



Main Road, Smalley Derbyshire DE7 6EF
01332 880317

Executive Headteacher – Mrs P Atwal

Friday 4th April 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Unbelievably, it is already the Easter holidays and this half term has once again flown by in a whirlwind! It has been an exceptionally busy term as always.

School Council

Some of our wonderful school council children attended the most recent governors meeting to share their experiences of learning and to talk through their work in writing, history and geography. This was wonderful to see and gave our governors first-hand information about teaching and learning at the school and it made me and Miss Brooks so very proud to hear them articulate such knowledgeable discussions with governors. Thank you to Jude, Harrison, Alleygra, George, Florence, Felicity and Hugo. School council have also taken part in: filming in the TV Truck, litter picking, putting up our garden bunting, and setting up our homework projects.

Valley CIDS

This week, children have enjoyed workshops to learn about Passover at the church, organised by our friends at Valley CIDS. The children enjoyed this first-hand experience and it was great to see them so engaged and immersed in their learning about such an important Jewish festival. Our friends at Valley CIDS had this to say in an email about the day: *I just wanted to email to let you know it was such a joy to deliver the Passover workshop on Monday. The staff and children were brilliant, and I just wanted to say thank you.* Thank you to our staff and children for representing Richardson so well!

Our classes have also had assemblies and lessons about the Easter story and the importance of this festival to Christians. Although we all enjoy the chocolate eggs and Easter bonnets, it is important to remember why this time of year is so special for Christian people.

Sports

We have continued with our great programme of sports events with our friends at Amber Valley Sports Partnership. The children this half term have enjoyed netball, table tennis and the swimming gala. Thank you to all our parents who have supported by taking their children to these events.

Team Points and Kindness Tree

Our team point winners this half term are **Hawks** who have enjoyed the reward of additional break time today. Well done team! Miss Brooks and I have shared a super tea party on the train with our amazing children nominated for the kindness tree – it is one of our favourite times of the end of each half term!

Class 6

Our Year 6 children have thoroughly enjoyed their residential visit to PGL and it was great to welcome them back into school and hear their stories and memories. Thank you to Miss Brooks, Mr Burrows and Mr Messom for ensuring all our children had a fantastic time. The holidays will be a good opportunity to catch up on some much-needed sleep! It has also been a super week for the group who did not attend PGL; they have enjoyed graffiti art, mindfulness, orienteering, buddy support and a fun day in the forest at Horsley Woodhouse Primary. They have all had a great time and enjoyed some wonderful activities.

Class 3

Mrs Flint will continue to teach in Class 3 after the Easter break whilst Mr Channing is absent from school. Due to prior commitments, Mrs Flint will be returning to Class 3 on Tuesday 29th April 2025. In the meantime, Mr Houghton will be in Class 3 for the first week of the half term.

School Trips

I am pleased to say that, as stated as a school priority, all our classes have either taken part in or will take part in a class trip related to enriching a curriculum area. To summarise:

Class R – Bluebells farm (June 4th)

Class 1 – Sudbury Museum of Childhood (May 20th)

Class 2 – Peak Wildlife Park (June 9th)

Class 3 – Chatsworth House (Autumn Term)

Class 4 – Derby Open Centre (Autumn Term) and Bestwood Education Centre – Romans (May 22nd)

Class 5 – Derby Open Centre (Autumn Term) and National Space Centre (June 30th)

Class 6 – Cromford Mill (Autumn Term) and PGL (Spring Term)

Summer 1 After School Clubs

Thank you to all of you for your enthusiasm with joining new clubs for after half term. Next half term's clubs are:

KS1 Summer Sports (rounders, cricket, athletics) – Monday – Mr Messom

KS2 Football – Tuesday – Mr Messom

KS1 Choir – Tuesday – Mrs Ellis

KS2 Choir – Wednesday – Mrs Mason & Mrs Gregory

KS1 Forest School – Thursday – Miss Brooks and Mrs Reckless

We still have places available in all clubs. If your child would like to attend one of the clubs, please sign up via Parent Pay.

Sing2gether Year 4

We are delighted to be hosting this year's Sing2gether event on Tuesday 20th May 2025 – year 4 parents are most welcome to attend and timings will follow. We are collaborating with Horsley Woodhouse Primary and Kilburn Juniors for this event. It is always a lovely way to spend time seeing children love performing with their peers.

Embark Awards Folders

Embark Awards – the Easter break is a great opportunity to complete more Embark awards with your children. We have many children who are nearly ready to be awarded their Bronze or Silver medals – it would be great to get as many as possible so that we can invite Mr Crawford in again for a special award assembly. We will collect the folders in after Easter so please be ready to add in evidence so that we can place stickers in the correct sections. Thank you, as always, for your support for this.

Goodbyes

We have very sadly said goodbye to our wonderful Mr Redmond. The children and staff team are all very sad to see him go but we wish him all the very best in his new adventures. He will be missed! We are pleased to be able to fill his position until the end of the Summer term. Mrs Nunez will be in class 5 on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday each week. The children have already met her so it is all systems go for after Easter. The permanent role for September 2025 has been advertised and we will be interviewing after Easter.

Inset Days – September 2025

Please note that the first two INSET days in September 2025 will be on Thursday 4th September and Friday 5th September 2025 when school will be closed to all children. Autumn term will start for children on Monday 8th September 2025. We hope this helps with arranging holidays!

Thank you for all your support this half term. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me, Miss Brooks or any member of our staff team should you have any questions or concerns. We are all happy to help!

We wish you all a restful and safe Easter break. We look forward to welcoming back the children on **Tuesday 22nd April 2025.**

Kind regards,
Mrs P Atwal

Key Dates – Summer Term 2025

Easter Holidays	Monday 7 th April to Monday 21 st April
First Day of Summer Term	Tuesday 22 nd April 2025
May Bank Holiday Monday	Monday 5 th May
SATs Week – Year 6	Monday 12 th May to Thursday 15 th May
Mental Health Awareness Week	Monday 12 th May to Sunday 18 th May
Year 1 class trip – Museum of Childhood Sudbury	Tuesday 20 th May
Year 4 – Sing2gether Performance	Tuesday 20 th May
Year 4 class trip – Bestwood Education Centre	Thursday 22 nd May
Half Term	Monday 26 th May to Friday 30 th May
Inset Day	Monday 2 nd June
Reception class trip – Bluebell Farm	Wednesday 4 th June
Sports Day	Thursday 5 th June
Year 2 class trip – Peak Wildlife Park	Monday 9 th June
JS Photography – Groups and Leavers	Thursday 12 th June
Embark Inset Day	Monday 23 rd June
John Flamsteed Transition Days – Year 6	Tuesday 24 th June to Thursday 26 th June
John Flamsteed Parent/Carer Evening – Year 6 * At John Flamsteed Community School	Thursday 26 th June (6.00pm → 7.30pm)
Year 5 class trip – National Space Centre	Monday 30 th June
Heanor Gate Transition Days – Year 6	Wednesday 2 nd July → Friday 4 th July
Heanor Gate Meet the Tutor Evening – Year 6 * At Heanor Gate Spencer Academy	Thursday 3 rd July
Tough Runner	Thursday 17 th July
Year 6 Dress Rehearsal (to school)	Monday 21 st July
Year 6 Performance (to parents)	Tuesday 22 nd July
Last Day of Term	Thursday 24 th July
Summer Holidays	Friday 25 th July to Wednesday 3 rd September
Inset Days	Thursday 4 th September and Friday 5 th September
Pupils Return to School	Monday 8 th September