

# d'Auvergne Weekly Update 9.1.26



Dear Parents and Carers,

## Head Teacher's Comments

A **very happy new year** to you all, my very best wishes to yourselves and your families for 2026.

### Additional INSET for Nursery – Year 2, Tuesday March 31st

I have requested and received permission to close Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March. THIS IS IN ADDITION TO THE PLANNED WHOLE-SCHOOL INSET ON WEDNESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL.

The reason for the additional, partial closure is to allow consecutive Read Write Inc training days for staff in early years / Key Stage 1. Being skilled in teaching phonics correctly is very important, and staff need to access regular training.

The rest of the school, including Futures, will remain open as normal.

I shall be sending home a separate letter to the parents of the classes affected. If you have no alternative childcare available on March 31<sup>st</sup> we shall look after your child in school, but they will be with the older children. They will be very safe and cared for.

## Parent Survey

Last term, parents communicated their thoughts on d'Auvergne School by completing the school survey that all schools share as part of evaluation processes, every 2 years.

Our results in 2023 were very impressive, and you may recall that I then went through the individual questions and your responses in this newsletter, over a number of weeks.

This time, I am sharing the findings in their entirety below as the results speak for themselves. We are very proud, and appreciative, of all of your comments and your evaluations of our work. Every single comment has been noted (both positive and negative), and suggestions (particularly around communication) will be taken on.

Thank you, parents, for your significant participation in the survey. Thank you to my team for achieving these standards:

2025 Parent Survey Results	Strongly Agree*	Agree	Positive	Compared to 2023 Survey	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1. My child is happy at this school.	58% (up 7%)	42%	100%	No change	0%	0%
2. My child feels safe at this school.	60% (up 4%)	39%	99%	No change	0.5%	0.5%
3. The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved.	45% (up 2%)	51%	96%	-4.0%	4%	0%

4. The school responds quickly and effectively if there is bullying.	43% (up 11%)	56%	<b>99%</b>	<b>+3.0%</b>	1%	0%
5. The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year.	58% (up 19%)	40%	<b>98%</b>	<b>+4.0%</b>	1.5%	0.5%
6. When I have raised concerns with the school, they have been dealt with properly.	44% (up 2%)	54% (up 2%)	<b>96%</b>	<b>+2.0%</b>	0%	2%
7. If your child has special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), does the school give them the support they need?	62% (up 18%)	38%	<b>100%</b>	<b>+8.0%</b>	0%	0%
8. The school has high expectations for my child.	45% (no change)	53%	<b>98%</b>	<b>-1.0%</b>	2%	0%
9. My child does well at d'Auvergne (NEW QUESTION).	50%	47%	<b>97%</b>	<b>NEW QUESTION</b>	3%	0%
10. The school lets me know how well my child is doing.	46% (up 13%)	48%	<b>94%</b>	<b>-1.0%</b>	5%	1%
11. There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school.	56% (up 7%)	43%	<b>99%</b>	<b>No change</b>	1%	0%
12. My child can take part in clubs and activities at this school.	57% (Up 5%)	40%	<b>97%</b>	<b>+1.0%</b>	3%	0%
13. The school supports my child's wider personal development.	50% (up 11%)	50%	<b>100%</b>	<b>+2.0%</b>	0%	0%
14. I would recommend this school to another parent/carer.	72% (up 6%)	28%	<b>100%</b>	<b>+1.0%</b>	0%	0%

\*Significant improvements in 'Strongly Agree' categories, compared to 2023 survey.

## Christmas

On behalf of the team, and personally, may I sincerely thank you for your generosity of kind words and gifts at the end of 2025. They were very much appreciated, despite many having an impact on our waistlines....

The children who participated across the many festive celebrations did so with genuine passion, pride and full commitment. If you attended any of the events, I am sure you would wholeheartedly agree – the children did themselves, and all of us adults, very proud indeed! However, unexplained gaps on stage in our Year 4 – Year 6 church service were a disappointment. I made repeated requests for full attendance or, if children couldn't attend, advance notice that they wouldn't be there. The children rely on each other and committing to 'Team d'Auvergne', once a year, is not an unreasonable expectation. It was a bit like rehearsing for a play, and then some of the cast not turning up on the night. That said, the vast majority of pupils did attend and **absolutely excelled** – it was a showpiece event, that demonstrated d'Auvergne at its very best.

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As a staff / PTA team, we are committed to offering as many voluntary, additional activities and opportunities to our children and community as we can over the year. Asking for 1 evening's commitment back, from all, would be appreciated next December. Thank you.

### **PTA Events**

On **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January**, we start our PTA offer for 2026 with a Family Quiz Night from 6pm – 7.30pm. Tickets are £4 / person, including supper, with further details coming soon.

On **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> February**, we shall be hosting our Valentine's Discos. Key Stage 1 will be 6pm – 6.45pm, Key Stage 2 will be 7pm – 7.30pm. Teas and coffees will be available for parents / carers in the music room during the discos. Non-PTA adults **MUST** stay in the music room, if attending, during the events.

We look forward to great turnouts at both events...many more planned for the year ahead!

### **Parent Drop-Ins**

You are very welcome to join your child in class at the following times, followed by the usual pastry / coffee in the staff room with myself and / or Mrs Wheaton:

Nursery	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> January, 1.45pm.
Reception	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> January, 8.30am.
Year 1	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> January, 8.40am.
Year 2	Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> January, 8.45am.
Year 3	Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> January, 8.45am.
Year 4	Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> January, 8.45am.
Year 5	Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January, 8.40am.
Year 6	Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January, 8.40am.

Kind regards,  
Mr Cooper

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## Year Group Updates

### Futures

A very warm welcome back to the Spring Term. We hope you all had a lovely break.

We have been so impressed with the way the children have transitioned back into the school routine. Also, thank you for your support in providing snack each day.

Swimming for our Friday children started back today and for those who swim on a Tuesday, the children's first session is next week (13th Jan). We already have spare clothes in school for most children, but please can you ensure that these are weather appropriate. We will check their baskets and send home any shorts, please could you replace these with long trousers or leggings etc.

Finally, please join me in extending a warm welcome to our new teacher, Lauren England. Lauren has been busy this week, getting to know the staff and children in Futures, (as well as all the other parts of the school). She is looking forward to matching parents/carers to children as soon as she can!

### Nursery

There are certain points of the year which remind us how **lucky** we are to do the jobs we do and Monday morning at 8:30am was one of them. The joy, the energy and the desperation to share holiday stories or crack straight on with play was what we sign up for. Priceless.

A little bit like us as adults (secretly) craving the **routine** of work; I believe your children have demonstrated their desire to be back in with us at d'Auvergne with things like their unbelievable "choose it / use it / put it away" tidy skills, their adherence to the bells ringing and their understanding of the expectations in the Quiet Room.

Good news: we have welcomed Super Smiles in this week to discuss the techniques of **teeth brushing** and the length of time recommended. We have tried to show you this through Tapestry for you all at home. We will be scheduling in a daily brush after lunch each day.

Bad news: Bonny the **Elf** was discovered under our outside umbrella looking a little lost ... please don't panic; the children have come up with some plans to aid her return to the North Pole where we hope her friends will be pleased to see her. If your lovely learners are designing planes, parachutes, superpowers or any other form of transport this weekend - that will be why!

- Our sound of the week is "**mmmmmmmmmmmm**" with the corresponding picture (to aid remembering) being "Masie mountain mountain".
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- Our number of the fortnight is **1**. We are noticing **1** of everything, everywhere!

Well done adults – great to see you guys too!

Mr du Feu & Team

### **Reception**

Happy New Year and welcome back! The children have settled back in wonderfully, and we are gently supporting them as they return to familiar routines after the excitement of the break.

This week we have been exploring **Winter** and **seasonal change**. In class, we discussed the colder weather, ice and frost, and how the world around us changes during this time of year. We have reminded children about how to keep warm and safe in the cold and encouraging children to notice what they can see outdoors.

A special focus was on **robins**, a familiar winter bird. Through stories, songs, art activities and outdoor observations, the children have learnt about how animals cope in winter and how we can care for wildlife. We may even spot a robin in the school grounds!

Thank you for helping the children be prepared for the colder weather with coats, hats, gloves and scarfs. We spend a lot of time outside, so it is great the children can put these on independently. It is also helpful if they can zip up their coats by themselves too. Perhaps try this at home!

Other activities you could try at home:

- Talk about signs of winter on walks
- Look out for birds and other animals
- Read winter-themed stories together

Upcoming dates: **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January 8:30am – 9:00am** 'Parent Pop In' Oracy focus – please see letter on ParentMail with all the details (we would love parents to bring in an object of curiosity to use as a talking point).

Thank you for your continued support. Have a lovely weekend 😊

Mrs Rachel Lutkin-Clarke and Mrs Susie Wilkinson (The Reception Dream Team)

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## Year 1

We have had a great first week back and it has been lovely to welcome the children back after Christmas. We really missed them and it is wonderful to see them settled, happy and ready to learn.

In writing, we have started our new text driver 'The Pirate Cruncher'. On Monday, the children wrote their predictions about what they thought might happen in the story, and later in the week they created their own story maps to help them re-tell the events from the book.

In maths, we have been focusing on numbers to 20. Please continue to practise this at home with your child. Some children have also begun adding numbers within 20, which is a great next step.

As part of our topic work, we have begun learning about pirates. The children came up with lots of interesting words to describe pirates and thought carefully about key questions they would like to find out the answers to during our topic.

This week has been a great start to the term, and we are looking forward to the weeks ahead!

If you have any questions, please let us know via email.

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## Year 2

We hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas break. It has been lovely welcoming the children back to school and getting straight back into some great learning!

**Literacy-** This week we began our new text driver George and the Dragon. The children enjoyed reading the story and answering comprehension questions. We then explored the 5 W's (who, what, where, when and why) and used these to create questions for George, before "hot seating" him. The children were then told they would be rewriting the story, changing the animal that the dragon is scared of (in the original story, the dragon is scared of mice!). They planned their new animals, drew pictures of them and their food, and wrote descriptive sentences.

For example: *"My animal is a rabbit that has grey fur with a white fluffy tail."*

**Maths-** We have started learning to divide by 2, 5 and 10. The children have made a great start and are beginning to recognise how they can use their times table knowledge to help them with division.

**Science-** Our science topic this half term is Growth and Survival of Animals. This week, the children looked at images of baby animals and their adult forms. We discussed why animals need to have babies to keep their species alive, and the children matched pictures of baby animals to their adult counterparts.

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**RE-** The children learned about the rules Muslims follow when reading the Qur'an. They then created their own information sheets to share what they had learned.

**Topic-** Our new topic this term is Castles! This week we introduced the topic and, as a class, came up with questions about what we would like to learn about castles.

### Reminders

- **PE Days**
  - **Class 2A:** Mondays and Wednesdays
  - **Class 2C:** Mondays and Fridays
- **School Trip**
  - We will be visiting **Mont Orgueil Castle on Thursday 29th January.**
  - We will need **parent helpers from 9:00am–12:00pm.**
  - If you are available to help, please **email** your child's class teacher.

Thank you for your continued support.

Miss Aubert and Miss Crocker.

### Year 3

Happy New Year everyone!

We have been so impressed with how settled and focused the children have been in our return to school. Our new topic this term is Volcanoes and highlights this week have included: working towards fantastic volcano display paintings and exploring volcanic themed animation in the Maker Space!

In Maths this week, we have been re-capping the fundamentals of division and the idea of sharing. In writing, we have completed an assessed piece of writing or 'cold write' and been introduced to our key text 'Escape from Pompeii.' We have explored the different features and themes of the text. We have been so impressed with the quality of the vocabulary that the children have been using! In reading lessons, we have been focusing on language and vocabulary, centred around our new reading text 'Ratty's Big Adventure.'

A few notices:

-PE days this term are Monday and Thursday, please can you ensure your child comes to school in the appropriate kit.

-Library day is Friday for 3B and 3D. Please can you ensure that your child brings their library book back to school for exchanging on Friday.

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-We will be introducing a whole school dedicated reading time between 1:00 and 1:15 daily. Please can you ensure that your child always has a reading book in their bag for this time.

Thank you for your ongoing support and we hope you had a lovely festive period.

Kind regards,

Miss Bolton and Mrs Davies

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#### **Year 4**

In Maths, we continue to focus on multiplication. Please see attached this week's practise sheet.

We have thoroughly enjoyed our swimming lessons this week. Thank you to those parents who have volunteered to walk the children to and from Haute Vallee. The children have been split into groups and will receive sessions tailored to their ability.

In Science we have started a new topic on Living Things and Habitats and have taken part in some fun experiments to under scientific classification.

In PE we are enjoying a new topic of Invasion Games with Coach Rob. PE is now taking place on Wednesday each week, so please can you ensure that your child comes to school in their PE kit on this day.

4H have started to learn the cello and will be bringing these home to practice. Please can you ensure that the cello is brought back to school every Thursday, ready for their lesson.

Date for the diary; Tuesday, 20<sup>th</sup> January, parent drop-in session, details to follow.

#### **Reminders**

- PE days are Wednesday.
  - Swimming days are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday
  - Please ensure laptops come into school each day and are fully charged at home.
  - Your child will need to be signed up to Year 4 Google Classroom, as we be using this platform to support learning. Logins are in planners.
  - Please ensure your child reads as often as possible, and planners are signed. As mentioned in our Meet the Teacher, Bug Club, TTRockstars and Spelling Shed are also available as additional extras.
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Thank you for your continued support,

Mrs AB & Mrs Hyde

### **Year 5**

Happy New Year! What a great start to the new term we have had.

We are very lucky to be taking part in a French Experience this half term, with three hours of French each week taught by Madame Surcouf. This week, the children have begun learning French phonics sounds to help them understand correct pronunciation, and they have started applying these sounds when learning numbers and months. We have also enjoyed playing Simon Says in French, which has helped us to remember new actions and vocabulary.

In Makerspace, we discovered that not all planets have the same length of year; this depends on how long each planet takes to orbit the Sun. We then began creating an online orrery using Scratch to demonstrate the different speeds of the planets.

In reading, we have started our new class book Cosmic. The children made predictions about what might happen in the story by using clues from the front cover and the blurb. We also took part in a Conscience Alley activity to help us decide whether Liam should have lied about going to space or whether he should have gone on his school trip to the Lake District instead.

In writing, we are creating mnemonics to help us remember the order of the planets. We then turned these into posters, using our fantastic art skills to represent each planet.

In maths, we are diving into division and learning different methods to solve division problems, with a focus on partitioning numbers.

Please ensure that children come to school with a coat and **charged laptop** every day and bring fresh fruit or vegetables for their snack.

Thank you for your continued support.

### **Year 6**

We hope you and your families had a lovely time together whatever you were up to over the break. It has been so lovely to have the children back in school getting on with our new topic and new learning.

In Writing we have begun to look at biographies, looking at some good examples and some not so good examples, the children have been using their success criteria to identify good features and features which need improving. In Reading, the children have started our new book 'Pig Heart Boy' and started the week by making predictions based on the front cover. It was lovely to see them using their inference skills to develop their predictions further.

Linking into our new topic, we have been creating new topic display art. The children have been drafting anatomical hearts which they will then be adding colour to using oil pastels

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next week. We are really looking forward to seeing how they come out. The children have also been looking closely into the life of Muhammad Ali, who will be the starting focus of our History topic this term, the children will then be creating some factual writing based off an important/interesting historical figure from the 20th century, of their choice, later in the term.

A few gentle reminders:

- Our PE days are **Monday and Wednesday** this term. The children will have a Gymnastics session on Monday with their class teacher and their regular PE slot with Rob on Wednesday.
- Laptops need to be brought in to school every day fully charged.

Home Learning:

- Reading: Daily for 20 minutes.
- Arithmetic Practice daily for 10 minutes (Google Classroom for supportive videos).
- Daily Spelling practice

Achievers

6G: The achiever in 6G this week is Victor. What a fantastic week it has been for him. He has come back in from the Christmas holidays and hit the ground running, showing great inquisition and asking some fantastic questions, specifically in Maths. He will always strive to do his best and will offer his valuable support to others where he can. This kind and caring attitude to your learning is fantastic to see. Well done Victor!

6H: The achiever in 6H this week is Ben. This young man is a delight to have in 6H and his attitude towards learning is fantastic. He is always committed to whatever subject or activity we are doing in class and always gives 100%. Ben is enthusiastic, hard-working and curious – all traits that are essential to be a good learner. Keep this up Ben, and you will go far in the future! Well done!

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