

info@gamesley.derbyshire.sch.uk

01457 853721

Pastoral Manager Tammy Snape 07922 576932



Dear Families,

A belated happy new year to you all! I hope you all had a lovely Christmas break and that the extremely wet and freezing cold weather didn't affect you too much.

1. Snacks at Breaktime

We are phasing out the Key Stage 2 fruit snack shop this week. Children in all classes from Reception upwards are welcome to bring in a small snack from home for morning break. Infant fruit will still be available for those children who want it and we will continue to provide snacks in nursery.

Suitable snacks would include:

- Fruit (please slice grapes long-ways)
- Vegetable sticks
- A sandwich
- Plain biscuits
- Crackers and cheese spread

Please do not send in sweets or chocolate bars for snack.

Please also remember that we have a child in school with a very severe nut allergy. Please do not send in any food that contains nuts or sesame seeds (i.e. hummus) or is labelled as "May Contain Nuts".

2. Messages to the School Office

We know that school-run mornings can sometimes be hectic and completely understand that there will be times when you need to drop equipment off or send messages to the front office after the school day has started. Please be aware though, that the office staff are very busy indeed and will not usually be able to go up to classes immediately. We are introducing a monitor system whereby older children will take messages and equipment to classrooms during their morning break and after lunch. Thank you for your understanding.

3. Dressing for Winter Weather

As you know, we try to get the children outside as much as possible even when it is cold or damp. Although the weather is a little milder now than last week, please continue to dress your children warmly so they can enjoy being outside on wintry days. It's fine to add an extra layer underneath their school uniform and we would suggest long socks or tights underneath trousers and skirts – certainly no bare legs please! Children will also need a warm, waterproof coat plus a hood or hat, scarf and gloves. Footwear needs to be



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sturdy and waterproof (and plain black!) and if children wear wellies to walk to school, please also send in a change of footwear for indoors. Thank you!

4. Outdoor Learning in Year 1 Silver Birch and Year 2 Willow Classes

Mrs Emma Kidd and Mrs Steph Clarke are well on the way to completing their Level 3 Forest School



courses and are now ready to lead weekly outdoor learning sessions for our Key Stage 1 children. These will run each Tuesday morning for Year 1 Silver Birch Class and each Wednesday morning for Year 2 Willow Class and will take place within the school grounds.

Lessons begin on Tuesday 27th January.

Children will need to bring warm socks and boots to change in to plus a waterproof "top layer" to go over their school coat – or an extra coat. They will

also need hats and gloves Please be aware that this clothing is likely to get very wet and muddy! The Humming Bird Project in Glossop often have good quality, used children's outerwear in stock.

5. Wednesday Clubs - Start again Wednesday 29th January

Wednesday clubs begin again next week and your child should have already brought a letter home with the options. Please return the letters as soon as possible so we can allocate club spaces. Please also let us know well in advance if your children cannot attend for any reason so the office team have time to let class teachers know and arrange for your child to be at the front door ready to be collected at 3.15pm

6. Brilliant Reasons to Read at Home.

We make sure that every child reads every single day in school. However, we still see a huge difference in progress between those children who also read regularly at home and those who don't. Please help your children to have the very best chance of achieving their full academic potential by ensuring that reading is a priority at home too. Little children learn so much by sharing books with a supportive adult and it's fine for them to want to hear the same story over and over again. If your older child is reluctant to read themselves, it's OK to read to them or to take turns reading a page each. Another tip to support children's reading is to have the subtitles on when they are watching television as they will be reading without even realising it!

Here are just a few reasons to make reading a priority at home...

1. Children who read often and widely get better at it. After all, practice makes perfect in almost everything humans do, and reading is no different.



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- **2. Reading exercises our brain.** Reading is a much more complex task for the human brain rather than looking at screens, for example. Reading strengthens brain connections and builds new connections.
- **3.** Reading improves concentration. Children have to sit still and quietly so that they can focus on the story when they are reading. If they read often, they will develop the skill to do this for longer.
- <u>4. Reading teaches children about the world around them.</u> Through reading a variety of books, children learn about people, places, and events outside their first hand experiences.
- <u>5. Reading improves vocabulary and language skills.</u> Children learn new words as they read. Subconsciously, they absorb information on how to structure sentences and how to use words and other language features effectively in their writing and speaking.
- <u>6. Reading develops a child's imagination.</u> As we read, our brains translate the descriptions we read of people, places and things into pictures. While we are engaged in a story we are also imagining how a character is feeling. Young children then bring this knowledge into their everyday play.
- 7. **Reading helps children to develop empathy.** As children develop they begin to imagine how they would feel in that situation.
- **8. Reading is fun.** A book or an e-reader doesn't take up much space and is light to carry. You take it anywhere and you can never be bored if you have a book in your bag.
- <u>9. Reading is a great way to spend time together.</u> Reading together on the sofa, bedtime stories and visiting the library are just some ways of spending time together.
- <u>10. Children who read regularly achieve better in school.</u> Reading promotes achievement in all subjects, not just English. Children who are good readers tend to achieve better across the curriculum.

7. Stars of the Week and Curriculum Stars:

Congratulations to our values stars from the last couple of weeks who are:

| Nursery Conkers | Kind | Jorgie is a lovely friend to everyone in Nursery |
|--------------------|--------|---|
| | Brave | Freya joins in with all our Nursery games, challenges and activities. |
| | Honest | Leo is an honest and well behaved member of Conkers Class. |
| | Kind | Elsie is kind to everyone in Acorns Class. |
| Reception | Brave | Azora overcame her fears and was a shining star in our Christmas |
| Acorns | | Concert. |
| | Honest | Bonnie-Rae always tells the truth and as a result she has lots of |
| | | friends because they know they can trust her. |



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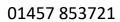
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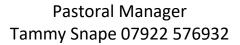


| Year 1 Silver Birch | Kind | Lola is always kind to everyone. She also helped everyone by |
|------------------------|--------------|---|
| | Kina | stepping up to take a speaking role in the nativity. |
| | Brave | Alfred is always ready to tackle challenging learning. He also |
| | Brave | bravely took on a speaking role in the nativity at the last minute. |
| | Honest | Ellia is always honest about her learning and is confident to ask |
| | Tionese | for a challenge. |
| Year 2 Willow | Kind | Darcie is a lovely friend to everyone in Willow Class and makes |
| | | sure no one is left out. |
| | Honest | Pawa is an honest learner who always strives to do her very best. |
| | Confident | Alfred showed great bravery and confidence when he took to the |
| | | stage at our recent performance at the Victorious Voices concert. |
| Year 3 | Thoughtful | Ethan thinks carefully about the impact of his actions on others. |
| Holly | | He is also a thoughtful learner who always does his best. |
| | Enthusiastic | Lincoln is so interested in our new learning project. He is very |
| | | engaged and asking lots of interesting questions. Logan is becoming so confident in his learning and is always ready |
| | Confident | to challenge himself. |
| | | Mia has a mature understanding of how an individual's actions |
| Year 4 | Thoughtful | impact on others. She also applies great thought to her work and |
| Chestnut | inoughtiui | ensures she does her best. |
| | | Eliza throws herself into every aspect of school life and always |
| | Enthusiastic | gives 100%. |
| | Cantidant | It is lovely to see how much confidence Alaska has in all her |
| | Confident | lessons. |
| Year 5 | Thoughtful | Harriet always puts others first, she is kind and thoughtful |
| Elm | | towards everyone. |
| | Enthusiastic | Tommy has made a brilliant start at Gamesley. He is showing |
| | | great enthusiasm for all his learning and has quickly made lots of |
| | | new friends. |
| | Confident | Thomas is asking and answering so many questions in class and |
| Van C | | making some great contributions to our learning. |
| Year 6 Oak | Thoughtful | Shaynie always thinks of others and takes great pleasure in |
| Uak | | making her classmates fell happy. Wyatt is a committed and enthusiastic learner in all aspects of the |
| | Enthusiastic | curriculum. |
| | Kind | Alfie is kind to children and adults alike in Orchard Cherries Class. |
| Orchard Groups | Brave | Bodie is taking on every challenge we offer him in Orchard |
| | | Apples. |
| | Motivated | Jaxon is such an enthusiastic learner and tries his best in |
| | | everything he does. |
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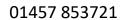


Our recent Curriculum Stars are:

| Nursery Conkers | Lucas is showing a real interest in books. |
|---|---|
| | Fatima often chooses to share books with the grown-ups in our class library corner. |
| | Oscar has loved reading "Whatever Next" in Nursery this week. |
| | Vada is making great progress in her reading lessons. |
| Reception Acorns Year 1 Silver Birch | Tillie has completed all our Christmas maths challenges. |
| | Subahan is making such good progress with his reading and phonics. |
| | Austin is flying through the levels on "Numbots" and showing great enthusiasm in our maths lessons. |
| | We are all so impressed with Hunter's reading and his determination to make progress. |
| | Annabelle challenges herself in her maths learning, not only at school but also at home. |
| | Leo is working so hard in our maths lessons and is making very pleasing progress. |
| Year 2 Willow | Harper is making great progress in reading and it is lovely to see her enjoying her |
| | books. |
| | It is lovely to see Tommy enjoying our class novel and starting to read more |
| Year 3 | himself as well. |
| Holly | Connor is making great contributions in our maths lessons. |
| , | Ben is working very hard in our maths lessons and is making such good progress |
| | as a result. |
| | We are so impressed with Fizan's attitude to learning to speak and read in English. Very well done! |
| Year 4 | Emma just loves maths and is always ready for another challenge! |
| Chestnut | Thomas is making some great contributions in our maths lessons and is making |
| | great progress. |
| | Isabelle has such a determined attitude to her learning, and this has really paid off in her fractions lessons this week. |
| Year 5 Elm | Lucas is an avid reader and this in turn is having such a positive impact on all his learning. |
| | Marshall is a talented mathematician and is able to spot and correct his own mistakes in his work. |
| Year 6 Oak | Riley always works hard in his maths lessons and puts in 100% effort. |



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| Oliver is never complacent in his maths learning, and pushes and challenges himself in every lesson. |
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| contributions to discussions about the text. |
| Flo has been very engaged in our reading lessons and made some insightful |

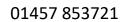
Our most recent "Respectful, Resilient and Ready" behaviour star was Elliot who gives 100% to every aspect of school life.

Dates for your Diaries

| Monday 6 th 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 | |
| Tuesday 28 th January | Year 1 Silver Birch Outdoor Learning (Forest School) today and every | |
| | Tuesday going forward | |
| Wednesday 29 th January | Year 2 Willow Outdoor Learning (Forest School) today and every | |
| Wednesday 29 January | Wednesday going forward | |
| 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 24 th 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 | |
| Indisday 5 April | Class parties during the school day for Orchard, Nursery and Reception. | |
| Friday 4 th April | School closes for Easter holiday | |
| | HOLIDAY | |
| Tuesday 22 nd April | School opens for Summer Term 1 | |
| Wednesday 30 th April | Nursery Conkers trip to Pony Patch, Glossop | |
| Thursday 1 st May | Reception Acorns trip to Pony Patch, Glossop | |
| Friday 2 nd May | Year 6 Oak Class Family Dinner Day: 12.30pm | |
| Monday 5 th May | School closed: Bank Holiday Monday | |
| Friday 9 th May | Year 5 Elm Class Family Dinner Day: 12.30pm | |



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| 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 2 nd 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 3 rd July | Year 1 Silver Birch and Year 2 Willow classes trip to Portland Basin | | |
| Friday 4 th July | Orchard Cherries Family Dinner Day 11.50am | | |
| 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 | | |
| Thursday 17" July | Class parties during the school day for Orchard, Nursery and Reception. | | |
| Friday 18 th July | School closes for summer holiday | | |
| Monday 21 st July | Staff in school: training day | | |
| Tuesday 22 nd July | Staff in school: training day | | |

Kindest Regards,

Deborah Meredith