



Main Road, Smalley Derbyshire DE7 6EF
01332 880317

Executive Headteacher – Mrs P Atwal

Monday 8th September 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

We do hope, as the summer holiday comes to an end, you and your children have had a fabulous break and are well rested. It has been lovely to see our pupils and some new faces on our first day of this academic year. I thought it would be useful to put a welcome back newsletter together with important information as we start the school year.

Our school opening hours:

8.45am - 3.25pm

Children should not ordinarily arrive at school until 10 minutes before school begins at the earliest. Children can enter school from 8.45am. Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children enter through the double doors at Kerry Drive entrance. Years 3 – 6 may enter via either the top gate in the main car park or the gate off the car park on Kerry Drive. Whilst it has been super to welcome some of our Reception parents into class today, we would ask that you say goodbye to your children at the door from tomorrow so that we can make a prompt start to the school day. If you feel your child needs to be dropped off to the classroom this week, please ask a member of staff at the door. We will not permit this after this week. Thank you for your support!

School absence:

Please report children's absences as soon as possible on each morning they are off school. This can be done calling **01332 880317** and leaving a voicemail on the absence line. Please provide as much information as possible, including your child's name, class and the reason for the absence.

Holiday requests will not be authorised unless in specific, exceptional circumstances, and penalty notices will be submitted to Derbyshire County Council (DCC) for holidays taken in term-time that don't meet the exceptional circumstances criteria. Absence request forms can be obtained from the school reception area and should be completed at least two weeks prior to the date(s) requested. We cannot accept absence requests via any other method of communication.

It is a statutory duty for parents to ensure that their children are in school during term-time. There is a clear link between absence and its impact on children's progress – please help us to support your child to achieve their full potential.

Arbor – Communication with Parents/Carers:

In order to streamline communication with parents, our school will be moving to Arbor (our school management information system) for all messages, email communications and parent consultation evening bookings. We will therefore be moving away from The SchoolApp with immediate effect, which we have used previously for communications. Please ensure you have logged on to Arbor, using one of the links below:

- Arbor – Parent Portal (for PC users): [Arbor Login](#)
- Arbor Parent App (iPhone Users): [Apple - Parent App](#)
- Arbor Parent App (Android Users): [Android Store - Parent App](#)

If you require more information about Arbor, or are having issues logging on, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

We will still be using ParentPay as our payment system for clubs and trips etc.

Support at home:

Please help your child by supporting them with their learning at home. The single most important thing for children is reading – please read to them, model reading and hear them read whenever you can. As a minimum, each child is expected to read 3 times per week. Children’s reading records will need to be signed by an adult so that staff can check their reading progress. Older children will need a suitable space at home to complete reading and homework tasks. Homework should largely be carried out independently by the children. Where children struggle, please notify their teacher so this may be addressed in school.

Apart from supporting your child with homework and reading, there are many other ways that you can help them at home to enable them to become independent in life skills and everyday tasks. For example: using cutlery, washing their hands, tying their shoelaces and your help at home to encourage these skills is much appreciated. Practice makes perfect! As they get older, they need to be able to dress themselves and get changed for swimming so it is important that they start to do this as soon as possible.

Uniform and PE Kit:

The school has a compulsory school uniform as explained on our website. As well as encouraging a smart and tidy appearance, it gives our children a sense of identity and belonging within the school. Jumpers, cardigans and polo shirts can be purchased from Loopwear and these will have our school logo on. Please also note that all of these items can also be purchased from local supermarkets without the school logo on them and may offer an affordable alternative.

We have a range of good quality second-hand uniforms, both with a logo and without, available from the school office. A voluntary donation of £1 per item is suggested, however, we are happy to supply items free of charge to our parents.

A PE kit is necessary in order to ensure safety and promote hygiene and should be worn on the days that your child has a P.E lesson. The PE kit list is on our website.

All articles of clothing must be named. Whilst adequate precautions are taken to safeguard all property on school premises, the Governors and staff of the school cannot take responsibility for loss or damage of any money or valuables brought to school.

PE days:

Year R:	Tuesday and Thursday
Year 1:	Monday and Wednesday
Year 2:	Tuesday and Thursday
Year 3:	Wednesday and Friday
Year 4:	Wednesday and Friday
Year 5:	Tuesday and Thursday
Year 6:	Monday and Wednesday

Jewellery:

Jewellery is not permitted although stud earrings may be worn. These must be removed for swimming and PE. School staff are not allowed to remove earrings being worn by a pupil. Nose studs are not allowed.

Nail varnish should not be worn at any time.

Essentials:

- Water in a named water bottle.
- Coat - pupils will still go outside at break and lunchtime during light rain.
- Reception children will need to bring wellies / waterproof footwear and a puddle suit at the beginning of the term which will remain in school. For other year groups, wellies only need to be brought into school if required.
- Your child's PE day(s) will be as above. PE kit and suitable trainers should be worn to school.
- As the weather can still be warm in September, we also ask that, on hot days, sun screen is applied before school during sunny spells and that sun hats are provided.

Lunches:

- We provide a main hot meal, a sandwich, jacket potato or pasta pot with a choice of side.
- Parents are asked to pay for their child's school meals through the secure online website 'ParentPay' on the day the meal is taken.
- Free School Meals are available for children in Reception, Year 1, and Year 2 under the Universal Infant Free School Meal scheme and for parents who meet certain criteria, including the receipt of state benefits. Anyone who may qualify for Free School Meals should contact the school office for further information. Free School Meals are a statutory right and it is important that all parents/carers who qualify take up their child's entitlement so that they can receive a free school meal each day. Information is treated sensitively and confidentially and the school office will be more than happy to advise you if you are unsure whether you are entitled.
- Further information on the entitlement to free school meals and an application form can be found on [Derbyshire County Council's website](#).
- If your child is bringing a packed lunch from home, please ensure there are no nuts (including peanut butter, chocolate spread), fizzy drinks or unhealthy items.
- Snacks and fruit can be brought into school each day for break time. Again, please ensure products are free of nuts and are considered healthy. Please ensure any items such as grapes are cut up appropriately to avoid choking.

Birthdays:

To celebrate our pupils' birthdays, children are invited to wear non-uniform. Should your child's birthday fall outside of a school day, non-uniform can be worn on the first or last day of school that is closest to your child's birthday. All clothing and footwear should be sensible and comfortable.

School cannot distribute birthday sweets/treats/cakes to pupils that have been donated to celebrate a pupil's birthday. This should be arranged outside of school.

Key Dates

Monday 8th September	-	First day back at school after Summer.
Tuesday 7th October	-	Flu Immunisation (details to follow).
Tuesday 14th October	-	Individual school photographs.
w/c Monday 20th October	-	Parent Consultation Evenings (details to follow).
Friday 24th October	-	School closed for Inset Day.

Monday 27th October - Friday 31st October - School closed for Half Term.

Friday 7th November	-	School closed for Inset Day.
Friday 19th December	-	Last day of school before school closes for Christmas.

Monday 22nd December - Friday 2nd January - School Closed for Christmas.

Monday 5th January 2026 - First day back at school after the Christmas holidays