



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



Thursday 8th January 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year and welcome back to school after the Christmas break! We hope you all had a wonderful festive season and are ready for an exciting term ahead. Our staff are looking forward to supporting the children as they continue their learning journey in 2026. It has been lovely to chat to people on the gate and welcome you all back into school, hearing about dance shows, choir performances and other events that have taken place over the break and it feels like the corridors and hall are still full of the music and performances before Christmas that so many of us enjoyed.

Cold Weather Reminder

As the winter chill continues, please ensure your child comes to school with a warm coat. They can also bring a hat, and gloves and we will continue to support them to be responsible for their belongings. To help us do this please name all items sent in so that if things do get lost we may be able to reunite them with the correct child. Outdoor play is an important part of the school day, and we want all children to stay comfortable and safe in the cold weather. PE will also be outside when possible so please ensure that your child has a top and trousers in their PE kit too for chilly but fine days.

School Closure Procedures

Staff work incredibly hard to ensure that school can stay open, even in challenging circumstances (this week alone we have isolated a burst pipe and Mr Gray has been out every morning to make the playground and pathways in the school safe for everyone).

There is more uncertain weather predicted over the coming days and possibly further into the term. If a decision is made to close the school this is based on the health and safety risks to children, families and staff and advice from PCC and local emergency services.

In the unlikely event that the school does need to close due to severe weather or other emergencies:

- Parents will be notified via parent mail and the closure posted on our Facebook page.
- Updates will also be posted on the school website and local radio stations.
- We aim to make a decision by 7:45am at the latest to enable parents to make any alternative arrangements needed.



School closures are also published on the Peterborough city Council website.

Please make sure we have your current contact details to ensure you receive important updates promptly.



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The Year of Reading

We are thrilled that this year is the National Year of Reading! We are passionate about reading in the school and we hope that you all enjoyed taking part in the Reading Challenge over the Christmas break. Our aim in partnership with parents and families is to foster a love of books and reading across the school community. Throughout the year, we will:

- Host reading challenges for all year groups.
- Organise author visits and storytelling sessions.
- Encourage families to take part in shared reading activities at home.
- Share book recommendations
- Create more access to books to borrow and keep

Look out for more details in upcoming newsletters and on our website. Let's make 2026 a year full of stories, imagination, and learning!

Important Allergy Reminder

We have children, staff and visitors in school with severe nut allergies. To keep everyone safe, please do not send any food containing nuts in lunchboxes or snacks. This includes peanut butter, Nutella, and any products that list nuts as an ingredient. There will be a separate letter and information regarding changes in our safeguarding and policies around food and allergies coming out separately and should you have any questions please do ask. Thank you for helping us maintain a safe environment for all pupils.

Thank you for your continued support. Together, we can make this term a successful and enjoyable one for all our pupils!

Uniform and The Heart Hub

A reminder for those of you who may need additional uniform, that we continue to support the Peterborough Used uniform initiative. We also have uniform available in our Heart Hub – please speak to us if you are in need of anything. This time of year can be particularly difficult for many and we keep the Heart Hub well stocked so please drop us an email or pop into the office if you need support with groceries or uniform.

Kind regards

Mrs Hales





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Dates for the Diary

5 th January	Professional Day 3
6 th January	Start of Term 3
6 th January	Chance to Shine Cricket 6 week block starts
8 th January	Year 4 parents Residential Meeting
9 th January	History Day
Week beginning 12 th January	Clubs start
Week begin 12 th January	Open classrooms
28 th to 30 th January	Year 4 residential
10 th and 12 th February	Parents Evenings
13 th February	End of Term
23 rd February	Start of Term 4
27 th March	End of Term
13 th April	Start of Term 5
Week beg 20 th April	Open Classrooms
11 th May to 14 th May	Year 6 SATs
22 nd May	End of Term
1 st June	Professional Day 4
2 nd June	Start of Term 6
2 nd June	Year 4 MT check window opens
8 th June	Year 1 Phonics check window opens
16 th July	Year 6 Leavers Service at Thorney Abbey (Year 6 parents invited)
17 th July	End of Term 6
20 th July	Professional Day 5