

Newsletter

Summer Term 2026

Message from the Headteacher—Jenni

We come to the end of what has been a fabulous year. I am very proud of the progress our pupils have made and the dedication our staff have shown. There have been lots of events this year to support our families and to engage them in what is happening in school. The building work we had hoped would start in January, was delayed by the DfE, but this is now starting 13th July. We are building a new block of 3 new classrooms which also will house a sensory emersion room, called 'Robert's Room', in Robert's memory, our pupil who passed away in Autumn term. Due to these delays, we are using the community room as a classroom, and will be having 2 classes in portacabins in September. This will require time in September to move and prepare for, hence the Inset days at the start of the school year. I look forward to meeting new staff and 30 new pupils in September!

Wishing you all a fantastic summer holidays, and hopefully some good sun too.

Dovedale

Dovedale have been working really hard this term; They have done lots of English learning based around sensory stories and linking their fine motor, mark-making and comprehension to the story of the week linked to our topics, Summer 1 Animal Kingdom and Summer 2 Beach Explorer.



In Maths, Dovedale have done lots of great learning about numbers, understanding the values of each number as well as patterns and knowledge of money and coins throughout the whole term.



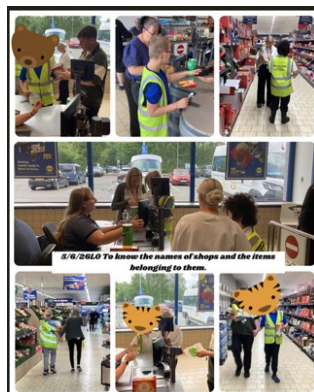
Dovedale continued

During our Summer 1 topic about animals, Dovedale have worked on Art and DT projects linking to animals, patterns and designing the places they live. As well as computing, focusing on different mark-making programmes and the different tools within them.

RSE and PSHE have looked at our bodies and how to keep healthy. Science has looked at animals, their sounds, and the places they live, including a trip to the farm. In Geography, Dovedale have been looking at maps and directions, during which they followed a map of the school playground wonderfully with lots of independence.



During our Summer 2 topic, Dovedale have looked at the subjects Art and coastal theme printing and painting. RSE and PSHE have been looking at personal hygiene routines and feelings. Both Science and Geography have been closely linked to the Beach topic, with Science following the investigation of rocks and Geography looking at the features of the coast.



Dovedale have continued to work wonderfully as part of their learning beyond the classroom during Beyond Bennerley sessions, which have been focusing on shopping for the summer term. Where Dovedale has visited different places to follow their shopping lists, wait, pay and pack, with increased independence and communication. As well as accessing swimming and other trips out to the farm and Gulliver's Valley. To consolidate and generalise their learning in real-life contexts.

Newstead

Newstead pupils have had a fantastic year and are a credit to their parents/carers and the school. During the summer term Newstead have enjoyed going offsite for their learning, we have been to Rumble Tums café to practice our money skills, we have been on nature walks around the woods and visited a local farm to look at animals and their babies.

During Summer 1 our topic was 'Take me on a journey' where we learnt about lots of different vehicles. During our topic work we learnt about directional words and followed simple instructions "Drive to the shops" when using vehicles and the car mats. We explored different ways in which we can use our bodies to move around our outdoor space from climbing, running, jumping and riding bikes and scooters. During maths we have had a focus on money skills which we have begun to understand the transaction of handing over money to receive a desired item in our class snack shop.

Newstead are enjoying their final topic of the year which is 'splash' we have enjoyed lots of water play where we have explored floating and sinking, pouring and filling and learnt about animals that live in water. We have loved taking part with our sensory stories about rain in this topic. It has been fun to dress up in wellies and use an umbrella to keep dry. We are looking forward to visiting a local splash pad at the end of term to round off our topic and fantastic year in Newstead!



Duffield

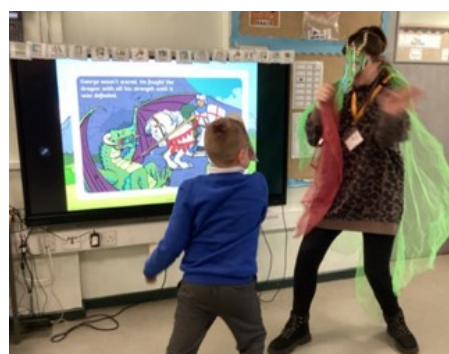
When we got back to school after the Easter holidays we enjoyed learning all about St George's day by helping to act out the legend of him defeating the dragon. In Summer 1 we enjoyed being wild and learning all about lots of different animals in our animal Kingdom topic. We really enjoyed a fantastic trip to Manor Farm where we saw lots of animals including some cute baby owls. In art we made some brilliant representations of the baby owls and lots of other different animals with different patterns and textures like spots and stripes. This year we have enjoyed perfecting our acting skills when acting out and retelling all the different stories that we've been reading together – we enjoyed acting like lots of different animals in the jungle.

In Summer 2 our topic was Beach explorers we enjoyed lots of stories set at the beach and enjoyed doing roleplay, active hands activities, continuous provision and Bucket activities all with a seaside/ beach theme. We carried on exploring different art techniques including transient art making some great pieces with a seaside theme.

At the end of the year we enjoyed a soft play trip with our class and our friends in the other stage 2 classes to celebrate our fantastic year together.



We've had a wonderful year in Duffield and we wish all our Duffielders moving on to new classes all the best for the next step in their learning journey in Bennerley Fields school. We wish you all Happy Holidays!



Message from the Governors

The Governors are delighted to introduce and welcome Maria Poyser, our new Chair of Governors. Maria has been a teacher within Special Needs settings for over 30 years and is currently a Deputy Head, SENDCO and DSL within an independent Special School. She brings a wealth of knowledge and we look forward to working with her on the committee. Maria Marson will resume her position as Vice Chair.

We are excited to see our school grow as we welcome new pupils, their families and staff joining us in September. Over the last term and year, we all join together to celebrate all of your achievements and progress. You should be very proud of yourselves, well done everyone! As always, we send our warmest thanks to Jenni and all our staff for their unwavering dedication and hard work. Enjoy your summer break, we look forward to seeing you in September.

Hardwick

What a wonderful and busy summer term it has been for Hardwick Class! We are incredibly proud of all our pupils for their hard work, enthusiasm and positive attitudes towards learning. Here is a look at some of the exciting learning experiences and achievements from this term.

English

In English, pupils have developed their reading and comprehension skills by learning how to retrieve information from non-fiction texts. We have also enjoyed exploring a range of engaging stories, including *Sharing a Shell* by Julia Donaldson and *Sally and the Limpet* by Simon James. Pupils have demonstrated their listening, communication and understanding skills as they discussed characters, settings and key events from these texts.

Maths

We are especially proud of the way pupils have demonstrated the hardworking Bennerley Attitude in Maths. They have responded brilliantly to challenges and grown in confidence when using a range of manipulatives and pictorial representations to support their understanding of key concepts. There has been a strong focus on reasoning and problem-solving, and pupils particularly enjoyed our active maths lessons where they applied their skills to solve real-life problems.

Science

Our science lessons have focused on rocks and volcanoes. Pupils investigated the properties of different rocks using simple tests and made observations with support. They showed great curiosity and enthusiasm whilst carrying out investigations. We also explored volcanoes, learning how they are formed and creating our own impressive volcano models.

Geography

In Geography, pupils have been learning about coastal environments. They explored different coastal features and developed their ability to compare these features using simple geographical language. Pupils made thoughtful observations and connections to their wider learning.

PE

This term, pupils have worked hard to develop their athletics skills. They practised sprinting, jumping and throwing techniques and proudly showcased these skills during Sports Day. We have also been learning about striking and fielding games, focusing on throwing for accuracy, tracking moving objects and developing striking techniques. Pupils demonstrated excellent teamwork and began applying simple tactics within games.

Beyond Bennerley

Our Beyond Bennerley learning has provided valuable opportunities to apply classroom learning in real-world contexts. Pupils have visited a variety of local shops, cafés and restaurants, developing important life skills and confidence within the community. A particular highlight was our visit to the café at South Wingfield Train Station, which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

Well Done, Hardwick Class!

We would like to congratulate all pupils for their hard work, resilience and positive attitudes throughout the summer term. It has been wonderful to see everyone grow in confidence, develop new skills and embrace new challenges. We wish all our families a happy and relaxing summer break and look forward to more exciting learning adventures ahead!



Shipley

The children in Shipley 1 Class have worked incredibly hard in their core subjects this term and should be very proud of all they have achieved.

In English, they have thoroughly enjoyed taking part in sensory stories and role-play activities, which have helped bring stories to life while developing their understanding of narrative. These engaging experiences have also supported the children in building confidence with their reading and writing, particularly through the use of Colourful Semantics.



In Maths, every pupil has made fantastic progress. Through fun, practical activities, they have developed greater confidence in recognising, ordering and writing numbers, while strengthening their understanding of key mathematical concepts. It has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm and growing confidence in their learning throughout the term.

Shipley 2 Class have had a fantastic term in Maths, enthusiastically exploring AB patterns, counting objects, and counting groups in different ways. Through a range of practical and engaging activities, they have worked hard to develop their counting skills and maths understanding while building their confidence. They have developed some super focus throughout their learning and have enjoyed exploring activities with interest and enjoyment.



Haddon

As we reach the end of a wonderful school year, we want to take a moment to celebrate everything the pupils have achieved. We are incredibly proud of all of their hard work, enthusiasm, and determination.

A Year of Hard Work

This year, the pupils have shown fantastic effort across all areas of learning. They have:

- Tried their best with new and sometimes tricky tasks
- Developed their independence and confidence
- Persevered when things felt challenging

We have been especially impressed with how pupils have approached learning with positive attitudes and a willingness to keep going.

Building Friendships

It has been lovely to see the friendships that have grown throughout the year. Pupils have:

- Worked together in group activities
- Supported and encouraged one another
- Developed kindness, patience, and teamwork skills

These social connections are such an important part of school life, and we are proud of how they have supported each other.

Overcoming Challenges

Every pupil has faced their own challenges this year, and it has been amazing to see how they have handled them. Whether it has been:

- Trying something new
- Managing emotions
- Developing communication skills

Each success, big or small, is worth celebrating. The progress made by every pupil has been truly fantastic.

Seaside Topic Highlights

One of our favourite topics this year has been learning about the seaside!

Pupils have really enjoyed:

- Exploring what you might find at the seaside
- Reading a range of seaside-themed books
- Creating their own postcards from an imaginary seaside holiday

The creativity and imagination shown in their postcard work has been wonderful to see, and pupils have loved sharing their ideas. We also explored art by using shells to create monoprint artwork, producing some beautiful seaside-inspired designs.

Trips and Experiences

We have really enjoyed getting out into the community this year. Highlights include:

- Trips into the local community to build confidence and independence
- A visit to Derby Museum, where pupils explored interesting artefacts and enjoyed learning outside the classroom
- A special trip to McDonald's, where pupils enjoyed a tasty treat and practised important life skills

These experiences have helped pupils develop socially and build real-world confidence.

Sports Day Fun

Pupils had a fantastic time during Sports Day! It was lovely to see them:

- Taking part in a range of activities
- Showing off their sporting skills
- Cheering each other on

Their enthusiasm, teamwork, and effort made it a very special day.

Thank You for your continued support throughout the year. It makes such a difference to the pupils' learning and wellbeing. We hope you all have a relaxing and enjoyable summer break, and we look forward to seeing everyone again next year!



Elvaston

Elvaston Class have had another fantastic term, and we are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved. The classroom continues to be filled with positivity, creativity, friendship, and a wonderful sense of community. It has been lovely to see the children growing in confidence, becoming more independent, and continuing to demonstrate the Bennerley Attitudes in all that they do.

Our learning this term has been brought to life through exciting topics and practical activities. In English, the children have really enjoyed exploring George's Marvellous Medicine and The Iron Man, developing their reading, communication, and writing skills through character descriptions, poetry, and explanation texts. In Science, the children have enjoyed becoming scientists, investigating materials, changes and magnets. They also had a fantastic Science Boffins day, taking part in exciting experiments and challenges.

A huge highlight of the term was our enterprise project, "Only Fools and Elvaston." The children worked brilliantly together to create and run their own business, developing skills in teamwork, problem-solving, communication, and money handling. The marketplace event was a huge success, and the children were incredibly proud of their achievements. To celebrate, they will be using the money raised to enjoy a special McDonald's treat in school.

The children have also enjoyed many memorable experiences outside the classroom, including our visits to the charity shop and Stacey's Bakery in Ilkeston, where they used their independence and community skills. We also enjoyed a visit to the Bennerley Viaduct, cricket and softball opportunities, and we are looking forward to our end-of-term trip to Gulliver's Valley.

As the year comes to an end, we want to say how proud we are of every member of Elvaston Class. We wish those children moving into KS4 the very best for the next stage in their journey and we know they will continue to make us proud. Thank you for your continued support — it has been a pleasure watching the children grow and achieve so much this year.



Wollaton

The Happy by Nature Live Lessons live underwater session from the National Marine Aquarium, hosted by Steve Backshall, was an engaging and fascinating experience. The pupils were fully engaged throughout the session, eagerly observing the wide variety of marine animals and asking thoughtful questions. Watching the underwater world live captured their interest and sparked curiosity, making it an exciting and memorable learning opportunity. The lesson also linked to our Beyond Bennerley focus on charities and looking at various careers, helping pupils to understand the important role that conservation charities play in protecting marine environments while introducing them to careers such as marine biologists, conservationists, aquarists and environmental educators.

Pupils have enthusiastically explored and challenged themselves on Prodigy Maths, practising, applying and generalising their mathematical skills through engaging activities. They have demonstrated resilience, independence and a positive attitude towards improving their fluency and confidence in maths.

We have continued our Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) learning this term, exploring how our bodies change as we grow and mature. Pupils have also discussed changing emotions, as well as their rights and responsibilities, developing their understanding of healthy relationships, respect and personal wellbeing .

In English, we have been studying *The Iron Man* as our class text, linking our learning to our Metals topic. Pupils have produced a range of descriptive writing, using ambitious vocabulary, expanded noun phrases and carefully chosen language to create vivid descriptions and engage the reader. We have also explored the important roles of both the author and the illustrator, considering how words and illustrations work together to develop characters, settings and atmosphere, and how they influence the reader's understanding and enjoyment of the story.

As part of our Metals topic, we are also looking forward to working with Becky during Forest School to create our own metal objects through pewter casting. Pupils have designed their own unique piece of jewellery, carefully planning patterns and details before pressing their designs into clay using sculpting tools to create a mould. They have added their own creative touches to make each design individual. The clay moulds will then be used as casts for molten pewter, allowing pupils to produce their own finished pendants, which can be made into necklaces, bracelets or keyrings. This exciting hands-on experience will develop their creativity, design skills and understanding of how metals can be shaped and used to create finished products.



Wollaton also took part in the STEM Workshop – Space Engineering & Careers. Pupils were challenged to think like space engineers as they designed their own lunar space station. They carefully considered how building materials could be transported to the Moon, which shapes and materials would be best suited to withstand the harsh lunar environment, and how people would live and work in conditions such as low gravity. They explored thought-provoking questions, such as whether stairs would be needed if there was little or no gravity, encouraging them to apply their scientific understanding and creative problem-solving skills. The workshop also introduced pupils to a range of exciting careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, inspiring them to think about future opportunities in these fields .

Wollaton pupils made some magic art, the pupils recorded the magic happen then compiled, edited and added music to make a video using Microsoft Clipchamp that Jenni shared on Facebook.



Summer Term at Forest School

During the Summer Term, pupils from Haddon, Chatsworth and Elvaston classes have enjoyed a wide range of Forest School experiences, developing practical skills, teamwork and a deeper connection with the natural environment.

Chatsworth Class attended Forest School during Summer 1 and worked incredibly hard on a range of wildlife projects linked to Bennerley Viaduct. Pupils designed and built bug hotels, bird boxes and a hedgehog house, before installing them in suitable locations around the viaduct. They also enjoyed campfire cooking sessions, developing their outdoor cooking skills and confidence.



Haddon Class accessed Forest School throughout the entire Summer Term. They have spent time connecting with nature on our school site, including tracking a fox that we believe shares the site with us. Pupils followed footprints and signs of vegetation disturbance to learn more about the animal's movements. Haddon have also taken part in a variety of woodland crafts and have worked hard to develop their campfire-building and cooking skills.



Elvaston Class attended sessions during Summer 2, with a particular focus on campfire building, cooking, tool use and wood preparation. Pupils demonstrated excellent teamwork and resilience while creating and cooking a range of delicious dishes to share. They also explored woodland crafts, including Hapa Zome and Nordic braiding, producing some fantastic pieces of work.



As the final classes to access our current Forest School site in its present form, pupils this term have enjoyed some thoughtful discussions reflecting on their learning, achievements and memories of the site over the last six years.

To finish the term, **Stage 3** pupils took part in a pewter smelting workshop as part of their *Marvellous Metals* topic. Using clay, they created their own moulds and then drew upon their campfire skills to build and light a fire to melt pewter pellets. The molten pewter was carefully poured into their moulds, enabling pupils to create their own unique pewter trinkets to take home.

It has been a fantastic term of learning outdoors, with pupils demonstrating creativity, perseverance and enthusiasm in every session.



Chatsworth Class

A Busy and Successful Term for Chatsworth!

EDT Sustainability Project

Over the past 12 weeks, pupils have been working alongside the Friends of Bennerley Viaduct as part of our Engineering Development Trust (EDT) sustainability project. This year's focus was on supporting local wildlife and protecting our natural environment. Using their creativity, teamwork and practical skills, pupils designed and built a range of wildlife habitats, including bird boxes, bug hotels and a wildlife water hydration station. It has been wonderful to see them take such pride in making a positive contribution to their local community while developing valuable STEM and enterprise skills. At the EDT presentation awards held at the University of Derby our project was awarded the People's Choice Award - We are all very proud of their achievement.

Enterprise Success

Our 3D printing business has been a fantastic success this year. Pupils worked hard to design, produce and sell a range of products, developing their communication, teamwork and problem-solving skills along the way. Thanks to the profits from the business, pupils were able to enjoy a well-earned reward trip to the Theatre Royal to watch Terrible Tudors from the Horrible Histories series. The performance was both entertaining and educational, bringing history to life in a memorable way.

National Space Centre Visit

To complement our Science topic on Space, pupils visited the National Space Centre, where they explored fascinating interactive exhibits, discovered the wonders of our solar system and learned more about space exploration. The visit provided an exciting opportunity to deepen classroom learning through hands-on experiences and inspired many thoughtful questions about the universe. It was a fantastic way to end our topic and sparked plenty of enthusiasm for science.



Derwent

What a busy and exciting summer term we have had!

We have made the most of every opportunity to learn and explore through a wide range of experiences. Highlights have included fun on the pedalos, visits to the puddle park and beach at Spring Lakes, and a fantastic trip to the theatre to watch Horrible Histories, followed by a well-earned McDonald's treat.

Students have enjoyed regular bus trips to the local café and library, helping to build their confidence in the community. We also took a tram ride to Beeston for a trip to the cinema to watch Toy Story 5, which was a big hit with everyone!

Another memorable experience was our boat trip at Mercia Marina, and we rounded off the term with a fun-filled week of activities to celebrate what has been a truly fantastic year.

We are so proud of all the progress, independence and enthusiasm shown by our students throughout the term!



Rufford

What a Busy and Successful Term!

This term has been full of exciting experiences and lots of hard work. Everyone in Rufford Class has worked incredibly hard across all subjects, and we are very proud of everything we have achieved.

One of the highlights of the term was our trip to the Heights of Abraham in Matlock. We explored two fascinating caverns and learnt all about their history, discovering how they were formed and why they are so important. We also enjoyed an amazing ride on the cable cars, which gave us spectacular views over Matlock and made the day even more memorable. As part of our travel training, we travelled by bus to Nottingham. The trip helped us practise using public transport safely and independently. We all had a great time, and everyone enjoyed a McDonald's lunch together.

Our enterprise project was another great success. We worked as a team to make and sell healthy cookies and hot drinks.

Thanks to our hard work and successful sales, we have earned a special reward!

To celebrate our achievements this term, we are looking forward to a fantastic trip to Gulliver's Valley in Rotherham. We can't wait to enjoy a fun-filled day together and celebrate all that we have accomplished.

Well done to everyone in Rufford Class for a wonderful term. We hope you all have a fantastic and well-deserved summer break!



Key dates:

Last day of term is Thursday 23rd July 2026. We finish at the normal time, 3.15pm.

Next year's Inset days:

September 4th to September 11th 2026 (pupils return Monday 14th September 2026)

Tuesday 4th May 2027