

	Friday 4th September 2026 Info@gamesley.victoriousmat.org Main Office: 01457 853721	
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Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you have all enjoyed a wonderful summer and have had the opportunity to relax and spend time together as a family. We are delighted to welcome everyone back for the start of a new school year and are looking forward to all that lies ahead.

This year marks an exciting new chapter for our school community. On 1st September, the Nursery and School officially merged and we are now proudly known as Gamesley Primary and Nursery School. This is an important milestone and reflects our commitment to providing a seamless learning journey for children from their earliest years right through to Year 6. Our new school sign will be arriving soon and we look forward to sharing this with you.

We are also delighted to be writing to you jointly for the first time. Mrs Victoria Abraham has joined us as Head of School and is already looking forward to getting to know our children, families and wider community. Together, we are excited to build on the many strengths of Gamesley Primary School and Nursery and continue providing the very best opportunities for every child to flourish.

We would also like to share some happy personal news from our staff team. During the summer holidays, Miss Sarah Oakes married Mr James Sidebottom and is now Mrs Sarah Sidebottom. We also send our congratulations to Mrs Emily Stanton, who welcomed her beautiful daughter, Edith Jane (Edie), and to Miss Abi Gordon, who welcomed her lovely son, Toby.

As always, thank you for your continued support. The positive relationships we have with our families are invaluable and help make our school such a special place to learn and grow.

With best wishes for the year ahead.

Mrs Deborah Meredith
Executive Headteacher

Mrs Victoria Abraham
Head of School

Staff Roles and Class Organisation

Executive Headteacher	Mrs Deborah Meredith
Head of School	Mrs Victoria Abraham
Assistant Headteacher	Miss Ashleigh Martin
SENCO	Mrs Jenny Parker
Pastoral Manager	Mrs Corrin Firth
Site Manager	Mr David Payne
Cleaning Team	Miss Donna Ellis, Mrs Karen Beer and Miss Marie-Clare Simpson
Wrap Around Care Team	Miss Zara Rowbottom, Miss Summer Bladen-Hovell and Mr Daryl Hersien
Kitchen Team	Mrs Jacqui Smith, Mrs Marie-Clare Simpson and Miss Beth Hughes
Midday Team	Miss Donna Ellis, Mrs Jo Goddard and the Teaching Assistant Team
School Business Manager	Mrs Sarah Sidebottom
Senior Business Assistant	Mrs Bernadette Thirlwell

Year 6 Oak Class	Miss Ashleigh Martin and Mrs Jemma Dixon
Year 5 Elm Class	Miss Emma Brown and Mrs Tracey Delaney
Year 4 Chestnut Class	Miss Clare Dangerfield and Miss Kerry Parkin
Year 3 Holly Class	Mrs Nihal Arif , Miss Dawn Stevenson and Mrs Shelly Winterbottom
Year 2 Willow Class	Mrs Katie Andrews and Miss Hannah Yates
Year 1 Silver Birch Class	Mrs Steph Clarke and Mrs Charlotte Harridance
Reception Acorns Class	Mrs Kerrie Wood Doyle and Mrs Sandra Kelly
Nursery Catkins and Conkers	Mrs Emma Kidd, Mrs. Rachael Kennington, Miss Joanne Crossland, Mrs Hazel Walmsley, Mrs Wendy Bruce and Miss Zara Rowbottom
Orchard SEND Base	Miss Lucy Maddock, Mrs Julie Banner McGrath, Mrs Hannah Winder, Miss Adele Richardson and Mr Daryl Hersien

Attendance Matters

At Gamesley Primary School and Nursery, we want every child to have the very best opportunity to learn, achieve and thrive. Regular attendance is one of the most important factors in helping children succeed at school.

Every day matters. Good attendance helps children keep up with their learning, build friendships, develop confidence and feel fully included in school life. Missing even a small amount of school can have an impact on both academic progress and wellbeing.

As a school, we have a legal responsibility to monitor attendance and follow up absences as part of our safeguarding duties. We also want to identify any concerns early so that we can work alongside families and offer support where needed.

From September:

- Attendance will be monitored daily.
- If your child is absent, parents and carers must contact school before **8.45 am** each morning of absence and provide a reason for the absence.
- Lateness will also be recorded. Parents and carers of children who arrive late will automatically receive an email each Friday detailing any late arrivals recorded that week.
- If attendance becomes a concern, a member of staff may contact you to discuss how we can help.

- Where concerns continue, attendance letters may be issued and parents or carers may be invited to attend a meeting so that we can work together to improve attendance.

If attendance is becoming difficult for any reason, please talk to us. Our approach is always one of support rather than judgement. We understand that families may face challenges from time to time and we will always do our best to work with you to identify barriers and find solutions.

Thank you for your continued support in helping your child attend school regularly and make the most of every opportunity available to them.

Healthy Snacks

As part of our continued commitment to supporting children's health and wellbeing, we are making a small change to our morning snack arrangements this year.

Research consistently shows that healthier snacks help children maintain energy levels, concentration and focus throughout the school day. With this in mind, we are encouraging children to choose nutritious options for their morning snack.

- Children in Nursery will be offered healthy snacks each day
- Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will continue to receive free fruit as part of the government fruit scheme.
- Children in Key Stage 2 can purchase fruit from our Fruit Snack Shop for 20p per piece.
- Children from Reception upwards are also welcome to bring a snack from home.

We ask that snacks brought from home are limited to:

- Fruit
- Vegetables
- A simple sandwich
- NO NUTS PLEASE!

We also kindly ask that breakfast bars, crisps, biscuits, chocolate, sweets and other confectionery items are not brought into school as morning snacks.

We appreciate that this is a change for some families and thank you in advance for your support. By working together, we can help our children develop healthy habits and ensure they are ready to learn throughout the morning.

Drinks in School

Children should bring water only in their classroom water bottles. Juice, fizzy drinks and energy drinks are not permitted in classrooms. If your child struggles to drink plain water, please speak to the school office. In exceptional circumstances, we can agree for an additional bottle containing pre-diluted, sugar-free squash to be kept in the office.

Coats Every Day Please!

Please ensure your child brings a coat to school every day. We believe that spending time outdoors is important for children's wellbeing and we play outside throughout the year, whatever the weather.

School Meals

A reminder to Year 3 families that, whilst your child will have automatically received a free school meal during Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 through the Universal Infant Free School Meals scheme, this entitlement does not automatically continue into Key Stage 2.

Many children in Years 3 to 6 may still be entitled to Free School Meals based on family circumstances. If you think your child may be eligible, or would like further information, please contact the school office in confidence.

Even for families who pay, our school meals offer excellent value at £3.25 per day (£16.25 per week). Payments can be made easily through your Arbor account.

Our meals are freshly prepared each day in our on-site 5-star rated kitchen. Every day, children can choose from:

- A meat or fish option
- A vegetarian option
- A filled jacket potato
- A selection of freshly prepared sandwiches

Children choose their meals in advance and are able to switch between packed lunches and school dinners as often as you wish, helping to ensure everyone receives their preferred option.

A dessert is served daily, including a choice of fresh fruit or organic yoghurt. Vegetables, salad and freshly baked bread are available each day, along with a selection of drinks.

We are incredibly proud of the quality of our school meals and of the hard work of our kitchen team in providing healthy, nutritious and delicious lunches for our children every day.

Family Dinner Days

Firstly, a huge thank you to all the families who have supported our Family Dinner Days. The turnout has been fantastic and these events have become a wonderful way of bringing our school community together.

As we look ahead to this year's Family Dinner Days, we are asking parents and carers to order a school meal rather than bringing food from home.

This helps us to:

- Support our hardworking kitchen team.
- Encourage children to try and enjoy school meals.
- Ensure we can safely manage allergies and food intolerances.
- Create a shared dining experience for everyone attending.

The office will send reminders to families during the week of their allocated Family Dinner Day. Please book your meal through Arbor by 9.15am on the day.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support. We look forward to sharing many meals together this year.

School Uniform

We expect all children to wear the correct school uniform. We believe that dressing smartly for school supports positive attitudes, high expectations and a sense of pride in belonging to our school community.

Items with the school logo can be purchased from Bulldog Fashion in Glossop, although plain items in school colours are equally acceptable.

School Uniform

- Royal blue sweatshirt, jumper, fleece or cardigan with or without the school logo
- Sky blue long or short-sleeved polo shirt with or without the school logo
- Dark grey tailored trousers
- Dark grey skirt or pinafore dress
- Sky blue and white checked summer dress
- Black leather or leather-style shoes or plain black water-resistant trainers

PE Kit [Year 1 upwards]

- Plain black shorts or joggers
- Plain black hoodie with or without the school logo
- Plain black T-shirt or house-colour T-shirt

Please ensure that all clothing is clearly labelled with your child's name.

Reading at Home (Years 1 to 6)

We know that regular reading at home has a huge impact on children's progress and confidence. We therefore ask all children in Years 1 to 6 to read at home at least four times each week.

Each Friday:

- Children who have read four or more times during the week will receive 4 Dojos.
- Children who have not completed their four reading sessions will spend 10 minutes of Friday break time reading in school.

We will also continue to celebrate our popular 50 Reads Challenge, with children earning certificates and rewards as they reach key milestones.

Thank you for your continued support in helping your child develop a love of reading.

Weekly Homework (Years 1 to 6)

Children will receive White Rose Maths homework every Thursday, which should be completed and returned by the following Thursday.

Each Thursday:

- Children who have completed their homework will receive 3 Dojos and enjoy going outside for lunch 5 minutes early.
- Children who have not completed their homework will use those first 5 minutes of lunchtime to finish as much as possible before going outside.

Completing homework regularly helps children to reinforce and practise the learning taking place in class. We appreciate your support in encouraging your child to complete their work on time.

Nursery is Now on Arbor!

We are pleased to let families know that Nursery bookings and payments will now be managed through Arbor. What you need to know:

- Additional childcare sessions outside funded hours must be booked and paid for through Arbor.
- Payment is required at the time of booking.
- Bookings for the following week must be completed by Friday afternoon to allow staffing to be organised appropriately.
- School meals, Early Birds and Night Owls bookings will also be managed through Arbor.

More information about logging in will be sent to Nursery families by Friday. If you experience any difficulties accessing Arbor, please contact the school office and we will be happy to help.

Dates for Your Diary

School opens	Monday 7 th September
Forest School Week	Begins Monday 28 th September
Friday 2 nd October	Year 6 Family Dinner Day
Friday 9 th October	Year 5 Family Diner Day
Wednesday 14 th October	Reception Acorns and Nursery Conkers trip to Lyme Park
Friday 16 th October	Individual photographs
Friday 16 th October	Year 4 Family Dinner Day
Wednesday 21 st October	Open Evening
Thursday 22 nd October	Spooky Class Parties in Orchard, Catkins, Conkers and Acorns Classes
Thursday 22 nd October	Spooky Disco for Years 1 to 6
Friday 23 rd October	Year 3 Family Dinner Day
Friday 23 rd October	School Closes for the half term holiday
Monday 2 nd November	School opens for Autumn Term 2
Monday 2 nd November	Parent-Teacher meetings this week
Friday 6 th November	Year 2 Family Dinner Day
Friday 13 th November	Year 1 Family Dinner Day
Friday 20 th November	Reception Acorns Family Dinner Day
Friday 27 th November	Orchard Family Dinner Day
Thursday 18 th December	Class Parties in Orchard, Catkins, Conkers and Acorns Classes
Thursday 18 th December	Christmas Disco for Years 1 to 6
Friday 19 th December	Christmas Jumper and Dinner Day
Friday 19 th December	School closes for Christmas break
Monday 4 th January	School opens for Spring Term 1
Tuesday 26 th January	Years 4 and 5 at Young Voices Concert