



Newsletter
Thursday 16th January 2025
Email
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.

4. Reading teaches children about the world around them. Through reading a variety of books, children learn about people, places, and events outside their first hand experiences.

5. Reading improves vocabulary and language skills. 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.

6. Reading develops a child's imagination. 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.

9. Reading is a great way to spend time together. Reading together on the sofa, bedtime stories and visiting the library are just some ways of spending time together.

10. Children who read regularly achieve better in school. 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.
Reception Acorns	Kind	Elsie is kind to everyone in Acorns Class.
	Brave	Azora overcame her fears and was a shining star in our Christmas 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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Year 1 Silver Birch	Kind	Lola is always kind to everyone. She also helped everyone by stepping up to take a speaking role in the nativity.
	Brave	Alfred is always ready to tackle challenging learning. He also 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 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.
Year 3 Holly	Confident	Alfred showed great bravery and confidence when he took to the stage at our recent performance at the Victorious Voices concert.
	Thoughtful	Ethan thinks carefully about the impact of his actions on others. 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.
Year 4 Chestnut	Confident	Logan is becoming so confident in his learning and is always ready to challenge himself.
	Thoughtful	Mia has a mature understanding of how an individual's actions impact on others. She also applies great thought to her work and ensures she does her best.
	Enthusiastic	Eliza throws herself into every aspect of school life and always gives 100%.
Year 5 Elm	Confident	It is lovely to see how much confidence Alaska has in all her lessons.
	Thoughtful	Harriet always puts others first, she is kind and thoughtful 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.
Year 6 Oak	Confident	Thomas is asking and answering so many questions in class and making some great contributions to our learning.
	Thoughtful	Shaynie always thinks of others and takes great pleasure in making her classmates feel happy.
	Enthusiastic	Wyatt is a committed and enthusiastic learner in all aspects of the curriculum.
Orchard Groups	Kind	Alfie is kind to children and adults alike in Orchard Cherries Class.
	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.
Reception Acorns	Vada is making great progress in her reading lessons.
	Tillie has completed all our Christmas maths challenges.
	Subahan is making such good progress with his reading and phonics.
Year 1 Silver Birch	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.
Year 2 Willow	Leo is working so hard in our maths lessons and is making very pleasing progress.
	Harper is making great progress in reading and it is lovely to see her enjoying her books.
Year 3 Holly	It is lovely to see Tommy enjoying our class novel and starting to read more himself as well.
	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.
Year 4 Chestnut	We are so impressed with Fizan's attitude to learning to speak and read in English. Very well done!
	Emma just loves maths and is always ready for another challenge!
	Thomas is making some great contributions in our maths lessons and is making great progress.
Year 5 Elm	Isabelle has such a determined attitude to her learning, and this has really paid off in her fractions lessons this week.
	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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	Flo has been very engaged in our reading lessons and made some insightful contributions to discussions about the text.
	Oliver is never complacent in his maths learning, and pushes and challenges himself in every lesson.

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 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
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 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 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
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 5th 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 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 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 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