



Duke of Bedford Primary School
Wisbech Road, Thorney,
Peterborough
PE6 0ST
Telephone: 01733 270243



Friday 27th June 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

This term is flying by with so many opportunities for the children that go far wider than the curriculum. The children have been on trips, had Road Safety visitors, music workshops, sports visitors and Year 6 have successfully completed their Residential at PGL. We were very proud of how they displayed their HEART values throughout the stay and represented the school brilliantly. The children took part in a range of activities from zip wire to raft building, archery and climbing. It really was a great experience. We have also welcomed in our new Reception children, Miss Cunningham has been out visiting local child care settings and the children have been coming into school to familiarise themselves with school. We are looking forward to welcoming them in September.

Open Farm and PTFA events

We are really lucky to have such an active PTFA at the school and it has been a very busy term for them. It kicked off with Park Farm where the Teddy Tombola and Rainbow Raffle were well received and we raised over £900! Freezie Friday has also proved a great success and a much welcomed end of week treat. With another disco planned for Friday 4th we are really grateful for the hard work going in to raise funds to improve our outdoor lunch time play for all the children.



Sports Week: A Celebration of Strength and Team Spirit!

This year's Sports Week at The Duke of Bedford was a fantastic showcase of talent, energy, and community opportunities! Thorney Football Club and Thorney Rugby Club led the charge with great workshops that supported development of skill and tactics. The hockey workshops were delivered by young leaders who play and coach in local clubs including Long Sutton and Peterborough. On Friday the martial arts sessions added an exciting twist, that engaged those who enjoyed finding out about a different type of sporting activity.

Sports Day

From team triumphs to individual achievements, the day highlighted the competitiveness and resilience that our children have developed. Every child took part in individual and team races and showcased a variety of skills including speed, agility and balance. Their support for each other was fabulous and it was lovely to see the field so full with spectators cheering the children on and supporting everyone to the finish line. There are still more events to complete until the final Team winner is announced. Thank you to everyone who helped to make the day so successful.

Hot Weather

Next week is set to be very warm, with a potential mini heatwave on the way. Please send children in with hats to wear when outside, a water bottle (that can be refilled throughout the day) and already wearing sun cream. We will be mindful of how much time the children spend outside and seeking shade where we can. In school we can always find cooler places to be and we also have the advantage of some lovely shady spots on the field too under the trees. Please be reassured that we will be encouraging children to drink plenty of fluids and to keep themselves cool.

Uniform

It is the time of year when we start to think about purchasing uniform for September especially as the shops start to publicise their deals. Please refer closely to the school website for our uniform requirements. While it is not necessary for everything to have the school brand, we would ask that everything is named! We have huge amounts



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of unclaimed lost property every term and unfortunately without a name in an item of clothing it is very difficult to reunite it with its owner.

Our School Uniform:

Sensible black school shoes (trainers, fashion shoes, open toe sandals, high heels, 'jelly' shoes, mules, etc are not allowed).

Socks may be grey, white or black.

Grey skirt, grey pinafore dress, grey trousers or grey shorts.

Blue gingham summer dress.

White or sky blue polo shirt and navy sweatshirt (this can have the school logo on or be plain navy).

or

White or sky blue polo shirt and navy cardigan (this can have the school logo on or be plain navy).

PE kit for ALL pupils

'House' coloured t-shirt (red, blue or green depending on house). This can be ordered with the school logo on or be plain (please match school colours though).

Plain navy blue or black shorts.

Sensible trainers (not plimsolls or fashion shoes) for outdoor use, bare feet inside.

Children may also wear a plain navy or black tracksuit when it is cold during outside lessons.

Earrings must be removed for P.E and swimming lessons.

Attendance

We continue to work closely with families regarding attendance as research has shown the impact that missing school can have on future life opportunities and earning potential – we want the very best for all of our children and know that it takes a partnership to do this. For more information on attendance please see our website under Our School, Policies and Protocols, Attendance Policy.

Every day in school counts...



and every minute counts...





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Chair of Governors

As you will now be aware, Mr Cowdell has served on the Governing Board for several years and been heavily involved in the development of the school. We are grateful for all of his time and dedication in this role. Please see the message below from Mr Cowdell.

Message from the Chair of Governors

After seven years of dedicated service on the Governing Board, I have taken the considered decision to step down from my role as Chair. It has been an honour and a privilege to support the school through a period of significant change and development.

I began my journey as a new parent to the school, with little knowledge or experience of school governance. However, I quickly learned what was required and, after just two years, took on the role of Chair. The experience has been both eye-opening and immensely rewarding. As a volunteer, I have gained a great deal—personally and professionally—and I am grateful for the opportunity to have contributed to the life of the school in this way.

During my tenure, I have had the opportunity to work alongside committed colleagues to navigate the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, and to play a key role in the recruitment and appointment of two headteachers and a deputy headteacher.

I have some wonderful memories of attending school events in my role on the governing board and seeing the joy and dedication of all the children as they have developed through the school. I am particularly proud of the recent Ofsted report, which recognised the excellent leadership and clear strategic vision demonstrated by the Governing Board. It was deeply rewarding to read such positive reflections on the work we have undertaken together, and I am proud to have contributed to that success. Looking ahead, the school is preparing for an exciting expansion to meet the needs of our growing village community—an important step that will ensure we continue to provide high-quality education for all our pupils. I am proud to have been a part of the discussions to drive this development forward for our school community.

With a new headteacher now in post and the school entering this new chapter, I believe the time is right for a new Chair to lead the Board and continue driving forward the shared vision for excellence.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the entire school community—governors, staff, parents, and pupils—for their unwavering support, collaboration, and commitment throughout my time on the Board. It has been a privilege to serve, and I leave with a heavy heart but hope for continued growth and development in our school for our children to be inspired to have a love of learning at the heart of all they do.

Thanks

Mark



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Dates for the Diary

2 nd July	Year 6 AMVC move up day
2 nd July	Whole school Transition morning
14 th -16 th July	Year 5 residential
16 th July	Music Performance assembly 2:30
18 th July	Reports to parents – sent via email
21 st July	Year 6 Leavers performance 2:30pm
22 nd July	Thorney Abbey Service am
23 rd July	Duke of Bedford Talent Contest
	End of term