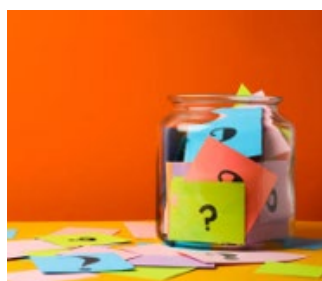


Newsletter – NOVEMBER 2025

Admissions Policies – For all VA schools & Academies

A reminder that you need to email us your draft 2027-2028 Admissions Policy by 30 November.

Please refer to the checklist & guidance documentation on our [website](#) which explains all that you need to know. If your school is an academy in a MAT, please liaise with your central team to check arrangements.



Annual Return 2025

Thank you to those schools who have already responded. If you have not done so, please can you complete the online forms ASAP.

Headteacher, chair and ex officio foundation governor [HERE](#)

Clerk to governors to complete online form [HERE](#)

School office to complete online form [HERE](#)

Anti-Bullying Week 10-14 November

Anti-Bullying Week is an annual UK event which aims to raise awareness of bullying and to highlight ways of preventing and responding to it.



In England, Anti-Bullying Week is organised by the Anti-Bullying Alliance, which is a network of more than 100 member organisations.

You can download free resources from School of Kindness [HERE](#) and Premier League Primary Stars [HERE](#).



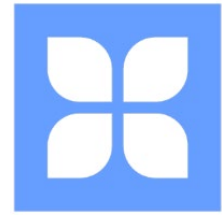
Free Advent Collective Worship Resources

The Church of England has a new resource for Advent 2025 “The Joy of Christmas” aimed at KS2 and KS3 learners.

For KS1 pupils there is a new version of the book *The Grumpy Owl and the Joy of Christmas*, which tells the story of Jesus’ birth through the eyes of an owl who seems determined to miss all the excitement. You can find out more about this [HERE](#)

SIAMS Inspector Training

Applications are now open for SIAMS new inspector training. They are looking specifically for inspectors who can commit to inspecting within the dioceses of St Edmundsbury & Ipswich and Norwich (central and east coast), &/OR the Diocese of Lincoln (central and east coast) &/OR the Diocese of Chichester (central and eastern side).



Applications close on 12 December 2025; training will take place online over 4 days in June 2026 and successful trainee inspectors will begin work in September 2026.

Full details are available [HERE](#)



Creative for Climate Justice

Christian Aid are running Creative for Climate Justice again this year - a fantastic project to support schools and pupils in their engagement with decision makers around a key issue of global justice. This year's project is putting a bigger emphasis on local engagement with MPs and the wider community.

They are holding a webinar for schools to learn more. Click on the dates to register.

Webinar 1 - [Tuesday 2nd December](#) at 4pm – 5pm **OR**

Webinar 2 - [Wednesday 3rd December](#) at 4pm – 5pm

**Happy
By Nature**

A daily dose of nature for every child



Happy by Nature

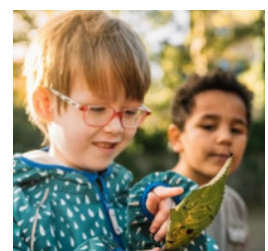
Learning through Landscapes together with WWF have launched their [Happy By Nature](#) programme, which aims to bring a daily dose of nature to every child, starting with those who need it most.

WWF's research shows 70% of primary schools are unable to offer daily nature connection. The [Happy By Nature](#) programme has been launched to give children a joyful call to engage in fun outdoor activities, challenge, and adventure, giving them a platform to explore nature in ways that suit them, whilst building independence, wellbeing and learning.

The programme is offering 10 schools a grant of £10,000 each to transform their outdoor spaces! Deadline 09 November 2025. Find out more and apply [HERE](#)

Happy by Nature

The National Education Nature Park programme supports early years settings to help children understand, care for, and improve the natural world. They are holding a webinar on 19 November. To register follow the link [HERE](#)



Upcoming Briefings

Headteachers

10:30 Wednesday 27 November

13:30 Monday 13 January

Governors (chairs, clerks, foundation governors)

19:00 Wednesday 27 November

19:00 Monday 13 January

Collective Worship

16:00 Tuesday 13 January 2026 – Music and Singing in CW

16:00 Tuesday 10 February 2026 – Justice and Responsibility & CW



If you would like details, please contact [Liz](#)

Supporting our Schools to TRANSFORM – GROW – BUILD

Showing **generous faith, courageous hope & life-giving love**, Derby DBE's actions will be to:

- affirm and strengthen our relationship with school leaders and governors,
- offer a high-quality training & development programme for school leaders, governors, clergy, RE & CW practitioners.

Do remember to visit our [website](#) for lots of useful information and guidance.
Previous newsletters can be viewed [here](#).

Key Dates for 2025/2026 Academic Year

Autumn Term

| | |
|---|-------------|
| CPD PROGRAMME Ensure staff & governors are booked onto relevant training. Details & booking links CPD programme | ASAP |
| MONTHLY BRIEFINGS Ensure dates in diary for headteacher, chair, clerk & foundation governors. See newsletter and CPD programme for dates | ASAP |
| PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT Sign up via website HERE | |
| LAND & BUILDINGS COLLECTION RETURN for Academy Trusts More information HERE | |
| ANNUAL RETURN School leadership team to complete online form HERE Clerk to governors to complete online form HERE School office to complete online form HERE | 31 October |
| ADMISSIONS: CONSULTING - <i>VA schools & Academies only</i> Review policy for 2 years ahead & send draft to DBE. Guidance on website HERE | 01 November |
| FOUNDATION GOVERNORS Deadline to submit application form & reference for TOO ending before 28 Feb | 04 November |
| FOUNDATION GOVERNORS – CHECK TERM OF OFFICE (TOO) Start renewal process for TOO ending before 30 June – see website HERE (process can take up to 6 months) | ASAP |
| CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION Deadline for submission | 22 November |
| ADMISSIONS: NOT CONSULTING - <i>VA schools & Academies only</i> Review policy for 2 years ahead & send draft to DBE. Guidance on website HERE | 30 November |
| EXEC / HEADTEACHER / HEAD OF SCHOOL RECRUITMENT Start process if notice has been given. DBE must be involved. See guidance HERE | |

For schools wishing to use our Admissions Appeals Service,
see overleaf for hearing dates and deadlines for submission of paperwork.

Any school considering capital works must obtain DBE and site trustees' consent.
In the first instance, contact Jason.aldridge@derby.anglican.org

Admission Appeal Hearings for Academic Year 2025-2026

| APPEALS LODGED BETWEEN | | SCHOOL CASE SENT TO DBE No later than | DBE SEND OUT PAPERS | HEARING |
|------------------------|-------------|---|---------------------|---------------|
| FRI 20-Jun | TUES 22-Jul | FRI 22-Aug | THURS 04-Sept | THURS 11-Sept |
| THURS 04-Sep | FRI 19-Sep | FRI 03-Oct | TUES 07-Oct | TUES 14-Oct |
| MON 22-Sep | FRI 17-Oct | FRI 24-Oct | TUES 28-Oct | TUES 04-Nov |
| MON 20-Oct | FRI 14-Nov | FRI 21-Nov | TUES 25-Nov | TUES 02-Dec |
| MON 17-Nov | FRI 05-Dec | FRI 12-Dec | THU 18-Dec | THU 08-Jan |
| MON 08-Dec | FRI 09-Jan | FRI 17-Jan | THU 23-Jan | THU 29-Jan |
| MON 12-Jan | FRI 06-Feb | FRI 13-Feb | THU 19-Feb | THU 26-Feb |
| MON 09-Feb | FRI 06-Mar | FRI 13-Mar | THU 19-Mar | THU 26-Mar |
| MON 09-Mar | FRI 20-Mar | FRI 17-Apr | THU 23-Apr | THU 30-Apr |
| MON 23-Mar | FRI 24-Apr | FRI 01-May | THU 07-May | THU 14-May |
| MON 27-Apr | FRI 15-May | FRI 22-May | THU 04-Jun | THU 11-Jun |
| MON 18-May | FRI 12-Jun | FRI 19-Jun | THU 25-Jun | THU 02-Jul |
| MON 15-Jun | FRI 03-Jul | FRI 10-Jul | TUES 14-Jul | TUES 21-Jul |
| MON 06-Jul | THU 23-Jul | FRI 21-Aug | TUES *-Sep | TUES *-Sept |

School holiday dates:

Half Term 27-31 October / Christmas Holidays 22 December-02 January / Half Term 16-20 February / Easter Holidays 30 Mar-10 April / Half Term 25-29 May



Christmas Card Competition 2025

THE WINNING ENTRY WILL BE USED FOR DERBY DBE'S OFFICIAL CHRISTMAS CARD FOR 2025 & BE SENT OUT NATIONWIDE!

THE WINNING PUPIL WILL RECEIVE A £10 BOOK TOKEN.

Entries can be hand drawn, painted or electronically produced & should be either A4 or A5 in size.

Please scan entries & email to officeDBE@derby.anglican.org or post to Derby DBE, Church House, Full Street, Derby DE1 3DR

PLEASE REMEMBER TO INCLUDE THE PUPIL'S NAME AND THE SCHOOL'S NAME!

**CLOSING DATE
16:00 on Friday 22 November**

