



DANESGATE COMMUNITY

PRIMARY & MIDDLE AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 26/27



A very warm welcome to our pupils, parents and carers to the new Academic year.

Headteachers welcome

From Chris Nichols



Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with great pride that I welcome you all to the new academic year as Headteacher of Danesgate Community. I hope that you all had a wonderful, restful summer break with your families, loved ones and friends.

To those parents, carers, and pupils who are joining our community for the very first time this term: an incredibly warm welcome to Danesgate. We are delighted to have you with us. To our long-standing families, it is wonderful to welcome you back for another year.

Since its launch back in the summer term of 2025, our termly newsletter has grown into an essential way we communicate with you all. It has become a truly valuable guide, packed with key contacts, insights into your child's class and their learning, details on upcoming events, and significant calendar dates. We hope you find this Autumn 2026 edition both helpful and informative as we kick off the new year.

I am incredibly excited for the year ahead and the opportunity to make a lasting difference to the lives of the young people and families that we support at Danesgate Community. As a staff team, our mission remains rooted in ensuring all of our young people are empowered to:

- **STRIVE:** The Danesgate Community endeavours to help young people STRIVE to develop positive behaviours and constructive attitudes, and to overcome barriers to learning,
- **THRIVE:** The Danesgate Community endeavours to provide young people with the skills to overcome learning barriers for the future, in order that they can THRIVE in society,
- **ACHIEVE:** The Danesgate Community endeavours to teach young people to ACHIEVE academically, emotionally, and socially. All of our pupils have different starting points and experiences of school when they join Danesgate, and we celebrate every success.

I am certain that over the coming year, by working closely in partnership, we will be able to support your child so that they are happy, safe, and making the very most of every opportunity school has to offer.

Thank you in advance for your ongoing support, and for the positive, respectful way you work alongside Danesgate staff. Together, we will ensure that everyone at Danesgate can STRIVE, THRIVE, and ACHIEVE.

Warmest wishes,

Chris Nichols (Headteacher, Danesgate Community)

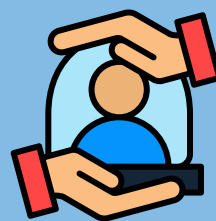
IN THIS NEWSLETTER



**Key dates
this year**



Our curriculum



**Safeguarding
updates**



**Welcome from
each Key Worker**

KEY DATES FOR 2026/27

Tuesday 6 October

INSET day (School Closed)

October Half term

26/10/26 to 30/10/26

Thursday 10 December

Parents Day

Christmas Holidays

21/12/26 to 1/1/27

Monday 4 January

INSET day (School Closed)

February Half term

8/2/27 to 12/2/27

Wednesday 17 March

Parents Day

Easter Holidays

22/3/27 to 2/4/27

Friday 20 April

INSET day (School Closed)

Monday 3 May

Bank Holiday (School Closed)

Monday 10 May

Year 11 exams start

Summer Half term

31/5/27 to 4/6/27

Wednesday 16 July

Parents Day

Final day of the academic year

Friday 23 July

Monday 26 July

INSET Day (School Closed)

GCSE Results Day

Thursday 19 August

Summer Holidays

27/7/27 to 6/9/27

Provision Lead Welcome



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to the Autumn Term! It has been wonderful to see all of our pupils return to school with such bright smiles, positive attitudes and a real readiness to learn.

This term marks an exciting milestone for us as we officially launch our new Middle School provision for our Year 7 pupils. Designed as a dedicated transition year, this space bridges the journey between primary and secondary, giving our students the tailored environment they need to grow in confidence and independence.

We are also delighted to welcome several new staff members to the Danesgate team, who are already making a fantastic impact and building warm, positive relationships with the children.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support and partnership. Working together makes all the difference, and we look forward to a fantastic term ahead.

Warm regards,

Rachel Duffill



Parent/Carer Voice

Please complete our short Parent/Carer Voice survey by [CLICKING HERE](#) or see your emails.

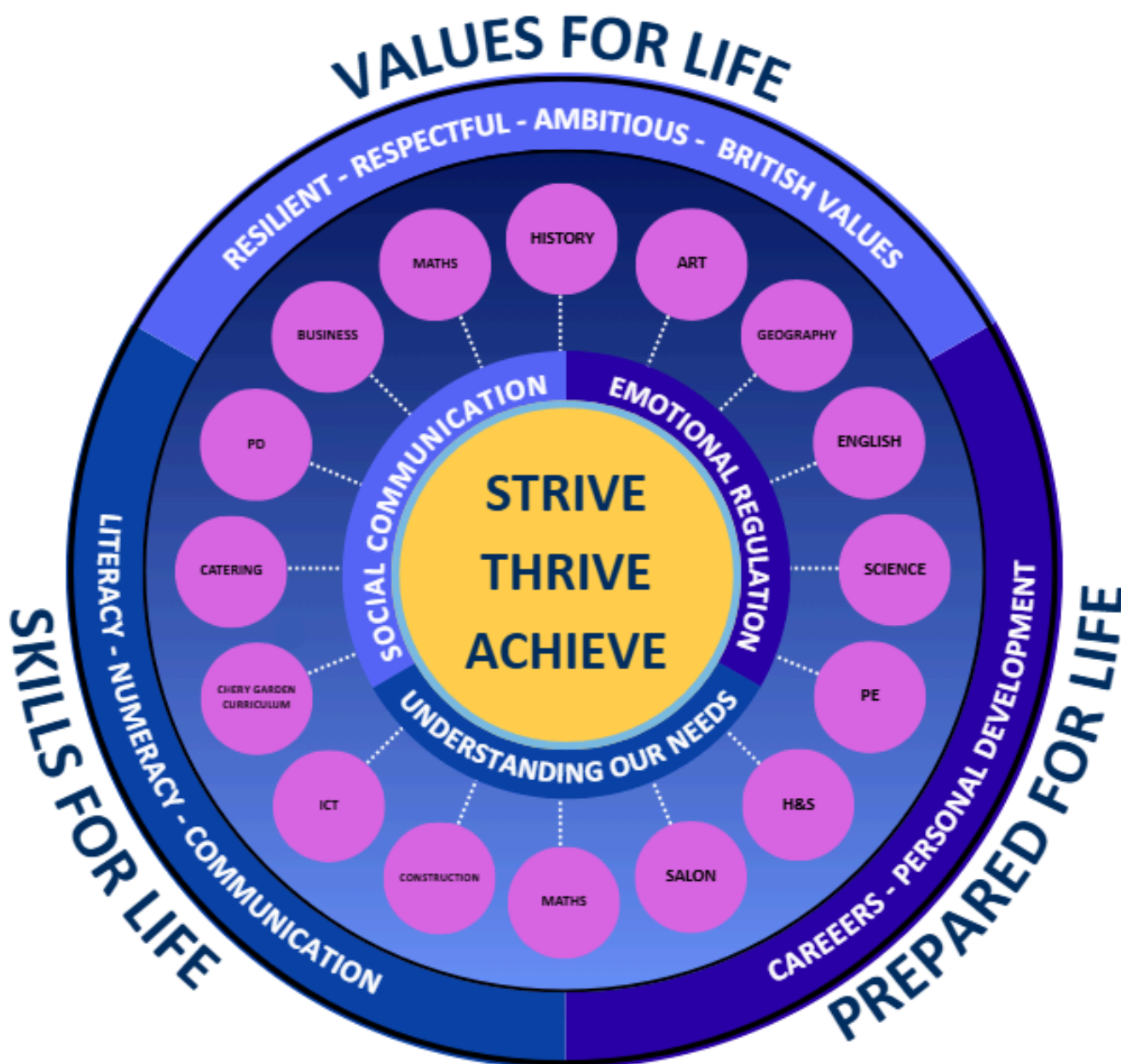
Our curriculum offer...

What makes us different...

At Danesgate our MISSION is for everyone to **STRIVE**, **THRIVE** and **ACHIEVE**.

We recognise that for pupils to do this we must first ensure that they are ready to learn. We therefore focus on developing Emotional Regulation, Social Communication and understanding their needs before we offer a wide and varied curriculum which is carefully designed to ensure our pupils:

- Have **VALUES FOR LIFE**: Resilience, Respect for themselves and others, ambition and understand and can follow the British Values.
- Have **SKILLS FOR LIFE**: Literacy, NUmeracy and Communication
- Are **PREPARED FOR LIFE**: Careers and Personal Development



The curriculum 2026/27

Our curriculum at Primary and Middle is designed to:

- Continue interesting and motivating students to learn,
- Provide opportunities' to gain qualifications and experience success in areas of strength and expertise,
- To provide the knowledge and skills to continue being successful after leaving school...

Primary:

- Literacy (x5, daily)
- English (x5, daily)
- Maths (x5, daily)
- Personal Development (please see poster on the next page which explains how we provide secure foundations and how we deliver the curriculum, which results in the attributes our learners leave with).
- Humanities
- Science
- Art
- ICT
- Cooking
- PE

We have a modified curriculum for pupils who need additional support to access our curriculum through SCERTS (please see our website for more information).

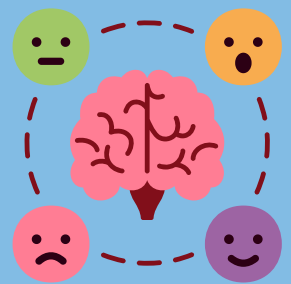
Middle

- Literacy (x5, daily)
- English (x5, daily)
- Maths (x5, daily)
- Personal Development (please see poster on the next page which explains how we provide secure foundations and how we deliver the curriculum, which results in the attributes our learners leave with).
- History
- Science
- Art
- ICT
- Cooking
- PE

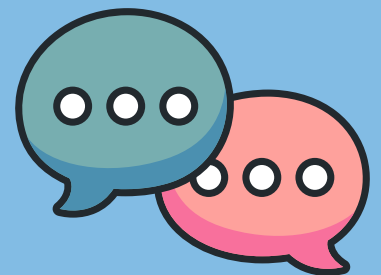
Our curriculum is carefully designed to allow for a breadth of subjects to be covered; enabling students to build up their knowledge and understanding of the world around them as well as the skills required for adulthood such as resilience, independence and self awareness.

You will see later in this newsletter how our careers program supports our curriculum in order to fully prepare our learners for life after Danesgate.

Through the formal curriculum, we also teach our pupils to understand themselves so that they can STRIVE, THRIVE & ACHIEVE through aspects of...



Emotional regulation



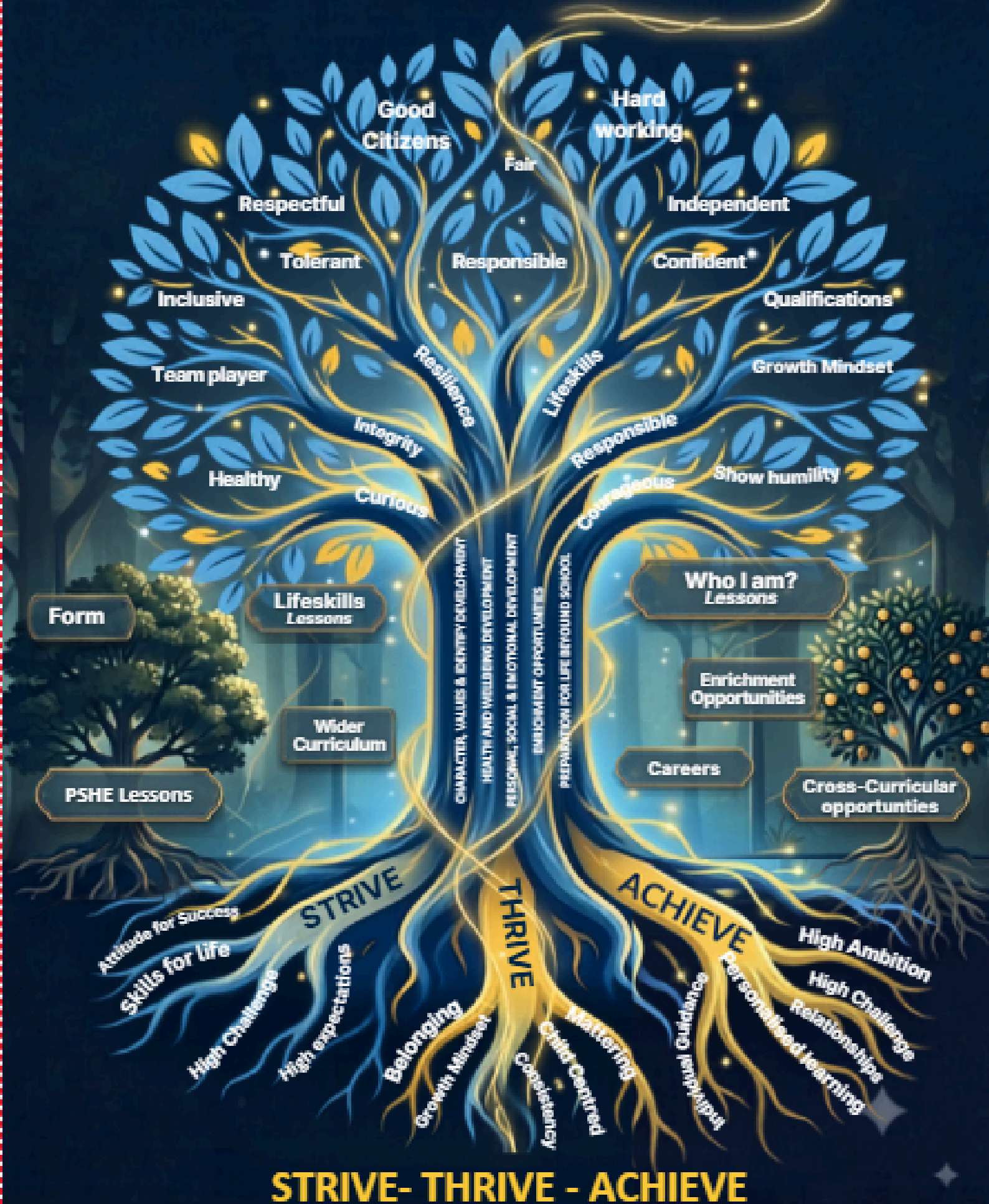
Social communication



Understanding individuals' needs

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Golden Thread @Danesgate



Your Careers Education Journey

Preparing you for your future

STAGE 1: WHO AM I?



Personal Development programme

Character Development, Health and Wellbeing Support, Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Enrichment, Preparation for Life beyond School.
(Form, Life skills lessons, PSHE lessons, Wider curriculum, Who I am? lessons, Careers, Enrichment opportunities)

Personalised support
Staff who work with you every day to support you to be the person you want to be



Growth Mindset

Personalised support to develop a Growth Mindset so you believe skills are built through effort. You see challenges as chances to learn, view failure as a temporary setback, and welcome feedback.



Careers Exploration

Discover new opportunities and industries beyond school, through visits and workshops.



Real-World Encounters:

Engagement includes employer encounters, and visits to colleges/training providers.

STAGE 2: WHERE DO I WANT TO GO?

STAGE 3: HOW DO I GET THERE?



Family Partnership:

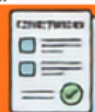
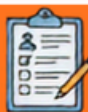
Parents and carers integrated into the journey to understand pathways and opportunities.



Meaningful Work Experience:

Adapts well to life experiences with local businesses and charities to build employment skills.

Practical Adulthood Skills:
Masterclass on essential software applications, preparing for interviews, and understanding workplace expectations.



EHCP-Aligned Pathways:

EHCP-Aligned Plan is built around individual strengths, aspirations, and specific Education, Health and Care Plan outcomes.

Careers Management & 16 Pathways:
Personalised support guiding students toward further education, apprenticeships, or employment.



THRIVE - STRIVE - ACHIEVE

Sapling 1

Josie Hocking, Laura McGouran and Aimee Lansbury



What a fantastic start to the new school year! The pupils have adapted to their new classroom extremely well. Having neighbouring classes has created many more opportunities for social interaction, and it has been lovely to see the pupils noticing, approaching and spending time alongside other children.

In English, we will explore a different book each week through lively storytelling, repetition, humour and opportunities to join in. In maths, we will focus on place value, addition and subtraction. Weekly Curiosity Box sessions will support shared attention and communication, while our Emotional Regulation work will centre on emotional safety and supportive co-regulation. Outdoors, our focus will be den building, so donations of large pieces of fabric would be very welcome!

Swimming will continue every Tuesday throughout the term.

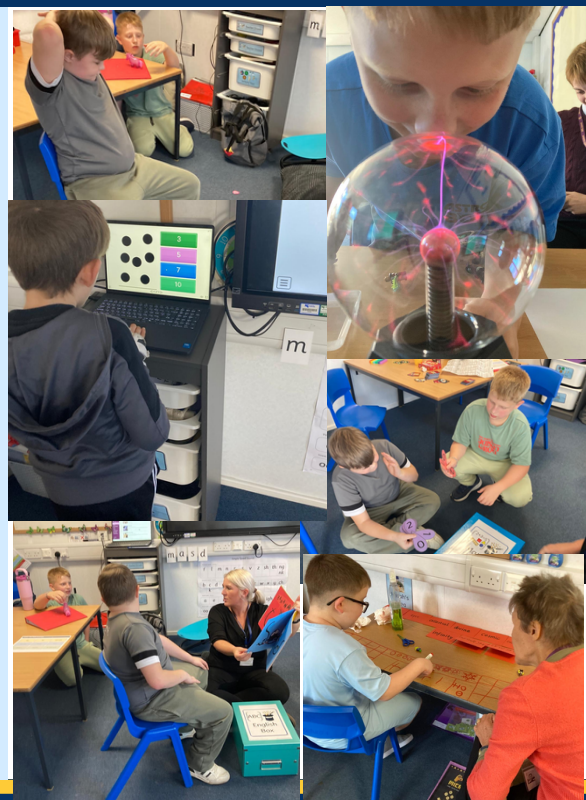
Sapling 2

Rachel Duffill and Samuel Harris

Welcome back to school! It has been an absolute delight seeing all of the children again after a long summer, and they have settled back into class exceptionally well.

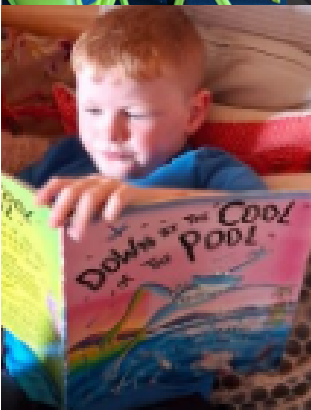
This term, our English learning will focus on one book each week, using humour, repetition, surprise and adult-led performance to build shared attention, participation and enjoyment. In maths, we are exploring place value, and addition & subtraction. Our social communication unit will feature a weekly 'Curiosity Box' to encourage shared attention and engagement, while our Emotional Regulation unit focus will centre on emotional safety and co-regulation. Finally, please remember that our swimming lessons will take place every Tuesday throughout this term.

Email: r.duffill@danegatecommunity.org.uk



Sapling 3

Rachel Norris and Gina Nicholson



Welcome to Sapling 3!

We have had an incredible start to the new term in Sapling 3! The children have been busy getting to know one another through exploration, play and lots of exciting activities. It has been wonderful to see them building positive relationships with their new friends and staff, and we are so proud of how happily and confidently they have settled into their new class.

Our 'Curiosity Box' has already become a favourite part of our daily activities. It has encouraged the children to wonder, ask questions, explore new ideas and share their thoughts with one another. We are looking forward to seeing where their curiosity takes us this term!

This term, our English learning will be centred around a different text each week. We will begin with *The Tunnel* by Anthony Browne. To introduce the story, the children have been busy designing, building and exploring their own tunnels in our Construction Area. We can't wait to see how their ideas develop as we begin to explore the text together!

In Maths, we will start by developing our understanding of place value, building and representing numbers in different ways. We will then move on to exploring addition and subtraction, using practical resources and activities to help the children develop their mathematical understanding and confidence.

Swimming is also an exciting part of our weekly routine this term. The children will be swimming every Tuesday, giving them a wonderful opportunity to develop their water confidence and swimming skills.

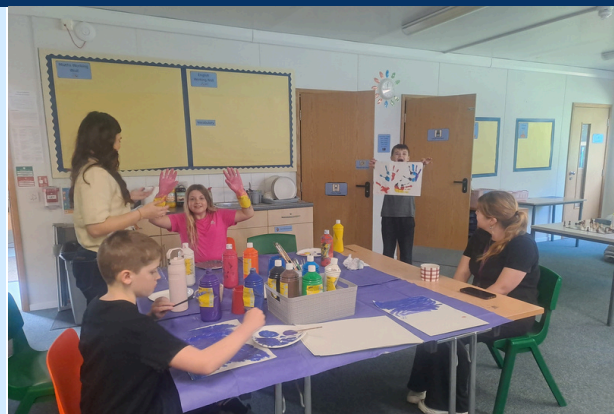
We are looking forward to a term filled with curiosity, creativity, learning and lots of fun. There are so many exciting adventures ahead in Sapling 3!

PC4

Sarah Giles and Lily McCaughan

Hi and welcome to Willow class! We hope you all had a lovely summer. It was really nice to welcome the children back to school after a very long break. They coped well and enjoyed being together and exploring the classroom, which looks quite different this year and has new games and resources! We discussed how we can ensure that everyone feels safe and happy in school and decided on a class agreement together which will be displayed in our classroom.

We're looking forward to getting started with the Autumn curriculum. This half term, English lessons will be centred around a story called *The Boy Who Grew Dragons* by Andy Shepherd. In Maths we will be developing our understanding of place value and number. PE days are Monday and Friday and cooking will be every Thursday so appropriate, safe footwear must be worn please. As always, please make contact if you have any questions. Thank you for your ongoing support and we look forward to working with you and the children.



PC5

Janette Patterson and Marcus Walker



A warm welcome to all our Primary Class 5 pupils after the summer break, and a special welcome to all our **new children joining Danesgate**. We hope you have a happy and positive start to your time with us.

We have an exciting **Autumn Term** ahead, with lots of opportunities to learn, grow and have fun together. We will focus on **building positive relationships**, making new friends and creating a kind, supportive and welcoming school community.

We are looking forward to a fantastic term and making lots of wonderful memories together!

Middle 1

Jordan Pick and Louise Nicholson

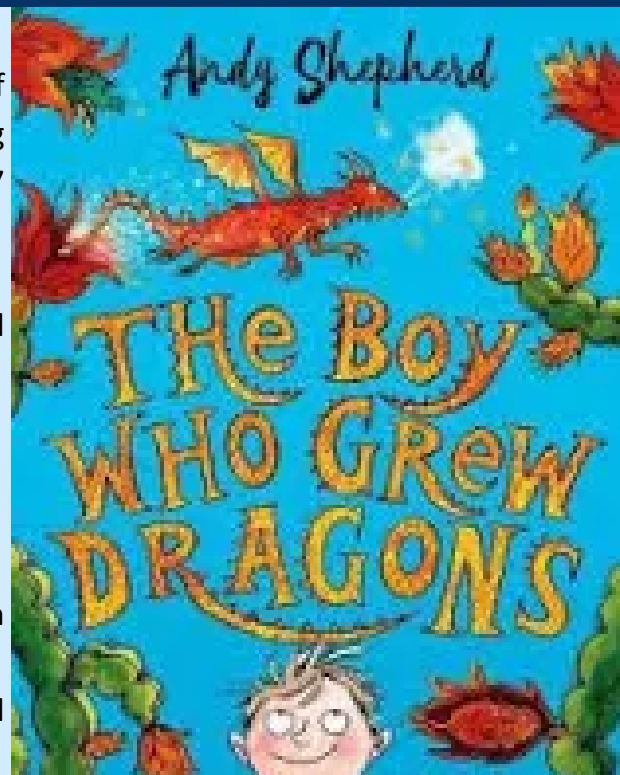
Welcome Back to Middle 1!

We are thrilled to welcome our pupils back to school! This half term, we are focusing on building positive relationships, settling into routines, and supporting our transition toward Year 7 through PD.

- English: Exploring the novel *The Boy Who Grew Dragons*.
- Maths: Practising reading, writing, ordering numbers, and counting.
- Science: Discovering the nature of matter.
- History: Learning about key events of the Medieval period.

How to Help at Home

- Reading: Explore different animal care guides together.
- Maths: Practise times tables and mental maths on [Topmarks](#).
- Bitesize Resources: Check out [BBC Bitesize Overview](#) and this [Bitesize Article](#).



Middle 2

Dan Redgate and Emily Cooper



Welcome to Middle 2.

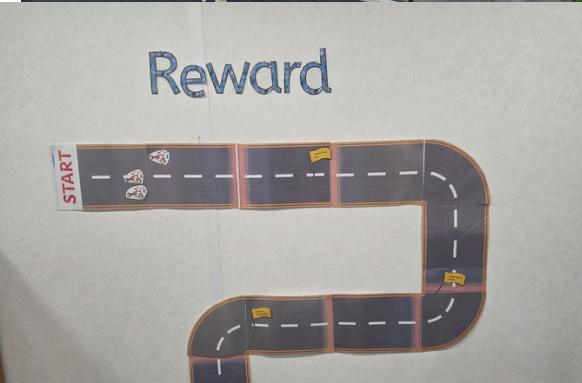
After such a long Summer break, this term we are focusing on developing relationships, establishing a team mentality and establishing routines.

This term in English we are starting to explore *The Boy Who Grew Dragons*. In maths, we are focusing on place value and in science we are exploring states of matter.

How home can help

As the rains come, please consider sending children in with coats when it is wet.

Children can work on core maths skills such as times tables on 'Push the Button'.



Middle 3

Claire Kendall: Mon - Wed, c.kendall@danegatecommunity.org.uk

Lauren Elcock: Thurs - Fri, l.elcock@danegatecommunity.org.uk

Sandy Pidd: Monday - Friday

Here in Middle 3, we are pleased to welcome all our pupils back to school. This half term, we will be focusing on getting to know each other, building positive relationships and settling into routines. Our learning in PD will help to manage transition into Year 7. English learning will be based around the novel 'The Boy Who Grew Dragons', Maths learning will centre on reading, writing, ordering numbers and counting. In Science, pupils will learn about the nature of matter and in History, pupils will find out about important events of the Medieval period.

To help at home, read some different animal care guides; practise times tables and mental maths on the Topmarks website; explore relevant sections of BBC Bitesize:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zk26n39>;

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zkr4jxs/articles/z3qyydm>



Sapling 4 (Middle 4)

Sam Battwood and Lisa Holding



Sapling 4 is excited to welcome our students back to Danesgate and into their new classroom! We have an exciting term planned with a focus on reading and our class book: Kensuke's Kingdom.

We will be using our split classroom to ensure we always have a break out space with den building, model making and other collaborative activities ready.

Excitingly, we have the green space around our classroom to explore and enjoy at playtimes and we are looking forward to hosting the rest of the Sapling classes in our outdoor area.

In art we are excited to go across to the dedicated art classes this term and explore the range of resources they have available there.

The importance of reading

Why is reading at home so important?

Children with access to 25 books at home complete an average of 2 more years of school than children from homes without any books.



Kids 4-5 years old gain 6 months of reading ability by being read to 3 to 5 times per week.



Reading is a critical skill for succeeding in most school subjects.



A child spends 900 hours a year in school and 7800 hours at home.



Research shows that just 20 minutes a day spent reading with a child helps them develop critical reading skills.



Learn more:

smartreading.org/parent-resources



We're using Arbor's free Parent Portal and Parent App

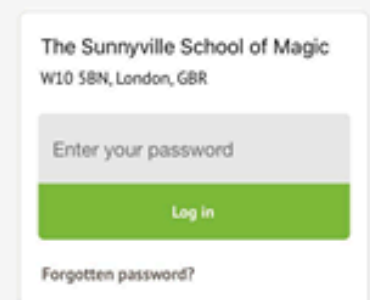
We've chosen Arbor to help us manage our school.

Arbor is a simple, smart and cloud-based MIS (Management Information System), which helps us work faster, smarter and more collaboratively as a school. The Parent App and Parent Portal mean we can keep you informed about your child's life at school in a much more accessible way. Log into Arbor to see and update your child's information, get live updates and make payments or bookings on the go!

The Parent Portal works on Google Chrome (computer or laptop) and you can download the Parent App from the App Store or Google Play Store on your phone (Android 5.0; iOS 10.0 and upwards).

How to get started

1. Wait for your welcome email from us telling you Arbor is ready - you won't be able to log in before
2. Click the link in your welcome email to set up your password
3. Go to the App or Google Play Store on your phone and search 'Arbor'
4. Click 'Install' on Android or 'Get' on iPhone then open the App
5. Enter your email, select the school, then enter your password
6. Accept the Terms & Conditions and enter your child's birthday



The Sunnyville School of Magic
W10 5BN, London, GBR

Enter your password

Log in

Forgotten password?

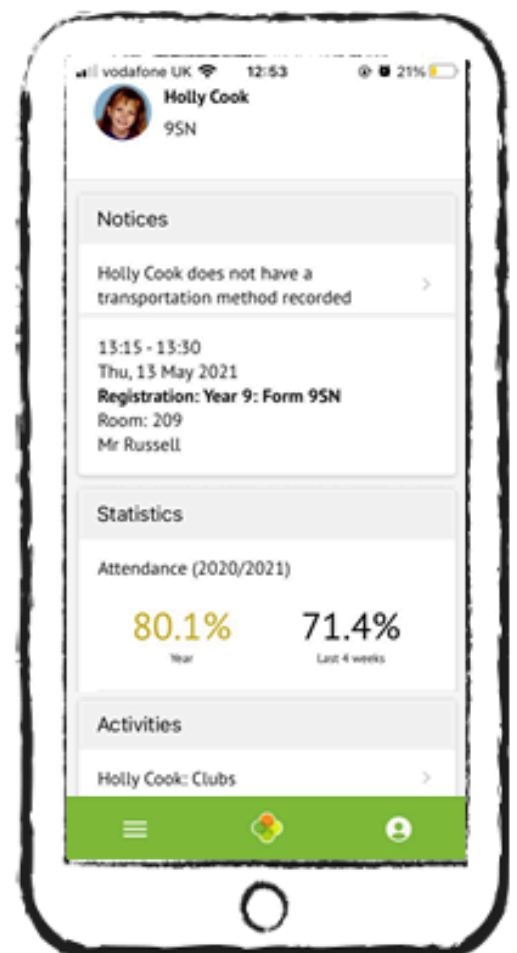
Need help using Arbor?

Contact the school office if you have questions about Arbor, the App or Parent Portal. Tell us the type and model of your phone, e.g. an iPhone SE, and include screenshots or screen recordings.

To safeguard student data in line with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR), Arbor only works directly with schools.

Some tips to try:

1. Ensure your username is the email address you use for Arbor. Ask us to **check the email address** linked to your account.
2. **Reset your password** from the login page, or ask us to do this.
3. If the login email was sent to you more than 96 hours ago, the **password link will have expired**. Ask us to send it again.
4. Ask the school office to check that your email address has not been used twice - e.g. on another guardian or child's profile.
5. **Enter the birthday** of one of your children to log in.
6. Only relatives who are **Primary Guardians** of a child can access the Arbor App. Ask us to check you can access Arbor.





SAFEGUARDING & WELLBEING MESSAGES

From Kim and the Pastoral team

As Pastoral Care Manager and Safeguarding Lead, I am delighted to welcome both our returning students and those joining us for the first time. At Danesgate, we believe that every young person deserves to feel safe, respected, supported, and valued. Our pastoral team is committed to building positive relationships with our students and their families, ensuring that everyone has the encouragement and support they need to flourish both personally and academically.

Starting a new school year can bring excitement, new opportunities, and sometimes a few worries too. Please remember that no concern is ever too small, and we are always here to listen, offer guidance, and work together to help our students overcome any challenges they may face. We are looking forward to another year of celebrating successes, supporting one another, and helping every student reach their full potential.

On behalf of the pastoral team, I wish you all a happy, successful, and rewarding year ahead. We can't wait to see what this year brings!

Kind regards

Kim Mower and the team

If you are looking at this page and have an urgent safeguarding concern which you are not able to discuss with a member of staff, please use these contacts:



MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) – Office hours
telephone: 01904 551900



Urgent assistance with mental health, please call
York CAMHS Crisis Team telephone: 08000 516171

MEET THE TEAM



Steve Burdett
Pastoral Support Advisor



Steve Burdett
Pastoral Support Advisor



James Walker
Pastoral Support Advisor



Clare Eland
Pastoral Attendance Officer

If you need help...

Where else can you get support and help...



Raise York

The Raise York website is designed to support parents, carers, children, young people and anyone who works with children, young people and families.

Contact York Family Information Service on
telephone: 01904 554444
text telephone: 07786202241
email: fis@york.gov.uk

and an Information Officer will try and help you.



Safeguarding

Visit: www.saferchildrenyork.org.uk/advice-parents-carers-1/parents-carers and you will find help and advice on the following:

- Reporting safeguarding concerns
- Child protection
- Private fostering
- Local advice for parents
- National advice for parents
- Mental health resources
- Online safety

**Or phone MASH on
01904 551900**



York SENDIASS

York SENDIASS supports children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), and their parents and carers.

They provide a free, impartial and confidential service to help with concerns or questions around education, health, social care, inclusion and preparing for adulthood.

Visit:
www.yorksendiass.org.uk
01904 554312



Change, Grow, Live

Offer a free, confidential drug and alcohol service for young people and affected others.

Visit: www.changegrowlive.org/service/york-the-gate/info#offer to find out more.

Phone: 01904 464 680

Email: TheGateYork@cgl.org.uk



York Mind

York Mind offers a range of different support, including:

- 1 to 1 Counselling for people aged 12 to 21
- Yorchoice drop in service for 14-21 (up to 25 SEND)
- Young people group support
- Yormind website and chat
- chit podcast

To find out more visit:
www.yorkmind.org.uk/how-we-help/young-peoples-service/



York Foodbank

York Foodbank don't think anyone in our community should have to face going hungry. That's why they provide three days' nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to local people who are referred to us in crisis.

To find out more visit:
<https://york.foodbank.org.uk/get-help/how-to-get-help/>

If you need help...

Where else can you get support and help...



Childline

Childline is a free, 24-hour service for children and young people up to the age of 19 in the UK.

It provides support, advice, and a listening ear for young people who may be facing any kind of difficulty or distress, whether it's related to bullying, mental health, family issues, or other concerns.

Visit: www.childline.org.uk

Phone: 0800 1111



NHS: Better Health

The 'Every Mind Matters' campaign from the NHS includes guides on dealing with change, self-care and dealing with social media. There are tips for parents/carers to help support children who may be struggling with their mental health.

Visit: www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/mental-wellbeing-tips/youth-mental-health/



Kooth

Kooth is an online mental health service for children, young people and adults. In North Yorkshire, Kooth offers free online counselling and emotional well-being support for children and young people.

Try the mini-activities to boost your wellbeing or chat with our friendly team. It is a judgement-free forum to get advice, help others and share your story

Visit: www.kooth.com



IDAS

IDAS are proud to deliver high quality services that help protect victims and survivors whatever choice they make about their future. We also work to transform the systems that can directly or indirectly harm survivors and through our training, prevention and educational work we inspire individuals and organisations to tackle the root causes of domestic abuse.



Young Carers

Young Carers support young people aged between 5 and 18 who are helping to look after someone at home.

You might be helping look after a brother or sister, parent or grandparent with an illness, disability, mental health problem or a problem with alcohol or drugs.

Visit: yorkcarerscentre.co.uk



NSPCC

Visit:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/>

For lots of advice on parenting. Remember, there's no such thing as a perfect parent. One day all's calm, the next it's chaos. However it's going, we're here with advice and support for parents and carers.



**If you have any questions,
please do not hesitate to contact us on:
01904 555555**

**or visit our website at:
www.danesgatecommunity.org.uk**



STRIVE - THRIVE - ACHIEVE