

"I am able to do all things by
the one who strengthens me"

Philippians 4:13
Lexham English Bible



Growing, Believing, Succeeding

Newsletter

21st November 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

Save the Date – Friday 28th November – The Book Bus

On Friday 28th November we will be welcoming The Book Bus to school. This is a fantastic way to inspire a love of reading while raising funds for more books. Here's what you need to know:

- Every class will have a chance to go aboard the Book Bus during the school day.
- The suggested amount to bring to school is £5 -£10 cash or voucher.
- Parents are welcome to browse and shop before or after school.
- Payments can be made by cash or card.
- All books are discounted, and the school receives 15% commission
- It's also a perfect opportunity for gift shopping or book buying while supporting the school.
- Buy a voucher online for your child to spend on the Book Bus: <https://thebookbus.co.uk/products/the-book-bus-gift-card-15>

Merlin and Dart Class Nativity

Children in Merlin and Dart class are busy rehearsing for their Christmas nativity, "The Innkeeper's Breakfast." Please save the date: Thursday, 11th December. There will be an afternoon performance at 2:30pm and an evening performance at 6:00pm. Children should be back at school for 5:30pm that evening.

Festive Events

We have several festive events coming up:

- Year 5/6 Carol Singing at Asda Sinfon – Morning of 5th December
- Whole School Trip to the Pantomime – Morning of Wednesday 10th December
- Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Nativity – 2:30pm and 6:00pm on Thursday 11th December
- Whole School Christmas Party – Afternoon of 16th December
- Christmas Church Service – 2:15pm on 18th December at St. Wilfrid's Church

Keeping Warm in Cold Weather

Please ensure that your child comes to school suitably dressed for the weather. Children will continue to spend time outdoors during playtimes and lunchtimes, so it is important that they are well prepared for the cold. Legs should be covered with tights or trousers, and children should wear warm coats, along with hats, gloves and scarves when needed. Staying warm helps children stay comfortable, focused and ready to learn throughout the day. Please refer to the school's uniform guidance to ensure all clothing meets our uniform expectations while still providing warmth. Further guidance from Derbyshire County Council on appropriate winter clothing and keeping children safe in cold weather can be found below.

Term Dates 2026/2027

The term dates for the 2026/2027 academic year, including INSET days, are now available on our school website. Please note that one INSET day in February is still to be confirmed, as we are awaiting final approval from our Academy Trust. We will update the website as soon as this date is confirmed.

Attendance

We know that being in school every day and on time gives children the best chance to succeed. We are proud that most of our pupils maintain excellent attendance, and we would like to thank parents for supporting this positive habit and helping to build resilience in their children. We also understand that children can become unwell from time to time. This is why our whole-school attendance target is set at 96%, allowing for those occasional, unavoidable absences. If your child's attendance falls below 90%, this is classified as persistent absence under government guidelines, and we are required to take appropriate action. Should this occur by the end of the term, we will contact you to discuss how we can work together to support you and your child in improving attendance. Our aim is always to ensure every pupil can fully access their learning and feel confident and settled in school.

Reporting Absence and Lateness

Please call the school to report your child's absence before 9.20 on the day of the absence and each subsequent day of absence, and advise when they are expected to return. Children will be recorded as late if they are not in their classroom for 8:50am. If your child arrives after registration closes at 9.20am this will be marked as an unauthorised absence.

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Leaders of Change

As part of our personal development curriculum for year 5 and 6 we are educating the children on becoming young leaders of change. This enables pupils to speak up and take action on issues of justice and fairness. It involves children identifying causes that matter to them, learning about local and global challenges, and then using their confidence and skills to advocate for change within their school and community. This can include fundraising, raising awareness, and campaigning for causes, all while fostering the belief that young people can be effective "agents of change" for a better world. Griffon Class have chosen to work with the YMCA to provide 'Move on Boxes' for young people who are moving into their own accommodation. 'Move on Boxes' contain a range of essential items for independent living such as a kettle, toaster, duvet, and pillow. Over the next few weeks our children will be promoting this cause through posters and making presentations in collective worship. The children will also be organising fundraising events that the whole school can get involved in. I hope you will be able to support our children in these future events. Thank you.

Breakfast and After School Clubs

We continue to offer a Free Breakfast Club with drop off between 8:00 and 8:15am. J&J Sports is our provider for the After School Club, which runs Monday to Friday. The club offers two flexible sessions to suit your needs: Session 1: 3:30pm – 4:30pm, Session 2: 3:30pm – 5:30pm. J&J Sports are experienced providers known for their engaging, active sessions that support children's physical and social development in a fun and safe environment.

Keeping warm and well

Information around how to keep safe
in the cold weather.



[www.derbyshire.gov.uk](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/staywellthiswinter)
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The cold weather can cause problems for some people. So we've put together some useful information about how to keep you and your family well during winter.

Be prepared!

If you are not on mains gas or electricity, make sure you have a good supply of heating oil or LPG or solid fuels, so you don't run out of fuel over winter

Ensure all heating and cooking appliances are checked by a Gas Safe registered engineer

Stock up on tinned and frozen food to avoid going out when it's cold or icy

Watch the weather forecast and prepare for the colder weather. You can sign up for cold weather alerts on the Met office website at

www.metoffice.gov.uk

Contact your water and power suppliers to see if you are eligible to be on the Priority Services Register. Find out more at

www.derbyshire.gov.uk/priorityservicesregister

Try to prevent any trips, slips and falls as these are one of the biggest causes of hospital admissions for older and more vulnerable people.

Find out more about falls prevention at www.derbyshire.gov.uk/falls and contact Age UK Derby and Derbyshire for information about falls prevention classes

Get winter tyres fitted to your car and keep items such as jump leads, warm clothing and a blanket in your car in case of break downs.

Medications

- Take up any winter vaccines you are offered to help you stay well this winter.
- Make sure you have enough medication at home in case you are unable to go out due to bad weather
- If you want more advice about protecting your health during the winter visit www.NHS.uk/keep-warm

Keep your home warm

- Heat your home to at least 18°C
- Draw your curtains at dusk to help keep the heat generated inside your room
- Insulate and draft proof your home
- Check if there are any grants or benefits available to you to help with bills and/or energy efficiency
- There's lots of advice at www.derbyshire.gov.uk/staywarminwinter



Keep yourself warm

- Make sure you are layered up with lots of thin layers of clothing made from wool, cotton, or fleecy material
- Always wear socks and good fitting slippers with good grips when inside and change into shoes with a good grip when heading outside to prevent trips, slips and falls.
- If you use an electric blanket always use it as instructed. Get it tested for safety every three years. Don't use it with a hot water bottle
- Have plenty of hot food and drinks throughout the day.

Keep moving

Exercising can help you keep warm – If possible, move around at least once an hour.

If it is difficult to move about then stretching your arms and legs can also help you keep warm

If you have a health concern then please speak to your GP before starting any exercise plans.

Watch out for symptoms of hypothermia such as shivering, lips going blue, slurred speech and unusual clumsiness. Find out more at

www.nhs.uk/conditions/hypothermia

Keep in touch with neighbours, family and friends in cold weather. Make sure you let someone know if you need some practical help, are feeling unwell or if you just want a chat

Other useful information

If you are struggling to pay your energy bills then we recommend that you talk to your energy supplier as early as possible.

Ofgem rules state that your supplier has to help. This will usually be by negotiating a payment plan with you. In addition some suppliers have financial help funds.

Think Which Service

Get the right healthcare advice, support and treatment as quickly as possible. Visit: joinedupcarederbyshire.co.uk/stay-well/think-which-service

Welfare Rights

Our Welfare Rights team can check you're claiming all the benefits you're entitled to.

Call: 01629 531535.

Visit: www.derbyshire.gov.uk/welfarebenefits

Marches Energy Agency

Warmer Derbyshire (MEA) can give advice on energy costs.

Call: 0800 6771332

Email: wdd@mea.org.uk

Affordable Credit Team

Find out about safe, lower cost borrowing options with Credit Unions and Community banks. Visit: www.derbyshire.gov.uk/creditunions

Citizens Advice

Citizens Advice can offer support and information around debt and energy costs. Find your nearest branch at www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Mental health support

If you find yourself feeling isolated or overwhelmed over the winter months you can reach out for support. Visit: www.derbyshire.gov.uk/mentalhealth