



Newsletter

January/February 2026



NEW YEAR'S LEARNING

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a delight to see our school buzzing with curiosity, enthusiasm, and togetherness as we begin a new year of learning. Across every year group, pupils have thrown themselves into new experiences, supported one another, and shown just how much learning can be enjoyed when we do it together. Here's a snapshot of some of the fantastic learning that has been taking place across school.

Year 3 have all started the year with real energy and focus. Foremark pupils have worked incredibly hard in their swimming lessons and are now really getting into the swing of things - their confidence in the water is growing week by week. In Carsington, children produced some excellent non-chronological reports, proudly sharing their work with me and Mrs Elliot and impressing us with both content and presentation. Meanwhile, Derwent have loved learning their French shapes through the game "Say it on the Beat" – perhaps they can name some shapes for you at home? They have also thoroughly enjoyed their Arctic topic, learning an abundance of facts about the regions wildlife.

Year 4 have enjoyed three standout learning adventures this term. Firstly, violin lessons have been a real highlight. Learning and playing together has been a truly harmonious experience, with pupils showing dedication, perseverance, and clear weekly improvement. The beautiful music they are creating together has been a joy to hear. Secondly, swimming has seen many pupils demonstrate bravery and determination, making excellent progress in the water. Children have also become increasingly independent and organised when changing and managing their kits, helping sessions run more smoothly. Finally, the reading topic 'The Importance of Being Ernest (Shackleton)' has captured pupils' imaginations. Their enthusiasm for Shackleton's incredible journey, along with the thoughtful questions they have asked, has led to deeper research and a genuine fascination with this inspiring explorer.

Year 5 have been busy developing skills, confidence, and critical thinking. Pupils took part in Bikeability training on the playground, practising safe cycling skills such as balance, steering, and braking, and growing in confidence with every session. They also enjoyed barrier games across the curriculum, strengthening their speaking, listening, teamwork, and understanding. In history, Year 5 explored the Vikings, debating whether they were raiders, traders, or settlers – their arguments were thoughtful, persuasive, and very convincing. Well done all!

Year 6 have had an action-packed and meaningful start to the year. A visit from rainforest animals gave pupils an unforgettable hands-on experience with exotic species, sparking awe, curiosity, and excellent questioning. They also welcomed Derbyshire Fire Service, learning important lessons about fire safety and risk. To top it all off, Year 6 have written persuasive letters to President da Silva of Brazil, urging action to limit deforestation of the Amazon rainforest – a powerful example of pupils using their voices to make a difference.

We are incredibly proud of how our pupils have embraced new learning together this term, and we look forward to all that 2026 has to bring. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Warm regards,

Mrs Collins, Head of School



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LOCAL OPPORTUNITIES

Half-term at Derby Libraries: Free Creative Workshops & Storytelling

Families can dive into a world of imagination this February half-term with a collection of free events in libraries. From swashbuckling pirate adventures and comic book masterclasses to coding and clay modelling, there is something to inspire children of all ages.

2026 is the National Year of Reading, so there's no better time to dive into the fun at your local library!



**DERBY
LIBRARIES**

For more details and free booking click [here](#).



Arts Centre Free Open Day

Chapel Street Arts Centre in Derby is hosting a free open day on Saturday 7th March (10am -2pm) where people of all ages can drop in to explore the building, join creative activities, workshops and 30-minute taster dance classes (like ballet, street dance, flamenco and more), and watch performances. There will also be hands-on sessions in stage combat, lighting and sound, plus performances by Hubbub Theatre and Derby College, pop-up stalls, and the café/bar open. No booking is needed and all activities are free to attend. [More info](#).



Sherwin Club

Opposite School on Harrington Street you will find the Sherwin Club. They offer:

Boxing and Fitness on Mondays and Wednesdays, 5:30 - 7:00pm, ages 4 to 11.



Also, Cricket on Mondays, 5:00 - 7:00pm, all ages.



Hockey and Rugby

Year 5 pupils have really enjoyed their PE lessons the last few months. A number have asked how they can play hockey and rugby outside of school.

You can find your local clubs here:



HOCKEY
RUGBY



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FAMILY HUB

Get the advice and support you need whilst having fun as a family! Derby's Family Hubs are there to welcome you and your family to find the help you need through support and friendship. They offer a range of free activities, sessions, advice and support for families and young people aged from 0-19 years and up to 25 years for young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. [Latest Guide](#)



KIDS EAT FOR FREE

Venue	Location	Offer
Frankie & Benny's	Pride Park	Free kids' meal with each adult main during school holidays. (Frankieandbennys.com)
Bella Italia	Derbion Shopping Centre	Free kids' meal with adult main. (Bellaitalia.co.uk)
Prezzo	Friar Gate, Derby	Free kids' meal with adult main. (Prezzo.co.uk)
Ask Italian	Sadler Gate, Derby	Free kids' meal with adult meal. (Askitalian.co.uk)
Las Iguanas	Derbion Shopping Centre	Free kids' meal with adult main. (Iguanas.co.uk)
Burger King	Derbion, Pride Park, Meteor Centre	Free kids' meal via app during half-term. (Burgerking.co.uk)
Yo! Sushi	Derbion Shopping Centre	Free kids' meal with adult spend. (Yosushi.com)
Asda Café	Sinfin and Spondon	£1 kids' meals all day, every day. (Asda.com)
Morrisons Café	Meteor Centre	Free kids' meal with adult meal. (Morrisons.com)
Tesco Café	Mickleover	Free kids' meal with adult purchase. (Tesco.com)
Dobbies Garden Centre	Derby (Findern A38)	£1 kids' meal with adult main. (Dobbies.com)



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TERM DATES



Spring Term

Monday 23 February 2026 to
Friday 27 March 2026

Summer Term

Monday 13 April 2026 to
Friday 22 May 2026
Tuesday 2 June 2026 to
Tuesday 21 July 2026

Bank Holidays

Monday 4 May 2026

INSET Days

Monday 1 June 2026
Wednesday 22 July 2026
Thursday 23 July 2026

UNIFORM

We expect **all** children to be wearing the correct school uniform and shoes. Children dressed appropriately feel more connected to their community, take pride in their school and behave well.

[Uniform Information on the School Website](#)



ONLINE SAFETY

Talk to your child about how to **keep safe online**. Online incidents are increasing, so if you are concerned about messages online, please contact school or phone the police if necessary.

Tell your child to: **'think before they send'**.

THINK before you send!

...but your Mum could see it
...but your Gran could see it
...but your neighbour could see it
...but a stranger could see it
...but a burglar could see it
...but a cyberbully could see it
...but a police officer could see it
...but your teacher could see it
Anyone in the world could see your butt!

SAFETY NET
scan the QR code with your phone's camera for Parent Guides on how to help keep your children safe online

If you share it, you are involved
If you have, or forward an indecent image of someone under 18, it is a criminal offence. It can affect your future.

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PLACE2BE

P2B (Hannah), was very thrilled to have had over 70 parents with their children join her to celebrate Mental Health Week in a fun filled activity afternoon around the importance of engaging with our children through playing which included lots of games, activities and information sharing.



She thoroughly loved her time with the parents and children and thanks everyone who came.



And to add, Hannah also thanks parents for trusting her and being so supportive of her service. This allows for every child to be given the opportunity to thrive, shine and grow and she values each and every one of you.

SUSTAINABILITY

This half-term our newly appointed Food Waste Heroes have been busy interviewing pupils across school about their experience of school dinners and have taken feedback on how to combat food waste. Thank you to Yahya, Aminah, Evie, Zidaan, Manveer S, Elza, Helen and Aahil for their commitment to doing some great research.

The ECO Council have also been working hard in promoting energy saving in school. They have used their creativity and IT skills to produce catchy signs to support our energy saving campaign.

Last term, we saved enough electricity to run a typical classroom for several weeks!



Well done to our Climate Ambassadors- Rohaan, Zuzana, Navaeh and Armaan!



A picture of some of the signs that the Climate ambassadors have made and will be displayed around school.

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SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATE

Our School Council and Transform Trust Parliamentarian's have had a busy half-term. They are currently surveying their classes to decide on what snacks pupils would like for Breaktime, and experiences for the Attendance Reward Days.



Excitingly, they have also launched a competition to decide on the logos and names for a brand new Pear Tree House System. Your child may bring a competition sheet home - please do support their ideas.

ATTENDANCE

A Graduated Approach for Parents/Carers:

Tier 1

- Building positive relationships with school
- Helping and encouraging your child to attend school regularly and be on time
- Understand and support any concerns your child may have.
- Recognise personal achievements and value education
- Communicate with teachers about any concerns.



Tier 2

EBSNA Toolkit for families

- Activities to try at home
- Work with the school to help understand their child's barriers to attendance.
- Proactively engage with the support offered to prevent the need for more formal support.
- Continue to communicate effectively with the school regarding absence.



Have you spotted our pupil Attendance Ambassadors on the playground in the morning?

Need Support

If your child has had more than 5 days absent from school since September and you need support, please contact the school office, 01332 and a member of the Attendance Team will assist you.



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ATTENDANCE

Parents will.....	School will.....
Value their child's education and value the importance of excellent attendance.	Provide engaging lessons where all children want to attend.
<u>Absence.</u> Phone school on 01332 760610 if their child is absent by 8:50am and provide any evidence to support the absence e.g. hospital appointment card, doctor's appointment. 	Record absences on the register with the correct code.  
<u>Punctuality.</u> Make sure your child is on time. Gates open at 8:45am.	Offer breakfast club for children needing to be in school earlier and offer support in an emergency. 
<u>Leave of Absence</u> Complete a leave of absence form request at least seven days prior to the absence and hand into the office. 	Consider a request on an individual basis and inform parents by letter. School will contact Derby City Council. 
School and parents will support children to be in school on time, every day. In the case of no communication, school will phone home or complete a home visit to support the family.	



School's attendance is **91.8%** so far this year. **Our target is to reach 96%!**

We still have a way to go but in order to help attendance, please ensure you book any holidays in holiday time.

Well done to the **160 children** with attendance **95%** and above. 

If you need help with your child's attendance, please speak with the School Office.

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PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT

	Whole School Events	Parental Engagement Celebrations	Parental Engagement Curriculum and enrichment workshops
February	Children's Mental Health Week February birthday celebrations		Tea and toast - SEND/mental health Internet workshops Maths Workshop - 27th. Y5 1:45pm, Y6 2:30pm
March	World Book Day - 4th March birthday celebrations	Easter Fun - 25th Workshop/Mother's Day - wellbeing focus Pancake day - 4th March - breakfast club	Breakfast with a book Reading workshop
April	Recognition assembly April birthday celebrations	Vaisakhi Craft Workshop	Writing Workshop
May	May birthday celebrations		
June	End of school disco- Y6 Sports day and picnic June birthday celebrations OPAL Parent Stay & Play	Eid/Father's Day - Wellbeing focus Culture Day	
July	Transition week Recognition assembly July and August birthday celebrations		Tea and toast - SEND/mental health Internet workshops

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Thank you to all the family members who attended our January and February Birthday Parties this half-term. We hope you had fun!



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NEED TO KNOW - DISCORD

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about DISCORD

AGE RATING
13+

Servers and channels marked as 'NSFW' require users to be 18 or older to join.

Discord is a free app which allows users to communicate in real time via text, video or voice chat. Available on desktop and mobile devices, it was originally designed to help gamers cooperate – but has evolved into a more general networking platform for a range of online communities, discussing topics like TV series, music, Web3 and more. Discord is organised around closed groups, referred to as 'servers'. To join a server, users must be invited or provided with a unique link. It's a space for users to interact with friends, meet others with shared interests and collaborate privately online – but it's also a place where young people can be exposed to risks if the right precautions aren't taken.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

CYBERBULLYING

Discord's easy accessibility and connectivity, unfortunately, makes it an ideal place for cyberbullying to occur – especially as audio and video streams disappear once they've ended, meaning that bullying could take place without leaving any evidence. Closed groups can also be created, giving young people the opportunity to exclude their peers or send cruel messages without adult oversight.

DIFFICULT TO MODERATE

Like many private communication apps, Discord's real-time messaging can be difficult to control. The system enables content moderation through each individual server – so different groups can set their own rules for what's acceptable, and some groups may not monitor for unsuitable content. Anything that happens in an audio or video stream is also virtually untraceable once the stream has concluded.

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Discord mainly hosts private groups, making it easier for unsuitable or explicit content to be shared on channels. Pornography, racism and inappropriate language can be found in some groups. Server owners are required to add an age-restriction gate to channels where 18+ content is being shared – but this solution isn't foolproof, as the platform doesn't always verify users' ages when they sign up.

ACCESSIBLE TO PREDATORS

On many chat platforms, users can lie about their age or true identity – and Discord is no exception. Predators have attempted to abuse the platform by using it to contact and communicate with underage users – by initially chatting with a child on an age-appropriate channel, for example. While Discord has improved its safety settings, some users will still try to bypass them for malicious reasons.

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

Discord does have strict Terms of Service and Community Guidelines to protect its users – but, sadly, not everyone adheres to them. Criminal activity including grooming, hate speech, harassment, exploitative content, doxing and extremist or violent material have all been found on Discord servers over the last two years. In 2020, Discord received almost 27,000 reports of illegal activity on the platform.

Advice for Parents & Carers

REVIEW SAFETY SETTINGS

Discord has a series of safety settings, enabling users to choose who can direct message them or send them friend requests. Your child's experience on Discord will be much safer if the app's privacy and safety settings are configured to only allow messages or friend requests from server members. This will minimise the chances of potential predators from outside the group contacting them.

EXPLAIN AGE FILTERING

While Discord requires users to be at least 13 to sign up, many servers geared towards older users are flagged as NSFW (not safe for work), which indicates they probably contain material that's inappropriate for children. It can be easy to click through settings without properly reviewing them, so ensure your child understands why age filtering is important and that it's there to protect them.

SCREEN OUT EXPLICIT CONTENT

In the privacy and safety settings, Discord users are offered the ability to filter direct messages for inappropriate content: a setting that should be enabled if your child uses the platform. Discord automatically tries to flag images that are explicit, but the setting must be manually enabled for text. If a young user is sent explicit content in a direct message, Discord will scan and (if necessary) delete it.

MONITOR ONLINE ACTIVITY

It's wise to regularly review your child's activity on Discord. This can include checking their safety settings to ensure they're correctly enabled, talking about which servers they've joined and reviewing some of their friends and direct messages. Ask if anything has made them feel uncomfortable or unsafe. Things can change quickly online, so plan routine check-ins and follow up frequently.

DISCUSS GOOD ONLINE BEHAVIOUR

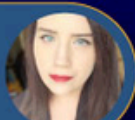
The anonymity offered by the internet often leads people to communicate more openly online and behave differently than they would at school or home. It's crucial to bear in mind, though, that every internet user is still a real person. Talk to your child about the severe and lasting consequences that cyberbullying or exchanging inappropriate material online can have in the real world.

HAVE CANDID CONVERSATIONS

It can sometimes be awkward to discuss topics like grooming, pornography, racism or explicit content with your child – but it's important to ensure they're aware of the harms these things can pose. Talking openly about these subjects is a great way to help your child feel more comfortable about coming to you if they experience an unwanted encounter on Discord (or anywhere else online).

Meet Our Expert

Coral Cripps is a Canadian-born, London-based tech journalist at gmw3.com: a website specialising in all things Web3, gaming and XR (extended reality). With a focus on brands and culture, she researches and writes about the ways that our current innovations – including the metaverse



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SAFEGUARDING



Worried about a child during the holiday?

If you believe that a child is at **immediate risk** and in need of protection then you should call the **police on 999 immediately**.

Alternatively, if you want advice from the police and the child is not in immediate need of protection, you can call them on 101.

Children's Social Care and the First Contact Team

You may want to discuss your concerns with a social care worker. The First Contact team deals with all concerns about children and young people across the city. Members of the team will help you to talk about the concerns you may have for a child and decide what actions may be required to make a child safe. You can contact them Monday to Friday, between 9am and 5pm. Telephone: 01332 641172

Social Care Out-of-Hours Support

Use Derby City Careline

It operates Monday to Friday from 5pm to 9am, with a 24-hour service during weekends and bank holiday. Phone: 01332 956606.

People who are hard of hearing or Deaf please email DCCcareLine@derby.gov.uk or text 07812 300177.

Concerns which are not urgent can be raised using their [online form](#).



Other organisations:

01159 825090
TRANSFORM TRUST
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