



Main Road, Smalley Derbyshire DE7 6EF
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Executive Headteacher – Mrs P Atwal

Friday 20th December 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy term it has been at Richardson Endowed Primary School! Since half term, we have achieved so much with our school community and I am so proud of all our children for their hard work and efforts this half term.

We have enjoyed many wonderful memory-making experiences, such as Remembrance Service, which was a moving and beautifully presented event by our wonderful Year 6 children; our community groups who shared the service commented on the beautiful singing, acting and readings which they were happy to be a part of.

The children have participated and discussed their feelings during Anti-Bullying Week in November and have raised funds for Children in Need. These events support our children to learn about keeping themselves safe and supporting children who might be less fortunate than themselves and are important in our wider curriculum aims, incorporating our Embark core values of Family, Integrity, Teamwork and Success.

Year 4 and Year 5 had an amazing time learning about three different world religions at the Derby Open Centre and came back buzzing about their experiences at the Hindu temple, Sikh Gurdwara and the Derby Mosque. It is always so important to live out our British Values of mutual respect and tolerance and our children were exemplary in demonstrating these.

As Christmas has drawn closer, we have seen two stunning nativity performances from our Reception and Year 1 children and 'Snuggle Up Stable' was a great success. We have also had the pleasure of visiting St Johns church this week to sing carols and for children to explore our local church during the festive period. In primary schools, this period before Christmas is such a special time and I feel strongly that the nativity story and its importance are at the heart of all our celebrations. Thank you also to Year 2 and Year 3 for a wonderful carol concert yesterday. It is always great to see our families in school supporting our children and there was a very special atmosphere at all our performances. Thank you.

I would like to express my thanks to the PTFA who have put on an excellent silent disco, which has been so positively received by the children and staff alike. The Christmas Fayre was very well attended and raised much needed funds for the PTFA to support our school. Thank you all for your support. Each class has also been given some funding to spend within their classroom environment and the children are excited to decide what to spend this on in the new year. Thank you to all our parent volunteers who have helped to make our children's experience at school a special one. It is much appreciated!

Thank you to all of you, our families, for your ongoing support for the children's learning. Reading with your child is the single most important thing you can do to assist your child in all areas of the curriculum and we thank you for your commitment with this.

Attendance

Our whole school attendance is 96.0%. Our target is 95% as a school and we will contact you if your child's attendance falls below this. A large number of absences this half term have been for unauthorised holidays in term time. Each day a child misses of school has an impact on their progress and whilst I appreciate the costs of holidays sometimes drives this situation, I would urge you to ensure that your child attends school each day. We will continue to follow our attendance policy and issue notices for penalties in accordance with this. Please see our attendance policy here: [Attendance Policy](#)

Reminder about drop-off and collection arrangements

Please continue to drop off Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children at the main door near the Kerry Drive entrance. Children in Year 3 should use the bottom gate ideally but may also use the top gate near the main entrance and walk across the playground. Year 4, 5 and 6 may use either gate. Parents should please remain at the door or gate after waving goodbye to their children so we may adhere to our safeguarding protocols for the site. Thank you for your understanding on this matter. Collection arrangements remain the same.

Car parking

Please park with consideration of our local residents. Following concerns regarding accessibility to their homes, our local police are supporting neighbours with enforcing sensible parking. Thank you to the vast majority of parents who park sensibly and with consideration for others.

Embark folders

Please send your child's folder back into school on their return to school by Friday 10th January 2025 so that the folders may be updated and returned. It would be great to see if children are close to qualifying for their bronze awards when 40 of the awards have been achieved. These might provide some opportunities to keep your children busy over the holidays!

I would like to wish all our families a very happy Christmas and a restful holiday period with your loved ones. I look forward to welcoming our children back to school on Monday 6th January 2025.

Festive greetings to you all,

Mrs P. Atwal

Executive Headteacher

Key dates for next half term:

Christmas Holidays	Monday 23rd December to Friday 3rd January
First Day of Spring Term (1) Pupils Return to School	Monday 6 th January 2025
PGL Meeting – Year 6	Monday 27 th January (3.30pm)
Safer Internet Day	Tuesday 11 th February
Last Day of the Half Term	Friday 14 th February
Half Term	Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February
First Day of Spring Term (2) Pupils Return to School	Monday 24 th February 2025