



Newsletter  
Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2024  
Email  
[info@gamesley.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:info@gamesley.derbyshire.sch.uk)  
01457 853721  
Pastoral Manager  
Tammy Snape 07922 576932



Dear Families,

We have had a lovely first couple of weeks in school. The children have made such a super start to school life and we are all very impressed by how smart they look and how hard they are working.

## 1. Our Updated Behaviour Policy

In our first assembly on Friday, we shared our updated behaviour expectations with the children and thought it would be helpful if you knew about this at home.

From Year 3 upwards our behaviour principles are that we are “Respectful, Responsible and Ready”. This is explained to the children in the following way:

### Respectful

*“I treat others as I would like to be treated myself”*

- I use people’s chosen names when I speak to them.
- I am kind and show good manners to everyone.
- I am polite and do not interrupt or disrupt others.
- I listen to others people’s ideas.
- I look out for other people and try to help if I can.
- I respect personal space and property.

### Responsible

*“I do the things I am supposed to do and I take responsibility for my actions”*

- I stay on task, work hard and do not distract others.
- I maintain a tidy and organised work space.
- I look after my classroom and the school environment.
- I try to make good decisions and will admit when I make a mistake.
- I speak up if others are being unkind or disrespectful.

### Ready to Learn

*“I have everything I need and I’m ready to do my best”*

- I bring everything I need for a successful day at school: water bottle, PE kit, reading book etc.
- I complete my learning in school and at home.
- In class I demonstrate the Magic 3: “good sitting, good looking, good listening”.
- I am a good learning partner and I contribute to the lessons.

For children in Nursery and Infants, we keep things simple and just have two main rules which are:

- I am kind to everyone
- I listen to the safe grown-ups in school

Our updated behaviour and bullying policy can be found on the school website here: [Policies – Gamesley Primary School](#)



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## 2. Coming into School in the Mornings

Now that everyone has found their new classrooms and got used to the morning routines again, please can we ask that whenever possible you encourage your children to walk into school on their own. When there are lots of adults on the playground it is hard for our more timid children to navigate their way in on their own – the quieter the playground the easier it is for everyone. So once they are ready, please can we ask that whenever possible, you encourage your children Year 1 upwards to say “goodbye” at the school gates and walk in on their own? From Monday children in Catkins, Conkers and Acorns will all come into school via the steps and gate at the front of school. This will mean that we only have to open one door in the Early Years block so staff can be in their rooms and focus on settling the youngest children. The Early Years gate will be open until 8.50am, so please drop your older children off first and then walk round to the front of school with your little ones. Thank you!

## 3. Early Birds and Night Owls

Please drop off and collect your children from our wrap around provision via the Early Years garden up the steps at the front of school. If we don't hear you knocking, please ring the number on the posters displayed on the doors. Thank you.

## 4. Parent Questionnaires

We are always interested in hearing what our families think about the school so we can work together to provide the best educational experience possible for your children. Look out for paper copies of a questionnaire which will be sent home in children's bookbags next week. One copy will be sent with the eldest child in each family, but if you would like to complete more than one because you have different responses for each child, just let us know and we can send you extra copies. We will read all your responses and comments and report back to as soon as possible. Thank you for your help and support.

## 5. Swimming

We are taking a different approach to school swimming this year and we are very excited! We are hiring a pop-up swimming pool which comes complete with a fully qualified swimming instructor plus a life guard for the first 4 weeks after the half term break.

The pool will be installed on the lower playground within a heated tent complete with changing rooms. Although it will be smaller than a traditional pool, the children will still be able to swim 25 metres in one lap around the pool. Because the pool is on site, we will be able to offer daily half hour lessons to a large number of children over the four-week period.



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The plan is that all our Year 5 and 6 will have a short course of refresher lessons with those who are not yet able to swim 25 metres being given priority; followed by daily lessons for children in Year 4. We are not sure yet if lessons will also be offered to children in Year 3 – it all depends on how many older children need lessons -but will keep you updated while the pool is here.

If this is successful, the pool will be back on an annual basis so we can send all our children off to High School as confident swimmers.

As we are not yet sure about the timetable, we are asking that all children in years 4, 5 and 6 have a swimming kit which includes a costume or shorts, towel and swimming hat in school every day after the half term break. We will let you know if Year 3 will be swimming this year as the lessons progress. When the children have had a swimming lesson, we will send their kits back home to be washed, dried and returned to school.

If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to your child's class teacher or give me a call.

## 6. After School Clubs

We will be starting a new approach to our clubs offer this term. Instead of offering a couple of different after school clubs each day throughout the week, we will extend the school day for all the children in Acorns, Silver Birch, Willow, Holly, Chestnut, Elm and Oak classes. Class based lessons will finish at 3.00pm when the children will go to their chosen clubs until 4.00pm, when they will be dismissed in the usual way through the school gates.

Wednesday club night will start on 25<sup>th</sup> September. Acorns children will have extra-curricular activities within their own department, while children from Year 1 and above will soon bring home a clubs letter outlining the choices on offer this term.

If for any reason your child cannot attend after-school clubs on Wednesday, please let us know and will bring them to the front door to be picked up by you at the usual time of 3.15pm.

Orchard and Nursery children will still finish school at 3.15pm so we do not disrupt their routines. On clubs night, Orchard children will be collected from the front door and Nursery children can be collected via the Early Years garden.

## 7. Reading Club

There is no more important job for us in school than teaching your child to read and your support at home is invaluable.

We do ask that children read at home with a supportive adult at least 5 times each week as we know what a massive difference this makes to their progress. We will continue to reward your child's hard work by giving children a free book from our school bookshop every time they have accumulated "50 reads" at home.



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We do know that sometimes children are a little reluctant to complete reading work at home, and so this year we will be reintroducing “reading club” for children in Year 1 and above. Please be assured that this is designed to be a gentle “nudge” and is designed to help you. If children have not found time to read home the previous evening, they will be asked to stay in for a few minutes at break time reading before they go outside to get some much-needed fresh air.

We will always make sure that the children get a break. Reading club is never a punishment but a way to help support the very important task of ensuring that every child becomes a reader.

Books from our school bookshop can also be purchased for just £2.00 each. We can take cash payments for the bookshop as it is run by our PTA.

## 8. Household Support Fund

The current round of applications for the Household Fund runs from May to the end of September, and eligible families can make two applications during this period.

If you have not yet received both your allocations, please contact Tammy Snape at the school and she will support you in making your application(s). Her phone number is 07922 576932.

## 9. Applying for a Secondary School Place

The deadline for applications is Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October. Please let Mrs Snape know if you need any help in making your application on-line.

and she will be more than happy to support you.



## 10. Stars of the Week and Curriculum Stars:

Congratulations to this week's stars who have all been chosen for demonstrating the value of “Kindness”. They are:

Conkers	Freya has settled beautifully into Conkers Class and is a good friend to everyone.
Acorns	Layla is kind to everyone in Acorns Class.
Silver Birch	Logan has been such a good friend to Oscar this week and has helped him feel safe and welcome in his new school.
Willow	Olivia is kind and welcoming to everyone in Willow Class
Holly	Alice is kind to everyone in Holly Class, both children and adults alike.
Chestnut	Carter can always be relied upon to be kind to everyone in school.
Elm	Natasha just exudes kindness and caring.
Oak	Finley is such a kind and responsible member of Oak Class – he is a great role model to everyone.
Orchard	Jaxon has settled back into school beautifully and is being a kind friend to everyone.



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Our curriculum award winners of the week are:

Conkers	Minnie just loves to spend time with a good book!
Acorns	Roman is so confident with his counting – what a great start!
Silver Birch	Lola makes such great contributions to our “Talk Through Stories” lessons and loves spending time in our class library.
Willow	Leo is such an enthusiastic reader and he always makes sure he practises at home.
Holly	Stanley is putting 100% effort into our maths lessons, working independently and finding his own resources.
Chestnut	Olivia is a determined mathematician who gives 100% to all her learning.
Elm	Alex is working so hard in our maths lessons.
Oak	Shaynie is committed to improving her reading. She practises every night at home and works very hard in school.

This this week’s “Respectful, Resilient and Ready” behaviour star is Lydia. Lydia is always on task, working as hard as she can and ready to support her classmates. She sets such a great example to everyone in Year 3 – well done Lydia.

## 11. Dates for your Diaries

<b>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September</b>	<b>School Opens for start of Autumn Term</b>
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> September	Flu vaccines in school
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> September	Nursery Conkers trip to Inside Out Forest School
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> September	Completed questionnaires back to school by the end of today please.
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> September	Year 4 trip to Crowden Park
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> September 2024	After school clubs begin for children in Reception and above. School finishes at 4.00pm for all children other than Orchard and Nursery.
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 6 Oak Class Family Dinner Day: 12.30pm
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 5 Elm Class Family Dinner Day: 12.30pm
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 1 Silver Birch and Year 2 Willow trip to Lyme Park
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 4 Chestnut Class Family Dinner Day 12.30pm
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	Reception Acorns trip to Inside Out Forest School
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 6 Oak Class residential trip to Whitehall Centre.
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 3 Holly Class Family Dinner Day: 12.30pm
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> October	School closes for half term holiday
Thursday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	Deadline for applications for a Secondary School place in 2025
	<b>HOLIDAY</b>



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<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>School opens for Autumn Term 2</b>
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	School based swimming lessons begin
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 2 Willow Class Family Dinner Day: 12.15pm
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 1 Silver Birch Class Family Dinner Day: 12.10pm
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	Reception Acorns Class Family Dinner Day: 12.00
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 5 Elm Class day trips to Whitehall Centre
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	School based swimming lessons end for this year.
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas disco for Years 1 to 6: 4.00pm to 5.00pm Class parties during school day for Orchard, Nursery and Reception.
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	School closes for Christmas holiday
<b>HOLIDAY</b>	
<b>Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>School opens for Spring Term 1</b>
Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 6 Oak Class Family Dinner Day: 12.30pm
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 5 Elm Class Family Dinner Day: 12.30pm
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> January	Year 4 Chestnut Class Family Dinner Day 12.30pm
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 3 Holly Class Family Dinner Day 12.30pm
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	School closes for half term holiday
<b>HOLIDAY</b>	
<b>Monday 24<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>School opens for spring term 2</b>
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Year 2 Willow Class Family Dinner Day: 12.15pm
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> March	Year 1 Silver Birch Class Family Dinner Day: 12.10pm
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> March	Reception Acorns Class Family Dinner Day: 12.00
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> April	School closes for Easter holiday
<b>HOLIDAY</b>	
<b>Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April</b>	<b>School opens for summer term 1</b>
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	Year 6 Oak Class Family Dinner Day: 12.30pm
<b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>School closed: Bank Holiday Monday</b>
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 5 Elm Class Family Dinner Day: 12.30pm
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Year 4 Chestnut Class Family Dinner Day 12.30pm
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	School closes for half term holiday
<b>HOLIDAY</b>	
<b>Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June</b>	<b>School opens for summer term 2</b>
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 3 Holly Class Family Dinner Day 12.30pm
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 2 Willow Class Family Dinner Day: 12.15pm
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 1 Silver Birch Class Family Dinner Day: 12.10pm
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> June	Reception Acorns Class Family Dinner Day: 12.00



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Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> 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 <sup>th</sup> July	School closes for summer holiday
<b>Monday 21<sup>st</sup> July</b>	<b>Staff in school: training day</b>
<b>Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July</b>	<b>Staff in school: training day</b>

Have a lovely weekend everyone.

Kindest Regards,

*Deborah Meredith*