

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

Philippians 4:13
Lexham English Bible



Growing, Believing, Succeeding

Newsletter

10th July 2026

Dear Parents/Carers,

School Uniform

As we approach the end of the school year, this is a reminder that children should continue to attend school wearing the correct summer uniform every day. If a child arrives at school wearing incorrect uniform, we have a selection of spare uniform items available for them to borrow during the school day. Thank you for helping us maintain our high expectations and ensuring all children are dressed appropriately for school.

Free School Meals

The eligibility criteria for free school meals will change in September. Please see the attached information below for further information.

Allergies in School

From September, all children with a diagnosed allergy will have an Individual Health Care Plan in place to help ensure their needs are safely and consistently supported in school. If your child has a diagnosed allergy and you have not yet provided the school with confirmation from a healthcare professional (such as a doctor's letter or clinic letter), please send this to the school as soon as possible. This information is essential for us to prepare the appropriate documentation and ensure your child's Individual Health Care Plan is in place for the start of the new academic year.

Staffing Update

We would like to let you know that Mrs Hetherington has resigned from her role as Assistant Headteacher. From September, she will remain as teacher for Merlin. We would like to thank Mrs Hetherington for the valuable contribution she has made as Assistant Headteacher. We are also pleased to confirm that Mrs Yeo has been appointed as Assistant Headteacher on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from September. Mrs Fenlon will continue in her role as Deputy Headteacher on Mondays, covering Mrs Briggs, and will also continue as Assistant Headteacher on Thursdays and Fridays.

Teacher Cover Update

From September, Mrs Pitt will be in school every Monday to provide teacher cover, spending half the day in Dart Class and half the day in Griffon Class. This additional support will enable Mrs Fenlon to dedicate time to her Deputy Headteacher responsibilities and allow Mrs Yeo to carry out her SEND duties.

School Flu Vaccination Programme

The annual flu vaccination session will take place in school on Wednesday 9th September. A booking link will be sent out shortly. Please complete the online consent form as soon as possible if you would like your child to receive the vaccine. **Please note:** Only pupils whose parent has completed the consent form will be able to receive the flu vaccine on the day.

INSET Days 2026/2027

We have made a slight change to our INSET days for next year. The revised dates are:

Friday 4th September 2026
Monday 7th September 2026
Monday 22nd February 2027
Friday 25th June 2027
Monday 26th July 2027

Severe Nut Allergy – Parent Support Request

We would like to ask for your support in helping us maintain a safe environment for children with severe nut allergies. In some cases, even small traces of nuts can cause a serious, life-threatening reaction. To help keep everyone safe, we ask parents to avoid sending nut or nut-based products into school, including:

- Peanut butter and nut spreads
- Nuts and nut mixes
- Snacks, cakes, or bars containing nuts
- Items labelled "may contain nuts"

We appreciate this may require some extra care when choosing packed lunches and snacks, we are very grateful for your support in helping to reduce risk. Thank you for helping us keep all children safe at school.

End of Term Service

Our end of term leavers service will take place on Thursday 23rd July at 2.15pm.

Swimming Lessons for Year 3 and Year 4 – Update for Next Year

Instead of the current model of 30-minute sessions spread across the year, swimming will be delivered as longer, more intensive sessions during the summer term only. This change will allow children to build confidence and make

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more sustained progress within each block of learning. We also anticipate that holding lessons in the warmer months will help children feel more comfortable travelling back to school with damp hair.

Behaviour

We are extremely proud of the excellent behaviour shown by the vast majority of our pupils every day. They consistently demonstrate respect, kindness and positive attitudes towards learning and each other. We are introducing a new system to keep parents informed of any low-level behaviour incidents logged in school. Parents may receive a text message regarding issues such as disruption in class or refusal to follow instructions. These messages are intended to improve communication between home and school and ensure parents are aware of any concerns, however minor. In most cases, incidents will have been dealt with quickly by staff, but we believe keeping parents informed helps us work together to maintain the high standards of behaviour we value so much. If you have any questions regarding these messages, please speak to the class teacher.

Frixion Pens and Refills

Frixion Pens and Refills are available to purchase on ParentPay and can be collected from the school office. Please ensure that you have made your payment on ParentPay before asking your child to collect it.

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.

Sarah Briggs
Headteacher

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Changes to Free School Meal Eligibility from September 2026

Free School Meal Eligibility Changes for the new Academic Year 2026/27.

All children in reception, year 1, and year 2 at government-funded infant and primary schools get Universal Free School Meals (UFSM), eligibility for this is automatic, for all infant school children regardless of income. Free School Meals (FSM) is a means-tested benefit requiring families to meet specific eligibility criteria based on their household income.

Free School Meals eligibility is changing from the start of the new academic year, and you will need to apply if you meet the new criteria. From September 2026, the Government is expanding access to Free School Meals so that all children and young people from households receiving Universal Credit can apply. There will be 2 categories of eligibility:

Eligible Targeted: this covers children in households receiving Universal Credit with annual household earnings of £7,400 or less, as well as those receiving certain other qualifying benefits or with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF). These children may also attract additional support for their school, such as pupil premium funding, and access to schemes such as the Holiday Activities and Food programme.

Eligible Expanded: this covers children in households receiving Universal Credit with annual household earnings exceeding £7,400 per year. These children will be entitled to Free School Meals only.

Due to these changes, all families will be required to apply from 1 June 2026. Regardless of your postcode you will need to apply through Derbyshire County Council for Free School Meals at Sale and Davys. We strongly recommend applying online as early as possible so your application can be processed in readiness for the new academic year.

You can apply via the Derbyshire County

Council Free School Meals webpage: <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/your-child-at-school/meals/school-meals/free-school-meals.aspx>

Even if your child gets free meals because they're in reception, year 1, or year 2, you should still apply if you get benefits. This helps the school get more funding.

To apply, you will need:

- Your National Insurance number
- Details of your benefits (such as a Universal Credit statement if requested)

Most applications receive an instant decision; however, you may be contacted if further information is required. Please note that applications during this period may take longer to process due to a high volume of requests. If your child is currently receiving Free School Meals, their eligibility will continue until the end of the current school year regardless of the outcome of your new application. Once your application has been processed, you will receive confirmation of the outcome. If you are eligible, we will confirm the category your child qualifies under and the level of support they will receive. If your child is eligible under the Targeted category, they may also be entitled to additional support for the duration of the academic year. If your child is eligible under the Expanded category, they will receive Free School Meals. If your circumstances change and you believe you may qualify for the Targeted category, you should reapply so your eligibility can be reassessed.

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Public health nurse contact details

Whether your child or young person is in school or home educated, we can support with...



For parents/carers of 5-19 year olds in Derbyshire text us
on 07312 263744

Available Monday to Friday 9am-4:30pm (except bank holidays)

We can also support young people aged 11-19 with all of
the above as well as sexual health, drugs and alcohol
support.



Young people aged 11-19 years in Derbyshire can text us on
07507 330025

Available Monday to Friday 9am-4:30pm (except bank holidays)



derbyshirefamilyhealthservice.nhs.uk



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