



Newsletter
Wednesday 11th December 2024
Email
info@gamesley.derbyshire.sch.uk
01457 853721
Pastoral Manager
Tammy Snape 07922 576932



Dear Families,

1. NACE (National Association for Able Children in Education) Challenge Award

We are very proud to announce that the National Association for Able Children in Education (NACE) has named Gamesley Primary School the 494th school to be accredited with the NACE Challenge Award. This award is given in recognition of a school-wide commitment to high-quality provision for more able learners, within the context of challenge for all.

Two assessors spent a full day in school talking to pupils, parents, staff and governors, observed lessons and looked at children's work. The assessors reported: *"Challenge and more able provision are at the heart of the school. Staff are actively engaged in, and see themselves as leaders of, this important aspect of the school's work. Leaders are solutions-focused and creative in their approaches to maximising learning time and ensuring that children experience their full curriculum entitlement."*

The full report will soon be available on our website – we will let you know when it is published.

2. Swimming Updates

Our on-site swimming pool was a great success. The children made amazing progress and all of our Year 6 children who swam achieved the national expected standard for swimming at the end of Key Stage 2. We are already in the process of booking the pool again for next year and will be offering lessons to all our Year 4, 5 and 6 children.

3. Attendance

In September, 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) and the key points are outlined below.

- *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.*

We have been advised by the Derbyshire Attendance Team that we should be asking families for written evidence / explanations when their children are absent from school. Going forward, as well as staying in contact with us each day your child is away from school, please also send us an email or note on their



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return to school explaining why they have not been able to come into school. We are required to mark your child's absence as "unauthorised" until we receive this explanation. You can log into Arbor to check the details we hold for your child's attendance – please let us know if you spot any errors.

4. Christmas Disco (Years 1 to 6): Thursday 19th 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.

5. Christmas Parties (Orchard, Reception and Nursery): Thursday 19th December

Orchard, Acorns, Conkers and Catkins children are invited to wear party clothes to school on Thursday 19th December ready for some festive fun in class.

6. Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day: Friday 20th 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 Arbor. 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.

7. Parent Governor

We still have a vacancy for a parent representative on our Board of Governors. Our governors are a very friendly and supportive group who meet together six times each year from 6.00pm to 8.00pm. They are also welcome to visit the school during the working day and to spend time with school leaders and class teachers to find out more about how the school operates. If you would be interested in joining us, please pop into school for a chat to find out more about the role.

8. Stars of the Week and Curriculum Stars:

Congratulations to our values stars from the past few weeks who are:

Nursery Conkers	Honest	Lottie is a great friend because she shares, takes turns and always tells the truth.
	Patient	Riley has learnt to wait for his turn when playing games or completing activities.
	Curious	Darcie is so interested in learning new things and joins in with every activity.
	Independent	Scarlett is becoming such an independent learner in Conkers Class. She is cooperating with her friends, joining in all the activities on offer and following the class rules.



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Reception Acorns	Honest	Sharu always tells the truth and as a result she has lots of friends because they know they can trust her to be honest.
	Patient	Isabella always waits for her turn during learning and play activities.
	Curious	Maisie is always interested in new learning and new play.
	Independent	Roman loves to use the classroom environment and explore all our new resources.
Year 1 Silver Birch	Confident	We were so pleased when Beau stood up in front of her class and read them a story – very brave!
	Thoughtful	Bobby is a very caring boy who always looks out for his classmates.
	Enthusiastic	Ella has such a positive attitude towards all her learning and she asks some great questions!
	Motivated	Kyon is motivated to do well in all his learning and is a confident and supportive learning partner.
Year 2 Willow	Confident	Nevaeh has blossomed this term into a confident learner who is rightly proud of her achievements.
	Thoughtful	Billy-Joe is a kind and empathetic friend to everyone in Willow Class.
	Enthusiastic	Yowel is enthusiastic about every aspect of school life!
	Motivated	It is lovely to have Harlow back in school as he is so positive and motivated to do well.
Year 3 Holly	Rule of Law	Lincoln understands why rules are important and he has been trying really hard to do the right thing.
	Mutual Respect	Isabelle is very aware of other people's right to be treated as she would like to be treated herself and is respectful to everyone.
	Resilient	Milan is taking everything in her stride and giving 100% to every aspect of school life.
	Creative	Henry took such care in his art lessons this week and produced some very high-quality work.
Year 4 Chestnut	Rule of Law	Mia understands the importance of rules and always makes sure she is doing the right thing.
	Mutual Respect	Franky always listens to his classmates' views with interest and respect.
	Resilient	Alyssa has such a great attitude to her learning and will not give up until she has succeeded.
	Creative	Reggie took so much care and time over his art work this week, and the finished piece was just beautiful!
Year 5 Elm	Rule of Law	Isla always follows the school rules and she understands that they are important to keep everyone safe and help the school to run smoothly.



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	Mutual Respect	Isabelle is always respectful with her words and actions to adults and children alike.
	Resilient	Ariella is so determined to succeed and she never gives up!
	Creative	Olivia always thinks carefully about how she presents her work so it is as effective as possible.
Year 6 Oak	Rule of Law	Belle has a mature understanding of the importance of following school rules.
	Mutual Respect	Kobi treats everyone in school with respect and kindness.
	Resilient	Charlie embraces cognitive wobble and challenge in all our lessons and never gives up until he has completed his learning.
	Creative	Heidi has some super, creative ideas for her written work.
Orchard Groups	Motivated	Leo is so engaged in his learning and is getting involved with everything in Orchard.
	Patient	Billy is learning to wait his turn and share with his friends.
	Curious	Jack loves exploring everything in Cherry Orchard and he is especially pleased with our Christmas tree!
	Independent	Ethan uses the learning environment in Apple Orchard purposefully and independently.

Our recent curriculum Stars are:

Nursery Conkers	Minnie loves stories and asks to share books with an adult.
	Angel loves sharing stories in school and reading books at home.
	Freya is demonstrating great listening skills at story time.
	Grayson is starting to really enjoy reading and one of his favourite activities is spending time with a grown up and a good book in our class library!
Reception Acorns	Noah is showing great understanding of numbers up to 5.
	Mia is such an enthusiastic reader. She loves to join in with familiar phrases and chat about books during our "Talk Through Stories" sessions.
	Arlo has completed some super number work this week.
	Luca is counting accurately and working very hard to subitise numbers to 5.
Year 1 Silver Birch	Reggie has been a great learning partner in our maths lessons this week.
	Oliver has challenged himself in our maths lessons.
	Aeson listens beautifully during story time and he is a great learning partner.
	Logan has worked incredibly hard in maths this week and even when he has found himself in the learning pit, he hasn't given up.
Year 2 Willow	Darcy has been answering inference questions and even creating her own questions for the rest of the class.
	Abbie uses lovely expression when she is reading to her partner or in a group.
	Ella always tries her hardest in every lesson.



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	Ruby is working so hard in her phonics lessons and challenging herself to read at home as well so she can achieve her 50 reads award.
Year 3 Holly	Harvey is demonstrating real enthusiasm for his reading and is developing a love of books.
	Jenson is working so hard in maths lessons and is applying all his prior learning to solve new problems.
	Amber is working so hard to improve her reading and making great contributions to our guided reading lessons.
	Lydia has a determined attitude in her maths lessons, working systematically to solve problems and never giving up.
Year 4 Chestnut	Alyssa reads at home without fail and makes great contributions to our class reading lessons as well.
	Harry is working so hard in reading lessons and is answering lots of tricky questions independently.
	Rayah loves our guided reading lessons and shares some great answers with the rest of the class.
	Joshua is making great contributions in our maths lessons and is very motivated to learn all his times tables.
Year 5 Elm	Olivia has a sound understanding of multiplication and division by 10, 100 and 1000.
	Alivia has shown great application in this week's maths tests and her hard work is really paying off.
	Olivia has shared some great answers in our guided reading lessons this week.
	Evie is really enjoying our class novel and her answers demonstrate what a good understanding she has.
Year 6 Oak	Nyah embraces challenge in our maths lessons and is growing in confidence and determination.
	Lilly is so engaged with our guided reading text and has shown great interest in the subject matter about migrations around the world.
	Olivia has given some great answers in our reading lessons this week.
	Clayton is a great partner in our reading lessons.

Our "Respectful, Resilient and Ready" behaviour stars were Heidi who was chosen for championing and supporting a little boy in Year 1 and Amira who has gone out of her way to ensure that Aisha feels safe and welcomed in Willow Class.

Dates for your Diaries

Wednesday 11 th December	Year 1 and 2 Nativity Play 2.00pm and 6.00pm
Thursday 12 th December	Whole School Pantomime Day: The Emperors New Clothes



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Friday 13 th December	Orchard Apples Class Family Dinner Day 11.50am
Thursday 19 th December	Christmas Disco for Years 1 to 6: 4.00pm to 5.00pm Class parties during the school day for Orchard, Nursery and Reception.
Friday 20 th December	Christmas Dinner Day – children are welcome to wear a Christmas jumper to school.
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
Monday 24 th February	Year 4 Chestnut and Year 5 Elm Classes at Young Voices
Thursday 27 th February	Year 3 Holly and Year 6 Oak Classes trips to Ashton Central Mosque
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
Friday 21 st March	Orchard Cherries Family Dinner Day 11.50am
Friday 28 th March	Orchard Apples Family Dinner Day 11.50am
Thursday 3 rd April	Easter Disco for Years 1 to 6: 4.00pm to 5.00pm Class parties during the 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
Friday 4 th July	Orchard Cherries Family Dinner Day 11.50am



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Friday 11 th July	Orchard Apples Family Dinner Day 11.50am
Thursday 17 th July	Leavers Disco for Years 1 to 6: 4.00pm to 5.00pm Class parties during the 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