



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

Friday 9th January 2026

Spring 1 in Class R

A very Happy New Year to you all!

Happy New Year! We hope you enjoyed your Christmas time together. I am very happy to be your child's new teacher and look forward to getting to know you all.

OUR TOPIC - 'Tell Me a Story'



These are books that we will be enable your child to become familiar tales and begin to develop a narrative vocabulary.

reading this half term. This will with well known stories and fairy



We will continue to plan your child's next steps and work within the seven areas of learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) with a focus on the PRIME AREAS - Communication and Language, Physical Development and Personal, Social and Emotional development.



We will continue with 'Welly Wednesday.' Please return wellies and puddle suits all ready for the term ahead.



Thank you for all of your support with your child's reading development. We are currently assessing the children's reading. They will be bringing a new reading book home next week. There may be times when they bring home a book that they have read before. Please do not be alarmed and think that they are not making progress. Part of developing reading skills is consolidating prior knowledge and skills. A familiar book makes the children feel confident in their reading and allows them to put into practise the sounds that they have previously learned with more independence.

We ask that your child continues to read their reading book at least 3 times a week for about 5 minutes each time - this regular practice helps your child to learn and consolidate the skills that they learn every day in our phonics sessions and in our continuous play.



This Spring term, your child can earn small rewards for reading at home. I am going to start a **raffle ticket scheme** where your child will be given a raffle ticket every time they have read at home. These will be put into a draw and on a Friday 5 names will be drawn, and the successful children will receive a small reward from my goodie bag. So the more they read, the more chances they get at winning!



PE lessons will continue to be on a Tuesday and Thursday. Please send your child in their PE kit on these days - please ensure they have something warm on, as they will be accessing outside during learning time and at lunchtimes.

Snack time



Children are encouraged throughout the day to drink from their water bottle and keep hydrated. Please do try to support us with our **water only** policy which promotes and supports oral hygiene. Cool Milk continues to provide our fresh milk and is free if your child is 4. Once your child is 5 and they would like to continue to have milk, then you will need to sign your child up to the milk scheme. This half term, our fruit selection will include pears, carrots, apples, oranges and bananas. Please feel welcome to send your child with a fruit snack if they prefer a different fruit or vegetable. Just one snack per day is sufficient thank you.

Many of you have received the meet the teacher sheet that I have made about myself to give you some information. For those of you that have not, I am including it below. This will hopefully clarify who **Cyril the squirrel** is if the children have been coming home and talking about him!

We are really looking forward to the term ahead.

Kindest wishes,

Mrs Chapman and Cyril!

Mrs Walters, Miss Evans (Teaching Assistants) & Mrs Gregory (HLTA)

Meet the Teacher



About Me

Hi! My name is Mrs Chapman. I am so excited to be your teacher!

I have been teaching for 33 years and I love being a teacher because

I want children to develop a passion and love of learning through having fun and exploring their environment in a fun way and achieve their potential in a safe and caring environment.

Outside of school, I love to cook and entertain and I love singing karaoke! I have 2 children, Megan 23 and Dan 25. I have a black and white kitten called Jasper.

I also have a very special friend who helps us with our learning called Cyril the squirrel!



My Favorites

COLOUR: Purple

FLOWER: Yellow roses

HOBBY: Cooking and singing

FOOD: Spaghetti carbonara

BOOK: The magic faraway tree

CHOCOLATE: Double decker

ANIMAL: Squirrel

FILM: Paddington