



Newsletter
Monday 27th November 2023
Email
info@gamesley.derbyshire.sch.uk
01457 853721
Pastoral Manager
Tammy Snape 07922 576932



Dear Families,

Year 2 Willow Class

As I am sure most have you have already heard “on the grapevine”, we will be saying a very sad good bye to Mr James Sidebottom at the end of this term. James has worked at Gamesley School for many years, first joining us a midday assistant and then studying first for his TA qualification, his degree and finally qualifying as a teacher. We will miss James very much and know that his new school, Yew Tree Primary in Dukinfield, is very lucky to have him as their new deputy head.

We are pleased to let you know that we have appointed a new teacher for Year 2 Willow Class. Mr Alistair Gaffney is an experienced teacher who initially worked in Tameside, then relocated to teach in both London and Africa and has now decided to settle back near to Glossop with his young family. Ali has already met our Year 2 children and will be spending several days with us before Christmas in preparation to lead the class in January.

We are very excited to welcome Ali to the Gamesley team and wish James every success and happiness in his future career.

Christmas Fair Countdown: Thursday 7th December 2023





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The staff from both schools are busy planning this year's fair and we really hope that lots of you plus your neighbours and friends will be able to come along and support us. As always, we will be asking for some donations from our families to help us make the fair as successful as possible and this year we will be setting weeks rather than individual days for collections. Our last two collection weeks are:

Week beginning Monday 27 th November	Bottles for the adult tombola
Week beginning Monday 4 th December	Cakes

We will also be collecting any "good as new" soft toys and teddies for the ever-popular Teddy Tombola and any little gifts for the "Secret Present" stall – please send these in any time from now onwards.

If you know of anyone who would like to run a stall at the fair, please ask them to contact the school office.

Thank you everyone!

Start and End of the School Day

Please can I ask all our families to encourage their children to walk to their classrooms independently whenever possible. We do understand there are some exceptions – for example we know that some of the Orchard children need an adult to accompany them to their door each morning.

However, lots of adults on the playground, can make it daunting for the other children to walk in on their own and tricky for staff to monitor them. We want our children to experience the calmest start possible to the school day and an uncrowded and quiet walk across the playground helps us to achieve this.

Thank you everyone.

Mobile Phones

Please can I also ask that you do not routinely have your phones out when you collect your children? We need to be able to catch your eyes as we dismiss the children – and they certainly want your full attention at the end of the day! We also have several children in school who must not be photographed and it is hard for us to be sure we are keeping them safe if lots of you have your phones out at such a busy time of the day.

We are also going to impose a strict "no phones" policy at family dinner days and stay and play sessions. . We will always offer to take a photograph of you, but we don't want other people taking pictures and inadvertently capturing a child who must not have their picture taken. If you do need to make a call, just ask to be let out of the front door and we will buzz you straight back in again when you have finished.

Thanks everyone!



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A Message from DCC - Did you know that as well as free school meals during term time, you are also entitled to access FREE holiday clubs this winter holiday?

It's About Me is a **FREE** Holiday Activity and Food Programme funded by the Department for Education, designed for children and young people across Derbyshire to have healthy, active, fun-filled school holidays. We believe that everyone deserves a good break and that school holidays are better when children and young people are active, having fun, being entertained and learning new things.

If your child is aged between 4-16 and is eligible for benefits-related free school meals, then they are entitled to access the It's About Me holiday clubs for free! There are a huge range of activities available including sports and games, arts and crafts, cookery, dance and music. Programmes vary depending on the type and location of each local club and each holiday club will give your child a nutritious meal too!

We hope you will take advantage of these fantastic **FREE** holiday clubs across Derbyshire so your children can have a fun-filled and safe holiday! **This Christmas, your local holiday club will be run by Peak Active Sports and be based at Gamesley School so do book a place – we will send the codes out via Dojo this week ready for 4th December when bookings open.**

Can't attend a face-to-face holiday club or unable to find something suitable in your area?

For families with children who are not able to access face-to-face holiday clubs, activity packs and food boxes are also available for the winter school holidays.

Winter Food Boxes

This winter we are working with Morrison's to offer FREE recipe food boxes. One food box is available for each eligible household (not one per child). Eligible households must have at least one child or young person eligible for benefits-related free school meals living there. You will need your code to request a free winter food box.

Activity Packs

Activity packs are also available for the winter school holiday; packs are available one per eligible child and are available for Primary or Secondary age. You will need your code to request free winter activity packs. Families can register for a free winter activity pack and/food box from **Monday 27th November 2023**; registrations close on Wednesday 6th December 2023 or as soon as all activity packs and food boxes have been allocated. More information on the activity packs and food boxes and how to register can be found at: <https://itsaboutmederbyshire.co.uk/activity-pack>.

Booked but can't attend?



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During our summer programme, we had a large numbers of spaces that were booked but the child did not attend. If you book an activity for your child and they can no longer attend please contact the provider to cancel the space. Most clubs have a waiting list so spaces can be given to another child if the organisation knows your child is not coming.

Our School IAM Code is 8302040IAM2024DCC and bookings open on Monday 4th December at www.itsallaboutmederbyshire.co.uk.

If you are not eligible for free school meals but would still like to attend a holiday programme this winter, several our holiday club providers also offer places for children who are not eligible too; we call this a 'blended approach'. These places are either paid for by parents and carers or are offered at a subsidised rate through other funding the holiday club has received. Visit the It's About Me website and contact holiday clubs directly for more information on what they offer.

To book your activities and to find out more information go to www.itsaboutmederbyshire.co.uk To receive programme information and updates directly to your inbox, [Sign-Up](#) to It's About Me updates.

The winter holiday clubs will take place from **Wednesday 27th to Friday 29th December 2023 and Tuesday 2nd to Friday 4th January 2024**. Bookings open from **Monday 4th December 2023**.

Family Dinner Days



Up to two adults plus younger siblings are invited to come along to this term's family dinner days and it's Year 1 Silver Birch Class's turn this Friday. If you would like to book a school dinner please let the school office know by 9.15am on the day at the very latest – adult dinners cost £4.26 each and children's meals are £3.25. Alternatively, you are welcome to bring along a packed lunch.

Year 1 Silver Birch Class	Friday 1 st December	12.15pm
Reception Acorns Class	Friday 8 th December	12.00 noon

Please can I remind our visitors that they should not have phones out in the hall at Family Dinner Days. Some of our children cannot be photographed under any circumstances. Thank you for your support.

Teaching Workshops

Although we try to give you lots of glimpses of what happens in school through our frequent Facebook posts and invitations to performances, lunches etc, we are still trying to find more ways to help you get



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involved with your child's learning. So, starting in the new year, each teacher will be offering termly parent workshops where you can come into the classroom and take part in a lesson.

Places will be limited so as not to overwhelm the children (and staff!) and must be booked in advance. The first couple of dates are outlined below and will be added to over the next few weeks. If you would like to take part, please call the school office to book a place. We look forward to seeing lots of you in class soon!

Mrs Jenny Parker	Year 3 maths	Tuesday 16 th January	10.30am to 11.00am
Mrs Lyn Malik	Year 1 phonics sounds	Tuesday 23 rd January	9.20am to 9.50am

Christmas Pantomime (Pinocchio): Monday 4th December



This year, rather than travelling to the theatre, we will be watching a pantomime in school. The performance will be on Monday 4th December with our younger children watching in the morning and the older ones in the afternoon. Please note; Catkins class will not be watching the performance as they are not yet ready to sit for a full hour. There is no charge to our families for this activity as all costs are being met by the Primary School PTA and the Nursery School Fund.

Christmas Disco (Years 1 to 6): Wednesday 20th December - 4.00pm to 5.00pm

The cost of the disco is £2.00 payable on the door and no extra money is needed as this includes something to eat, drinks and face painting.

Christmas Parties (Reception and Nursery): Wednesday 20th December

Acorns, Conkers and Catkins children are invited to wear party clothes to school on Wednesday 20th December ready for some festive fun in class.

Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day: Thursday 21st December



As usual, we will be celebrating the last day of term by eating a delicious Christmas dinner together in the hall. Unless we hear otherwise from you, we will book a Christmas dinner for your child and if you are not eligible for Free School Meals, will pop a charge of £3.25 on Parent Pay. Nursery children who usually stay for lunch will be served a Christmas dinner too. It is also a Gamesley tradition that we invite all the children to add something Christmassy to their usual school clothes on the last day of term. This may be a Christmas jumper if you have one, or if not you can just add a different, brightly coloured top or simply a piece of tinsel in their hair.



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Stars of the Week

Congratulations to our last two week's stars who are:

Friday 17 th November 2023		
Nursery Conkers	Confident	Isabella has so much confidence and will happily talk about her learning in school.
Reception Acorns	Honest	Hunter can be honest when he has made a mistake and always tells the truth so we can fix things.
Year 1 Silver Birch	Confident	Riley is not only confident enough to try new things himself, he is also able to recognise and seek help when he needs it.
Year 2 Willow	Confident	Lydia communicates confidently with her classmates and with adults in school. She works hard in every lesson and has the confidence to ask for help when she needs it.
Year 3 Holly	Rule of Law	Freya always follows instructions and she understands that we have rules to keep us safe and to create an environment where everyone can learn.
Year 4 Chestnut	Rule of Law	Natasha follows school rules and routines without fail!
Year 5 Elm	Rule of Law	Eva sets the example of how we would hope that everyone would behave in school and is just a delight to have in Elm Class.
Year 6 Oak	Rule of Law	Aston is an incredibly honest student who always follows our school rules.
Orchard	Resilient	Eric is a resilient member of Orchard class who shows real determination to achieve his aims.

Friday 24 th November 2023		
Nursery Conkers	Patient	We are so impressed by Douglas who is not only able to wait his turn patiently, but who also demonstrates lovely behaviour and great kindness towards his fellow Conkers!
Reception Acorns	Patient	Lola is a thoughtful and patient member of Acorns Class who always waits her turn.
Year 1 Silver Birch	Thoughtful	Harlow is thoughtful and helpful towards both his teachers and the children in Silver Birch Class. Thank you, Harlow.
Year 2 Willow	Thoughtful	Charlie is a thoughtful member of Willow Class who thinks about how others feel and is always ready to help his friends.
Year 3 Holly	Respectful	Mittziee is always polite and respectful towards children and adults in school.
Year 4 Chestnut	Respectful	Barclay is always respectful towards adults in school and also towards his classmates.
Year 5 Elm	Respectful	Thomas is a very kind, respectful and caring member of Year 5 Elm Class.



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Year 6 Oak	Respectful	Isaac is unfailingly respectful towards everyone.
Orchard	Patient	Leo always waits patiently and calmly.

Very well done too to our last two week's curriculum stars who are:

Friday 17 th October		
Nursery Conkers	Reading	Delilah is really enjoying our new Fairy Tales topic and is listening to our stories with such enthusiasm.
Reception Acorns	Reading	George reads all the time, both at home and in school. He loves our daily "Talk Through Stories" lessons and makes some great contributions to our discussions.
Year 1 Silver Birch	Reading	Cole is working so hard to learn all his sounds and is proving to be great reading partner in our daily lessons.
Year 2 Willow	Reading	Florence is a keen reader both at home and in school. She loves to spend time in the class library area and is always the first to settle down with a good book!
Year 3 Holly	Reading	Carter is reading regularly at home and is making some great contributions in our guided reading lessons.
Year 4 Chestnut	Reading	Sydney is working so hard to improve her reading and is proving to be a super star in our guided reading lessons.
Year 5 Elm	Reading	Nyah gives 100% in our reading lessons and is always positive and enthusiastic about her learning.
Year 6 Oak	Reading	Kieran is an avid reader who loves books and who has now developed the stamina to read for an extended period.

Friday 24 th November		
Nursery Conkers	Reading	Minnie loves books and is always reading, both in school and at home.
Reception Acorns	Maths	Llando is very focused in our maths lessons and is now able to make his own "part-whole" models.
Year 1 Silver Birch	Maths	Harry works so hard in our maths lessons and this week he has been able to find the missing numbers in "part-whole" models. Great subtraction work Harry!
Year 2 Willow	Maths	Mylah has shown super confidence in maths lesson this week and has grasped new concepts with ease. Well done!
Year 3 Holly	Maths	Rayah has worked very hard in our maths lessons this week and is now able to work confidently and independently.
Year 4 Chestnut	Maths	Luca has applied himself beautifully in this week's maths tests and has shown how much he has remembered from our lessons so far in Year 4.



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Year 5 Elm	Maths	Clayton has demonstrated a super attitude in assessment week and has given 100% every single day.
Year 6 Oak	Maths	Alayah always gives 100% in very maths lesson.

Dates for your Diaries

Dates for your Diary	
Monday 27 th November 23	Please send in donations of bottles for the adult's tombola this week.
Friday 1 st December 23	Year 1 Silver Birch Family Dinner Day: 12.10pm
Friday 1 st December 23	Year 3 Holly Class take part in "Victorious Voices" Christmas concert.
Monday 4 th December 23	Please send in donations of cakes for the Christmas Fair this week
Monday 4 th December 23	Pantomime performances of "Pinocchio" in school
Thursday 7 th December 23	Christmas Fair
Friday 8 th December 23	Reception Acorns Family Dinner Day: 12.00pm
Tuesday 12 th December 23	Orchard Class visit to Crow Wood playscape in Lyme Park
Thursday 14 th December 23	Acorns Class Christmas Crafts "Stay and Play" afternoon: 2.00pm
Monday 18th December 23	Clubs have now finished for this term.
Monday 18 th December 23	Nursery Conkers Class Christmas concert: 9.15am
Tuesday 19 th December 23	Reception Acorns Christmas concert: 9.15am
Tuesday 19 th December 23	Year 1 Silver Birch and Year 2 Willow Class Nativity Play: 2.00pm
Tuesday 19 th December 23	Year 1 Silver Birch and Year 2 Willow Class Nativity Play: 6.00pm
Wednesday 20 th Dec 23	Christmas parties in Acorns, Conkers and Catkins classes
Wednesday 20 th Dec 23	Christmas "Mince Pies and Music" Stay and Play in Orchard Class: 2.30pm
Wednesday 20 th Dec 23	Christmas disco for Years 1 to 6: 4.00pm to 5.00pm
Thursday 21 st December 23	Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day
Thursday 21st December 23	Schools close for Christmas Holiday
Monday 8th January 24	Schools open for Spring Term 1
Tuesday 16 th January 24	Year 3 Maths Workshop: 10.30am to 11.00am
Tuesday 23 rd January 24	Year 1 Phonics Workshop: 9.20am to 9.40am
Friday 26 th January 24	Year 6 Oak Family Dinner Day: 12.30pm
Friday 2 nd February 24	Year 5 Elm Family Dinner Day: 12.30pm
Friday 9 th February 24	Year 4 Chestnut Family Dinner Day: 12.30pm
Friday 16 th February 24	Year 3 Holly Family Dinner Day: 12.20pm
Friday 16th February 24	Schools close for Half Term Holiday
Monday 26th February 24	Schools open for Spring Term 2
Wednesday 7 th February 24	Year 5 Elm Class take part in "Young Voices" concert
Tuesday 27 th February 24	Orchard trip to the Garden House, Marple
Wednesday 28 th Feb 24	Nursery Conkers and Reception Acorns classes Baby Dinosaur workshop



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Thursday 29 th February 24	Year 6 Oak Class trip to Ashton Central Mosque
Friday 1 st March 24	Year 2 Willow Family Dinner Day: 12.15pm
Friday 8 th March 24	Year 1 Silver Birch Family Dinner Day: 12.10pm
Friday 15 th March 24	Reception Acorns Family Dinner Day: 12.00pm
Tuesday 26 th March 24	Year 3 Holly and Year 4 Chestnut classes trip to Chester Zoo
Thursday 28th March 24	Schools close for Easter Holiday
Monday 15th April 24	Schools open for Summer Term 1
Wednesday 17 th April	Nursery Conkers and Reception Acorns trip to Bridgewater Gardens
Friday 26 th April 24	Year 6 Oak Family Dinner Day: 12.30pm
Friday 3 rd May 24	Year 5 Elm Family Dinner Day: 12.30pm
Friday 10 th May 24	Year 4 Chestnut Family Dinner Day: 12.30pm
Friday 17 th May 24	Year 3 Holly Family Dinner Day: 12.20pm
Tuesday 21 st May 24	Year 6 Oak class visit to Stockport Air Raid Shelter
Thursday 23rd May 24	Schools close for Half Term Holiday
Monday 3rd June 24	Schools open for Summer Term 2
Wednesday 5 th June 24	Orchard trip to Peak Wildlife Park
Thursday 6 th June 2023	Year 1 Silver Birch and Year 2 Willow Classes visit to Chatsworth Estate
Friday 14 th June 24	Year 2 Willow Family Dinner Day: 12.15pm
Tuesday 18 th June 24	Year 4 Chestnut Class taking part in "Come and Play with the Halle" concert – more details to follow.
Friday 21 st June 24	Year 1 Silver Birch Family Dinner Day: 12.10pm
Friday 28 th June 24	Reception Acorns Family Dinner Day: 12.00pm
Tuesday 9 th July 24	Year 1 Silver Birch and Year 2 Willow Classes visit to Lytham St. Anne's
Tuesday 23rd July	Schools close for Summer Holiday

School Trips

Please see below an updated list of all the visits and experiences planned for your children this year. We try to add as many exciting and real-life experiences as possible to the school curriculum so we can bring learning to life. Please keep a note of the deadline dates for payment as we will, with regret, cancel if we do not receive enough contributions to cover the cost of each visit. One class has already missed out on a lovely trip this year because there were so many missed payments. We really do not want this to happen again as the children just love getting out and about!



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Nursery Conkers Class		Dinosaur Workshop in School	Bridgewater Gardens
Date		Wednesday 28 th February 24	Wednesday 17 th April 24
Contribution per child		£9.78	£7.32
Deadline for contribution		Wednesday 7 th February 24	Wednesday 7 th March 24
Reception Acorns Class	Inside Out Forest School Day	Dinosaur Workshop in School	Bridgewater Gardens
Date	Wed 18 th October 2023	Wednesday 28 th February 24	Wednesday 17 th April 24
Contribution per child	£15.21	£9.78	£7.32
Deadline for contribution	Wed 27 th September 2023	Wednesday 7 th Feb 24	Wednesday 7 th March 23
Year 1 Silver Birch Class	Eureka Children's Museum	Chatsworth Park and Farm	Lytham St Anne's
Date	Thurs 16 th November 23	Thursday 6 th June 24	Tuesday 9 th July 2024
Contribution per child	£27.59	TBC	£10.81
Deadline for contribution	Thurs 19 th October 2023	Thursday 16 th May 24	Tuesday 18 th June 24
Year 2 Willow Class	Manchester Art Gallery	Chatsworth Park and Farm	Lytham St Anne's
Date	Tuesday 14 th November	Thursday 6 th June 24	Tuesday 9 th July 24
Contribution per child	£12.32	TBC	£10.81
Deadline for contribution	Tuesday 24 th October 23	Thursday 16 th May 24	Tuesday 18 th June 24
Year 3 Holly Class	Stone Age Workshop in School	Chester Zoo	Manchester walking Tour and Galleries
Date	Friday 13 th October 23	Tuesday 26 th March 24	Tuesday 9 th July 24
Contribution per child	£5.17	£19.73	£10.81
Deadline for contribution	Friday 22 nd September 23	Tuesday 5 th March 23	Tuesday 18 th June 24



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Year 4 Chestnut Class	Tatton Park Canceled	Chester Zoo	Come and play with the Halle	
Date	Wed 11th October 2023	Tuesday 26 th March 24	Tuesday 18 th June 24	
Contribution per child	£19.81	£19.73	TBC	
Deadline for contribution	Wed 20th September 2023	Tuesday 5 th March 23	TBC	
Year 5 Elm Class	3 Day trips to Whitehall Centre	Young Voices	Alton Towers	
Date	Wed 4 th , Thurs 5 th Friday 6 th October 23	Wed 7 th February 2024	TBC	
Contribution per child	£25.00	£15.57	TBC	
Deadline for contribution	Wed 13 th September 23	Wed 17 th January 24	TBC	
Year 6 Oak Class	Residential trip to Whitehall Centre	Ashton Central Mosque	Stockport Air raid Shelter	
Date	Mon 18 th to Wednesday 20 th Sep 23	Thursday 29 th February 24	Tuesday 21 st May 24	
Contribution per child	£25.00	£11.71	£19.68	
Deadline for contribution	Monday 11 th September 23	Thursday 1 st February 24	Tuesday 30 th April 24	
Orchard Class	Shopping Trip to Lidl	Crow Wood (Lyme Park)	Garden House in Marple	Peak Wildlife Park
Date	Wednesday 8 th November 23	Tuesday 12 th December 23	Tuesday 27 th February 24	Wednesday 5 th June 24
Contribution per child	N/A	£3.00	£5.00	£8.50
Deadline for contribution	N/A	Tuesday 21 st November 23	Tuesday 6 th February 24	Wednesday 15 th May 24

Kindest Regards,

Deborah Meredith