanger Dazzler or the Sunflower Award. These are just a couple of our ideas and more will follow. We will keep you updated with regular messages in this newsletter.

See you on the gate every Friday! **Maddie and Teddy**



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PTA UPDATES

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our wonderful PTA for their hard work, dedication and enthusiasm this term. The team has led several successful initiatives, including the fantastic Christmas Fair, the ever-popular Elfridges shop, and the beautiful Christmas trees at the front of the school and in the hall, which helped create such a warm, festive atmosphere.

These events not only raise valuable funds to enhance opportunities for our children but also create a real DPS community buzz, bringing together pupils, staff, families and the wider community.



I would personally like to thank every member of the PTA for their creativity, teamwork and commitment. We are extremely lucky to have such a dedicated group. Thank you!

If you would like to join the PTA team, please express your interest via: ChairofPTA@deanshanger.northants.sch.uk.

STAFF UPDATE

As you are aware, we say goodbye and wish the very best of luck to Mr Bass, Mrs Brooks, Mr Ward and Miss Edwards, who leave us at Christmas. We thank them for their commitment and valuable contributions to DPS and wish them every success. We also send our best wishes to Miss Mazey as she begins her maternity leave—we wish her all the happiness in this exciting new chapter and look forward to meeting the new arrival.

A huge thank you to Miss Shadforth for her support in Year 1 as a supply teacher; her work has been greatly appreciated and we hope to see her again soon.

We are delighted to welcome Miss Ball and Mrs Baker to DPS. They bring great energy, skill and experience to their roles in Years 1 and 3.

We are also currently recruiting new teaching assistants and will keep you updated.

IMPORTANT DATES AND REMINDERS

School Gate Timings

A reminder that the school gate opens at **8:40am** and closes promptly at **8:50am**, when registers close and lessons begin. It is important that the gate shuts at this time so that we can ensure all children are safely on site and properly registered. If you arrive after 8:50am, please report to the front office where a member of staff will be happy to assist.

Mon 5th Jan—Inset day
Wed 15th Jan—MC Grammar visitor
Fri 13th Feb—Last day before half term

Tues 6th Jan—School reopens to children
Thur 12th Feb—Year 5 singing showcase

THANK YOU

Thank you to our wonderful school community for your continued support throughout the year. We are so grateful for the teamwork, kindness, and encouragement that make our school such a special place. We wish everyone a restful and merry Christmas, filled with joy, kindness, and time spent with loved ones. Have a safe and happy Christmas!

Mr Bolton—Head of School

