



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

Friday 14th February 2025

Dear parents/carers,

It does not seem like five minutes ago that we returned from the Christmas break in January, and here we are at Valentine's Day which has appeared in a whirlwind at the end of a super half term at Richardson Endowed. Since my last letter, it has been great to hear from so many of you with offers of support, ideas for further events and improvements and to enjoy valuable dialogue about the school. I am so very proud of the children and this school and I am loving working with you all to ensure our children have the very best experiences.

Since I last wrote to you, we have been super busy and it was great that so many of our children engaged with our homework projects this half term. The standard of some of the creations was very high and it is always wonderful to see this important link between home and school with children showing great pride in their learning and their work. Thank you to all our families who supported our children with their work – we appreciate it!



We have purchased new equipment for our busy lunchtimes thanks to our fabulous PTFA and I am so pleased to see the children enjoying their play creatively with some super new games and tools.



I am delighted that we have recruited four new librarians to help us to manage and maintain our lovely library. These children were awarded their badges in assembly today and will begin their important work as a team after half term. Thank you, Georgia, Maeve, Alfie and Mia!

It was great this week to welcome Hardwick Primary School to a sports competition with some of our year 3 and year 4 children. I am so proud of our children for making our visitors feel so welcome and showing kindness and respect at all times. Mrs Windmill will be organising for a reciprocal visit with different year groups, so watch this space! The connections with this school will help our children forge important links to children from different communities and cultures, building on our British Value of mutual tolerance and respect.



In addition to this, we will also run sports competitions with Horsley Woodhouse Primary School and continue with our great programme of sports events with our friends at Amber Valley Sports Partnership. The children this half term have enjoyed futsal, rowing and dodgeball. Thank you to all our parents who have supported by taking their children to these events.

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!

Embark Award Assembly



It was a highlight of the half term to welcome our Embark Trust CEO, Matt Crawford, to our Gold Book assembly last week. It was wonderful to see so many children being awarded their bronze and silver awards and so lovely to see how proud they were to be presented with these with their parents present. Thank you for your continued support in helping our children to achieve these 100 activities before they leave primary school.

After his visit, Mr Crawford sent the team the following email which he was happy for me to share with you all:



First of all I would like to say a massive thank you to you and the team for such a wonderful morning. I have come away absolutely beaming and thought I should share some of the reasons why for you to pass on to the staff and I am very happy for you to share with the wider community too.

I thoroughly enjoyed my tour of the school. There was such a calm, purposeful atmosphere in every classroom and the children were clearly loving learning and loving life! I was so pleased to see such positive relationships between the adults and our young people both on the tour and later during assembly. I took the opportunity to look in children's books as I always think on a whistlestop visit such as this they help to tell me most about what life is like day to day in a school. I was blown away by the quality I saw in the books both in terms of presentation and content. As someone who visits a huge amount of schools these really are first class and the children and staff should be so proud. The learning environments in every class were fabulous too. It was also wonderful to hear about all the fabulous extra curricular activities that are happening across the school this term. What lucky children to have such fabulous opportunities alongside excellent teaching every day.

Then on to one of the things I miss most from my time as head at Smalley, the Gold Book Assembly. The children came into the hall so beautifully and with such respect and it was so good to see the high standards are still being upheld. It was then heart warming to celebrate the children's achievements and hear the staff talk about them so personally and with such positivity. The singing as always was beautiful and it was great to hear the children as this is another thing I miss a lot! I was very proud to present the children with their bronze and silver Embark awards in front of their families and as always huge thank you to our families for their on-going support.

As you know Smalley has such a special place in my heart after working there for 8 years. I was delighted that the standards haven't just been maintained but have improved since I have left to take on this role. This is thanks to your leadership and the staff team and I am proud of you all.

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 (Summer)
- Class 1 – Sudbury Museum of Childhood (Spring)
- Class 2 – Peak Wildlife Park (Summer)
- Class 3 – Chatsworth House (Autumn)
- Class 4 – Derby Open Centre (Autumn) and Bestwood Education Centre – Romans (Summer)
- Class 5 – Derby Open Centre (Autumn) and National Space Centre (Summer)
- Class 6 – Cromford Mill (Autumn) and PGL (Spring)

Forest School

Our Forest School 'alliance' with Horsley Woodhouse kicks off after half term with Class 3 leading the way. I cannot wait to see how our children respond to this experience and the collaboration with our partner school!

Spring 2 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 multi-sports, KS2 football, Year 1 scooter club, KS1 & KS2 film clubs and forest school club (year 4, 5 and 6). **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.

Arbor Management Information System – Parent Portal

Many thanks to those parents, who have logged on to our new 'Arbor Management Information System'. A link to the letter, which was sent out, can be found below:

[Arbor - Management Information System](#)

Some parents have contacted school to say they are not able to log on via the links provided in the letter. This can sometimes be the case if you have siblings in other schools, who also use Arbor. Our school specific log on page can be accessed by typing the following into your internet address bar:

richardson-endowed-primary-school.uk.arbor.sc

Inset Days - September 2025

Please note that the first 2 INSET days in September 2025 will be on Thursday 4th September and Friday 5th September when school will be closed to all children. Autumn term will start for children on Monday 8th September. 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! Have a wonderful half term break. We look forward to welcoming back the children on Monday 24th February.

Kind regards,
Mrs P Atwal

Key Dates

Half Term	Monday 17th February to Friday 21st February
Pupils Return to School	Monday 24 th February
SATs Meeting for Parents – Year 6	Thursday 27 th February (3.30pm)
TV Filming Truck Event – All Classes	Tuesday 4 th March
World Book Day	Thursday 6 th March
East Midlands Railway Event – Year 4	Thursday 6 th March
Book Fair	Wednesday 12 th March to Wednesday 19 th March
Coffee and Chat	Friday 14 th March: 9.00am → 10.00am
Times Tables ‘Rock Star’ Day	Friday 14 th March
Spring Term - Assessment Week	Monday 10 th March → Friday 14 th March
Parents’ Evening	Monday 17 th March (3.40pm → 6.00pm)
Parents’ Evening	Wednesday 19 th March (3.40pm → 7.00pm)
Red Nose Day	Friday 21 st March
Bikeability Level 1 – Year 4	Monday 24 th March
Bikeability Level 1 & 2 – Year 5	Tuesday 25 th March to Thursday 27 th March
PGL – Year 6	Sunday 30 th March to Wednesday 2 nd April
Easter Parade – Reception and Key Stage 1	Friday 4 th April
Last Day of Term	Friday 4 th April
Easter Holidays	Monday 7th April to Monday 21st April
First Day of Summer Term	Tuesday 22 nd April 2025