

#newtodenny #classof2025

Happy Friday!

We have an exciting week ahead of us next week in the **#newtodenny transition** programme. From 12 noon on Thursday 25th we have the resources for our **virtual online new to year 7 welcome evening** going live on our website. This will include a welcome from **Miss Giblin, Miss Wickson, Mrs Steele** and myself as well as many other fun videos and resources to view and enjoy!

Before welcome evening you will also be emailed which **House** we have allocated for you. You will either be in **Barwell, Bearland, Hartland**, Kyneburga or **Mynd**. Your House will become very important to you during your time at DRHS, as your House is also your tutor group, so you will see these students every day! Danica would also like to share this with you:

Dear future Bearlander,

I am in Bearland, which is the red, and in my opinion the best House. My House is a big part of my school life, partly because 7Be is my tutor group as well as my house, which means the people in my house are very important to me. We all support and help each other, showing a sense of community within our House. We have a lot of house competitions, so House pride is a big thing. There is a big sense of house spirit at DRHS, everyone gets competitive when it comes to house events like House Drama, Music, Sport, Dance and more. Even the teachers get competitive! Once in a History lesson, we somehow managed to get onto the topic of house music and my History teacher was certain that the house he was in (Mynd) would win. Obviously me and the rest of 7BE thought differently! The competitiveness doesn't stop us from having friends in other Houses though. Pretty much everyone has friends in almost all of the houses!

If I had to describe what Bearland means to me 3 words I would say:

1. Friends- within 7BE there are lots of smaller friendship groups, but we all friends really
2. Fun- we have lots of fun as a tutor group, it is especially interesting to see what ideas we collectively come with for presenting our entries for tutor challenges. We had a lot of fun coming up with our entry for the ten steps to happiness challenge!
3. Team spirit- we work together to be the best that we can be! This is especially important in house events.

I will continue to share a Hello from each House in my upcoming newsletters. On the 25th you will also get a special hello video from your **Tutor**, who are really looking forward to meeting you, as I am sure you are too!

Once again, thank you to everyone that has shared their #newtodenny challenge work with me this week. Here are Kate, Jasmine and Lottie's Reading Dens:





Here are a sample of some of the book reviews I have enjoyed:

My Mum Tracy Beaker

Author: Jaqueline Wilson

Book review by Ameera Ali

Deerhurst and Apperley C of E Primary School

Jessica loves her mum, the famous Tracy Beaker, and will do anything for her. Jessica is the complete opposite to her mum, quiet, shy and is able to control her temper. She writes all the things that go on in her life with compassion and thought. But although you may think that it's just a family of two Tracy is immediately reunited with a long lost friend Sean Godfrey (or as you may know, 'Football'). He was once a star football player engaged to a frontpage, *Glossip* magazine woman, Sandy Forthright. Godfrey became incredibly wealthy from a young age and bought



a disgustingly expensive house with a conservatory, a swimming pool and housekeeper Rosalie who keeps the house looking immaculate. Tracy thinks the world of Sean but secretly he's going out with her old school arch enemy Justine Littlewood! Tracy and Jess soon find out about Sean's deceitful ways and move back to their old flat at Marlborough Tower living their old life.

I think this book is a really great read because it was so captivating due to the compassionate thoughts of Jessica and I couldn't put it down.

Likes: I like the fact that Tracy and Jess enjoy the swimming pool so much.

Dislikes: I don't like it when Justine starts going out with Sean.

My Rating: 4 / 5

DEATH IN THE SPOTLIGHT- Robin Stevens

A book review by Octavia D'Orazi

Death In The Spotlight is about two schoolgirls called Daisy Wells and Hazel Wong who were playing parts in the play to keep them occupied and away from trouble. The crime takes place on the 24th of May 1936 at the Rue theatre where a famous actress called Rose Tree (that is her stage name, her real is Susan Brown) is found inside a well located under the theatre.

Daisy and Hazel then set about investigating the crime with some help from their friends, Alexander and George. The murder is based on the fact that Rose Tree had pushed her parents off the boat when she was 14 knowing that they could not swim so she could pursue her career in acting.

The plot was a mind twisting one because all the clues pointed to all the suspects but none to the murderer. Robin Stevens let the book flow easily moving from one subject to another and linking it all together by drip feeding information. Daisy and Hazel both have extraordinary personalities even though they are quite different, as Hazel prefers to hide away but Daisy is extravert and loud, they think alike which makes them brilliant detectives and able to solve the hardest crimes.

Book review (by Joanna Ingleby)

Name: The House of One Hundred Clocks

Author: Ann-Marie Howell

Illustrator: Saara Katariina Söderlund

Why I am recommending this book:

Just before the lockdown, I visited Blackwell's bookshop in Oxford and bought a few books, one of which was the book I am recommending. Once I started the story, I was hooked. Ann-Marie's writing captured me from the first few, description-packed pages. Mystery. That was the word that crawled into my head as I was pulled further and further into the storyline. Starting off, the book was slightly haunting, and the Edwardian era that the story was set in (1905) provided a great setting. Gradually, as the characters were introduced and their personalities uncovered, you could see that 'The House of One Hundred Clocks' was a spine-chilling, thrilling story with many twists included.

The main characters- Helena and her parrot Orbit- are in Cambridge. Helena's father is clock-winder to a man named Mr Westcott, who you immediately dislike. They are free to do what they fancy, but they *must* make sure that the clocks *never* stop. As soon as this rule is introduced into the storyline, you feel like it is of great importance to what will happen later on. Puzzlingly, the house where they have taken residence of has one hundred clocks (hence the name). This oddity adds to the mystery of the story. Why are there so many clocks? Who is Mr Westcott? Why must the clocks never stop? The author's writing is so engaging and each page urges you to turn the next, and the next, and the next, until you reach the chilling climax, where you should expect the unexpected.

When I started writing this book report, I didn't hesitate in my choice. This book is one of my favourites and I hope that other people of all ages will read this story and enjoy it as much as I have!

As promised, this week I am sharing with you **Part 2 of the DRHS Welcome Challenges**. This is our **Denmark Road 365 Challenge Mat** which our current Denny family have all been completing during school closure, and we are eager to share it with you! We hope you like it and look forward to receiving your work on the newtodenny@denmarkroad.org email.

Take Care,

Miss Hodnett

Year 7 and 8 Progress and Well Being Coordinator