



Newsletter
Wednesday 28th August 2024
Email
info@gamesley.derbyshire.sch.uk
01457 853721
Pastoral Manager
Tammy Snape 07922 576932



Dear Families,

I hope you have all had a lovely summer break. We can't wait to welcome you all back into school next week.

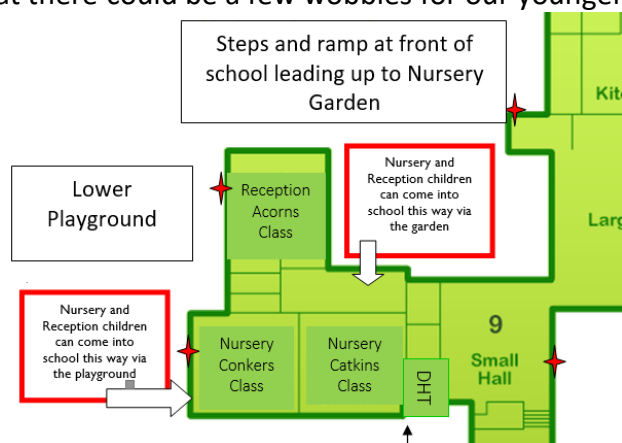
1. Back to School on Thursday 5th September

It has been a very exciting and busy summer in school with all the building work and improvements that have been happening in our Early Years and Orchard departments. The staff officially start work again on Monday 2nd September when we will all be attending a Trust conference in Manchester. We will be back in school from Tuesday sorting out the classrooms and getting ready to welcome your children back on Thursday, so do call in or give us a call if we can help in any way.

There are still a few things that need finishing in the Nursery and Reception classes – not least the new conservatory which will be completed by the end of October – but the space already looks absolutely beautiful. Our next step over the coming weeks will be to buy lovely new furniture and resources for the children. As part of the renovations, we have swapped some of the rooms around, so Reception Acorns will be back where they have been in previous years in the stand-alone classroom and the nursery children will be in the two adjoining rooms. We will be inviting you into school soon to have a look at all the changes!

The main school gates will open at 8.40am as usual on the first day back and will close again at 8.45am. As always, we will be encouraging children to walk in on their own through the playground when they feel ready to do so, but also understand that there could be a few wobbles for our younger children after the long summer break and that they may need your support at first.

We will also be opening the door that leads straight into the Early Years department each morning. If you have a child in Reception or Nursery and you think they would feel happier coming into school through the Nursery garden at the front of school, we will be opening the gates and doors here just before 8.40am each morning. This will allow time for you to drop off your younger children first and then walk around the outside of school to the main gate. It's also absolutely fine for your little ones to come in via the big gate and playground too; we just wanted to give families the option of an alternative way in for our youngest children



Please note that for security reasons the internal doors in school will be closed at this point in the day as we will not have enough staff around to safely escort Year 1 and older children through school via



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this route, so older brothers and sisters will still need to come into school via the big gate. Both routes into school will close at 8.45am sharp, after which you will need to bring your children to the front door. Please try to arrive on time if at all possible as it helps the children to have a really settled and calm start to the school day.

2. Classes and Staff

Just in case you missed it the first time (apologies - it was our mistake!) here is a list of class and group names staff to share with your children ready for the new term.

Nursery Catkins	Mrs Hazel Walmsley and Mrs Wendy Bruce (am)	Miss Zara Rowbottom joins the Nursery team each afternoon.
Nursery Conkers	Mrs Kerrie Wood Doyle and Mrs Rachael Kennington	
Reception Acorns	Mrs Lyn Malik and Miss Joanne Crossland	
Year 1 Silver Birch	Miss Toni Bruce, Mrs Steph Clarke and Mrs Carolyn Waude	
Year 2 Willow	Miss Abi Gordon and Mrs Emma Kidd	
Year 3 Holly	Miss Clare Dangerfield and Mrs Tracey Delaney	
Year 4 Chestnut	Mrs Jenny Parker, Mrs Kirsty Taylor and Mrs Kerry Parkin	
Year 5 Elm	Miss Emma Brown, Miss Dawn Stevenson and Mrs Emily Stanton	
Year 6 Oak	Miss Ashleigh Martin, Miss Lydia Regan and Mrs Jemma Dixon	
Class Cover	Mrs Katy Clubb and Mrs Karen Barton (Higher Level Teaching Assistants)	
Orchard Apples	Mrs Michelle Roscoe, Mrs Julie Banner-McGrath and Mrs Gemma Fewtrell	
Orchard Cherries	Mrs Cath Priestley, Mrs Louise Amesbury and Mrs Shelly Winterbottom	

Early Birds and Night Owls	Miss Zara Rowbottom supported by Miss Summer Bladen Hovell and Mrs Tracey McNeill depending on numbers.
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3. School Uniform

This year we would like all our nursery children to be in uniform each day. Although we no longer have any "old" yellow and purple nursery uniform in stock, it is absolutely fine for Catkins and Conkers children to continue to wear these colours this year and into the future.

However, as time goes by, our nursery children will wear the school colours of sky blue and royal blue like the rest of the school. Bulldog Fashion in Glossop stocks our school uniform if you would like items with a logo, but it's also fine for the children to wear non-badged clothing, and many do. We really don't mind as long as the children are dressed smartly and comfortably in the correct school colours.

As a reminder ready for the new school year: here is a list of the uniform for your children to wear to school from Nursery upwards:



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- **Royal blue sweatshirt, cardigan or fleece:** (*Nursery aged children can also wear purple sweatshirts if you prefer, but if you are buying new, please buy blue*)
- **Sky blue long or short sleeved polo shirt:** (*Or pale yellow for Nursery children*)
- **Dark grey long trousers, knee length skirt, knee length shorts or knee length pinafore:** (*Nursery children can wear dark grey, pull-up jogging bottoms if you think these would be easier for them.*)
- **Sky blue and white checked knee length dress.**
- **Flat, waterproof, plain black shoes (including plain black unbranded trainers) which fasten securely to your child's feet. Please choose "Velcro" fastenings until your children can manage buckles or laces independently.** (*If your children wear wellingtons to walk to school in rainy weather, please also send in their bag school shoes or trainer for them to change into. Wellingtons are not designed to be worn for long periods of time and do not support growing feet.*)
- **White, grey or black socks / grey or black tights.**

Please also send your child to school with a waterproof coat with a hood every day. We play out in all weathers (including rain!) and even if the day starts out sunny and warm, it can quickly change.

And finally: please name EVERYTHING! At the end of every playtime we collect numerous abandoned coats and jumpers from the playground and field, and if they are named we can quickly reunite them with their owners.

4. Early Birds and Night Owls

We are very pleased that from September our Early Birds and Night Owls provision will be open to Nursery aged children after their third birthday. In order to help us ensure we have enough staff in place each day to look after the children, please book places as far in advance as possible (at least 24 hours) and also give us at least 24 hours' notice of any cancellations.

Booking forms can be found on the school website: <https://gamesleyprimaryschool.com/parents/early-birds-and-night-owls-wrap-around-care/>

5. Attendance

You may have heard already that the Department for Education has introduced some significant changes in attendance which are now in force for all children of statutory school age (the term after their 5th birthday).

I will send our updated attendance policy in a separate letter before the children come back to school, but just wanted to make you aware of the key changes now which are:



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- *From September, schools will be expected to consider a fine if a pupil accrues any 10 sessions (half days) of unauthorised absence in a rolling period of 10 school weeks, including holidays.*
- *If children arrive at school after our registers close at 9.00am, this is automatically marked as "U" in the register which counts as one unauthorised absence.*
- *The threshold can be met with any combination of unauthorised absence. For example, four unauthorised absences in term time plus six instances of arriving late (after 9.00am).*
- *The rolling period of 10 weeks can also span different terms or school years.*
- *Absence fines charged to parents will rise from £60 to £80 per parent, or £160 if not paid within 21 days.*
- *Any second notice will automatically be charged at £160.*
- *Only two fines can be issued to the same parent for the same child within a three-year rolling period. A third notice within a year-three rolling period could result in a summons to court.*

6. Family Dinner Days

Once again, we will be holding our very popular family dinner days this term starting with Year 6 Oak Class on Friday 27th September and we do hope that lots of you will be able to come along. It would be great if as many of you as possible could buy a school dinner to eat with your children as this really helps our kitchen staff – their contracted hours are based on how many meals they serve over time. Of course, it is also absolutely fine to bring in a packed lunch from home. Please can we ask though, that families do not bring in other food such as chips, McDonalds or Greggs and that you do not give extra treats to your children while you are eating with them? We all enjoy these from time to time, but in school we are trying to promote (reasonably) healthy eating. It can also be tricky for other children if they see their friends being given chips, cans of fizzy drinks or other treats by their visitors that are not normally served in school, especially if their own family members have not been able to come along. We also ask that no mobile phones are out in the dining hall, and especially that you do not text, make phone calls or take photographs while you are with us. Thanks everyone!



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7. Headlice – again!

Last term we continued to have a few cases of headlice in both schools. Please can I ask that all our families send their children back to school free of live lice or eggs (nits). We do know though, that however hard we all try they will be back at some point, so please don't be offended if we give you a call to let you know that we have spotted some little visitors in your child's hair. If you comb live lice out with a nit comb and plenty of conditioner as soon as you see them, you may have a chance to prevent them from laying their eggs (nits) which are so much harder to remove as they stick to the hair shafts.

8. Dates for your Diaries

Monday 2nd September	All school staff attend Trust Conference Day in Manchester
Tuesday 3rd September	Staff in school: training day and setting up rooms
Wednesday 4th September	Staff in school: training day and setting up rooms
Thursday 5th September	School Opens for start of Autumn Term
Monday 16 th September	Flu vaccines in school
Thursday 19 th September	Nursery Conkers trip to Inside Out Forest School
Monday 23 rd September	Year 4 trip to Crowden Park
Friday 27 th September	Year 6 Oak Class Family Dinner Day: 12.30pm
Friday 4 th October	Year 5 Elm Class Family Dinner Day: 12.30pm
Thursday 10 th October	Year 1 Silver Birch and Year 2 Willow trip to Lyme Park
Friday 11 th October	Year 4 Chestnut Class Family Dinner Day 12.30pm
Monday 14 th October	Reception Acorns trip to Inside Out Forest School
Monday 14 th – Wednesday 16 th October	Year 6 Oak Class residential trip to Whitehall Centre.
Friday 18 th October	Year 3 Holly Class Family Dinner Day: 12.30pm
Thursday 24 th October	"Spooky" disco for Years 1 to 6: 4.00pm to 5.00pm Class parties during school day for Orchard, Nursery and Reception.
Friday 25 th October	School closes for half term holiday
HOLIDAY	
Monday 4th November	School opens for Autumn Term 2
Friday 8 th November	Year 2 Willow Class Family Dinner Day: 12.15pm
Friday 15 th November	Year 1 Silver Birch Class Family Dinner Day: 12.10pm
Friday 22 nd November	Reception Acorns Class Family Dinner Day: 12.00
Monday 25 th to Wednesday 27 th November	Year 5 Elm Class day trips to Whitehall Centre
Thursday 19 th December	Christmas disco for Years 1 to 6: 4.00pm to 5.00pm Class parties during school day for Orchard, Nursery and Reception.



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Friday 20 th December	School closes for Christmas holiday
HOLIDAY	
Monday 6th January	School opens for Spring Term 1
Friday 17 th January	Year 6 Oak Class Family Dinner Day: 12.30pm
Friday 24 th January	Year 5 Elm Class Family Dinner Day: 12.30pm
Friday 31 st January	Year 4 Chestnut Class Family Dinner Day 12.30pm
Friday 7 th February	Year 3 Holly Class Family Dinner Day 12.30pm
Friday 14 th February	School closes for half term holiday
HOLIDAY	
Monday 24th February	School opens for spring term 2
Friday 28 th February	Year 2 Willow Class Family Dinner Day: 12.15pm
Friday 7 th March	Year 1 Silver Birch Class Family Dinner Day: 12.10pm
Friday 14 th March	Reception Acorns Class Family Dinner Day: 12.00
Thursday 3 rd April	Easter disco for Years 1 to 6: 4.00pm to 5.00pm Class parties during school day for Orchard, Nursery and Reception.
Friday 4 th April	School closes for Easter holiday
HOLIDAY	
Tuesday 22nd April	School opens for summer term 1
Friday 2 nd May	Year 6 Oak Class Family Dinner Day: 12.30pm
Monday 5th May	School closed: Bank Holiday Monday
Friday 9 th May	Year 5 Elm Class Family Dinner Day: 12.30pm
Friday 16 th May	Year 4 Chestnut Class Family Dinner Day 12.30pm
Thursday 22 nd May	School closes for half term holiday
HOLIDAY	
Monday 2nd June	School opens for summer term 2
Friday 6 th June	Year 3 Holly Class Family Dinner Day 12.30pm
Friday 13 th June	Year 2 Willow Class Family Dinner Day: 12.15pm
Friday 20 th June	Year 1 Silver Birch Class Family Dinner Day: 12.10pm
Friday 27 th June	Reception Acorns Class Family Dinner Day: 12.00
Thursday 17 th July	Leavers disco for Years 1 to 6: 4.00pm to 5.00pm Class parties during school day for Orchard, Nursery and Reception.
Friday 18 th July	School closes for summer holiday
Monday 21st July	Staff in school: training day
Tuesday 22nd July	Staff in school: training day

Kindest Regards,

Deborah Meredith