
Dear Parents,

Welcome to our first newsletter of the school year. I hope you all had a restful summer, spending time with family and friends.

There is a lot of useful information in the newsletter, making it quite long, so you may want to have a cup of tea and biscuit while you read it. At the end of the newsletter are also the key dates for September and October.

The staff and I are looking forward to welcoming everyone back for the start of the new school year on Monday 7th September.

Until then, enjoy the rest of the summer holiday.

Warmest regards

Mrs Bosley
Executive Headteacher

September 2026



The Acorn Partnership

Marston Montgomery Primary School

Long Lane C of E Primary School

Welcome

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new children and their families to our schools. We are all looking forward to getting to know you.

I would also like to welcome Mrs Coward and Mrs Richardson who are both joining the team and will primarily work at Long Lane.



If you have a question for the office, please contact Mrs Day by telephone or email so that she can deal with your request.

Mrs Day works every day and will usually be in one of the schools during the school day.

How to contact Mrs Day, -

Email - cday@acorn.derbyshire.sch.uk

LLPS Phone – 01332 824339

MMPS Phone – 01889 590373

From September 2026, all schools in England are expected to operate as mobile phone-free environments. I have shared below what this means for our children, parents and staff.

Children

Currently, on the rare occasion when children bring a mobile phone to school they are then stored in the school office for the day and returned to the owner at the end of the day. We will continue to use this procedure in September.

Parents

When on site parents should keep mobile phones in their bags and only take them out to use if they are in an office / staff room. On occasions when parents are allowed to take photographs, this permission will be communicated in advance by school staff.

Staff

Staff will keep their mobile phones in their bags or in the office / staff room. Staff mobile phones will only be used at break times in the office / staff room. If staff need to use their phone at another time they will speak to either Mrs Bosley or the lead teacher.

Attendance

Absence procedures

If your child is too unwell to attend school, please contact school by telephone or email before 9.00am and inform us of the reason for their absence and when you expect them to return to school.

If emailing, please include Mrs Day, Mrs Bosley and the class teacher.

If telephoning, please leave a message on the school absence line. Thank you.

Attendance

Regular attendance at school helps children to achieve the best they can.

Please see below for more information.



Attendance

		Every Day Counts School and future success starts with good attendance!				
Very Good and Good Attendance The best chance of success in learning and with friendships.		Concerning Attendance Less chance of success. A reduced chance of making academic progress and maintaining friendships.		Seriously Concerning Attendance Your child will find learning more difficult, academic progress will be minimal and friendships are more difficult		
No Absences	10 days of missed learning	19 days of missed learning	25.5 days of missed learning	29 days of missed learning	38+ days of missed learning	
190 days of education	180 days of education	171 days of education	164.5 days of education	161 days of education	152 days of education	
100%	95%	90%	87%	85%	80%	
There are 365 days in a year. A school year is 190 days. This leaves 175 days to spend on family time, visits, holidays, shopping and appointments.						
Daily lateness equates to...		<u>5 minutes per day</u> 3 days of lost learning over the year	<u>10 minutes per day</u> 6 days of lost learning over the year	<u>15 minutes per day</u> 10 days of lost learning over the year		

Attendance

Late arrival / Early collection / Late collection

From September, we will be introducing a form that must be completed whenever a child arrives at school late (after 8:55am) or is collected early (before 3:30pm). This will help us to maintain accurate records and ensure the wellbeing of all children.

Late collection at the end of the school day

We appreciate that unexpected situations can arise and may occasionally result in you being late to collect your child at 3:30pm.

While we understand that emergencies happen, repeated late collections can impact staff and school procedures. Therefore, if your child is collected late more than once within a half term, they will be included in our after school club (ASC) and the relevant ASC charge will apply.





Attendance

Holidays

The recent guidance remains in place regarding holidays taken in term time. Holidays are in no circumstances authorised by this school. Unauthorised absence due to holidays will result in a fine being issued.

I'll go on holiday and pay the fine – education penalty notices have now been capped nationally at **two fines** within any three-year period. After this, other action like a parenting order or prosecution has to be considered and this could mean a fine of up to £2500.

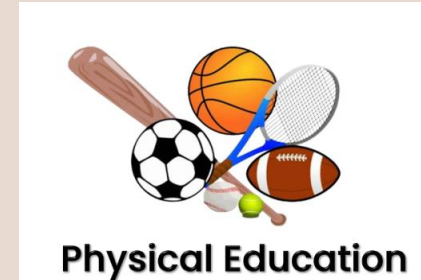
What is an unauthorised absence – a child being kept off school unnecessarily or without good reason. Term time holiday is not a justified reason to take your child out of school.

Any unauthorised holidays (for 1 day or longer) will be passed on to Derbyshire county council and a fine may be issued.

Please complete a holiday form if you have a holiday booked. **Holiday forms must be completed at least two weeks before the holiday.** Parents who take their children on holiday without permission will incur an unauthorised absence for their child. These remain on the child's record and will be monitored for further action by the education welfare service.

To ensure children can take part in PE whenever conditions are favourable, all PE kits should remain in school throughout the term.

PE kits will be sent home at the start of each school holiday and should be returned at the beginning of the following term.



Children will need the following items in their PE kit, -

- ✓ Blue PE shorts
- ✓ Blue, round neck t-shirt
- ✓ Trainers
- ✓ Socks

To help with storage, PE kits should be in a drawstring bag, thank you.

Please ensure that all kit is named clearly so that we can return it to its owner if separated.

BC and ASC

Booking Process for BC and ASC

There are two steps you need to take when booking our wrap around care.

1. Please book BC and ASC on Parent Pay.
2. Please email Mrs Day and Mrs Bosley details of your booking, e.g. dates and times – Monday, ASC collection at 5pm.

Bookings need to be made 7 days in advance.

If you would like to pay for either BC or ASC using the Government tax free childcare vouchers please contact Mrs Day for more information (cday@acorn.Derbyshire.sch.uk).

	Start Time	Cost
Breakfast Club	8:00am	£6.00
	8:15am	£4.00
	8:30am	£2.00 (no breakfast)
After School Club	4:30pm	£5.00
	5:00pm	£8.00
	5:30pm	£12.50

Late Collection

Late collection from ASC will be charged into the next timing. For example, if a booking is made to collect at 5pm but a child is not collected until 5:05pm the additional £4.50 will be charged to help cover staff costs.

Free School Meals

Your child might be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- ✓ Income support
- ✓ Income-based jobseeker's allowance
- ✓ Income-related employment and support allowance
- ✓ Support under part VI of the immigration and asylum act 1999
- ✓ The guaranteed element of pension credit
- ✓ Child tax credit (provided you're not also entitled to working tax credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- ✓ Working tax credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for working tax credit
- ✓ Universal credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get).

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also receive free school meals.

What do I need to do?

We encourage all parents/guardians to apply, whether they believe they are eligible or not. Eligibility criteria can change, and many families are surprised to find that they qualify.

Checking only takes a few moments, only needs to be done once, and can be done either by sharing, in confidence: *parent/carer full name, National Insurance Number, parent/carer date of birth, child/ren full name, child/ren date of birth*, with Mrs Day or by using the links provided in the next slide.

What does free school meals (FSM) mean?

While you remain entitled to receive FSM your child will receive a school meal for free. The funding also gives the pupils Pupil Premium funding. This is £1455 each year which is used by the school to support your child's learning, this can mean 1-to-1 or small group support for interventions, support to pay for school trips, support to buy school uniform, help funding clubs (e.g. After school club).

Why do I need to apply?

Parents/Guardians FAQ regarding Free School Meals and Pupil Premium

Derbyshire encourage all parents and students to be on our free school meal database. Even if you think are not currently eligible, by applying for benefit related free school meals (FSM), we can automatically check your eligibility every month. So if your income decreases below the eligibility threshold in future, your child will quickly be identified as eligible.

Eligibility for FSM increases the funding given to schools (known as Pupil Premium or PP) and ensures free meals as well as other possible offers such as holiday club activities, help with school trips, music lessons etc are accessible and available to families.

What information must I provide to apply?

We just need either or both parent's NI Number, DOB and Full Name as well as the full names and DOB of all the children within the family.

If my child moves school, do I need to reapply?

No – once you have applied you never need to apply again whilst in a Derbyshire Setting – we follow your child from nursery, through primary, through secondary until they leave at age 16, 17 or 18.

If you move to a different County you would need to reapply with that Local Authority but we can provide evidence of previous eligibility in order that you will receive transitional protection.

Protection

Any child who has been eligible for FSM at any point on or after 01.04.18 will remain eligible until at least 31.08.26. This is due to protection that the government has put in place whilst Universal Credit is fully rolled out. Protection also includes eligibility for things like grocery voucher schemes, Holiday Activity Funding (HAF) and help with school transport.

From September 2026 The Government have announced they are changing the eligibility criteria for free school meals which will ensure that additional families will be able to receive them. We will keep the schools informed of changes in eligibility status via our live reports.

Household Support Fund (HSF) Grocery Vouchers

Benefit related FSM eligible students will also receive any grocery vouchers distributed as part of the HSF scheme. Derbyshire do not provide these in the school holidays, but do use HSF funding to provide vouchers at other times in the year. Please make sure your school has the correct email address/mobile number for you stored on their systems to help make sure you receive your voucher. For more info visit www.derbyshire.gov.uk/householdsupportfund

Do I need to contact you if my circumstances change – such as my partner moves in or I increase my hours at work?

No - our monthly check will pick up any changes to eligibility. You do need to get in touch and update us if your surname changes for any reason.

You can also contact us if you have other children starting school. We can add these to your existing family record so you won't have to fill the application form out once again.

Free School Meals



The Acorn Partnership
Warston Montgomery Primary School
Long Lane C of E Primary School

Please See the following posters with more information on Free School Meals and how to check your eligibility.



PARENTS & CARERS

FREE
MEALS
APPLY NOW

On Universal Credit? Your child could eat **FREE** at school.

Every family receiving Universal Credit now qualifies for Free School Meals – yes, even in Year 3 and above.

 2 min to apply

 No reapplying

 Checked monthly

APPLY TODAY

derbyshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals



Other Information

Medical conditions

If your child has a medical condition an 'individual health care plan' will need to be completed and the appropriate medication will need to be in school (e.g. Inhalers for asthma). If your child already has medication in school, please ensure it is in date.

If your child already has an 'individual health care plan' these will be reviewed annually. If there are any changes to your child's medical needs please inform us so we can meet with you to review the plan.

School policy documents

Both school websites contain many of our policy documents for you to access. If you require a paper copy or cannot find the policy you are looking for, please contact the school office.

Emailing school

In order to support everyone's work-life balance, please remember that staff will usually reply to an email within three working days between the hours of 8:30am and 4:30pm. If your query is urgent please speak to a member of staff. Thank you

Other Information

Swimming

This academic year, children in the Meadow Class will be swimming at Ashbourne pool during the autumn term. Letters will be sent to parents on Monday 7th September with more information.

The first swimming session is on Tuesday 14th September.



Secondary Open Evenings

At present Ecclesbourne, Murray Park and QEGS have not added dates for their Year 5/6 open evenings to their websites.

Parents will need to keep an eye out on the websites for the date.

If we are notified of the dates we will let you know.

Pencil cases

The children **do not** need pencil cases when they return to school in September. We will provide all the equipment they need.

The 4 Cs of Online Safety

A simple way to help our children stay safe, smart and happy online.

The 4 Cs are four important rules that help children make good choices when they are using the internet, apps and devices. You can use them at home too!



C Content

Think about what you see online. Not everything is true, kind or age-appropriate.



Tip for families:
Help children choose age-appropriate games, apps and websites.

C Contact

Be careful who you talk to online. People aren't always who they say they are.



Tip for families:
Remind children to only talk to people they know and trust in real life.

C Conduct

Be kind and respectful online. The same rules apply as in real life.



Tip for families:
Encourage positive comments and remind children that words can hurt.

C Consider

Think before you click, post or share. Once it's online, it can be hard to take back.



Tip for families:
Encourage children to pause and think: "Is this kind? Is it true? Is it safe to share?"



Let's work together

By learning and using the 4 Cs, we can help our children enjoy the online world safely and responsibly. Talk, support and listen – you make the biggest difference.





Term Dates

2026-2027

School Calendar September 2025 to July 2026

Denotes school holiday dates

Denotes INSET days

September '26						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October '26						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November '26						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December '26						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

January '27						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February '27						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

March '27						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

April '27						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

May '27						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

June '27						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

July '27						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

August '27						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Date	Time	Event /Information
04/09/26		INSET Day: School closed for staff training
07/09/26		School reopens at 8:55am
12/09/26		Village Hall Produce Show in the Village Hall
25/09/26	2:30pm to 3:30pm	MacMillan Coffee Morning – more information to follow
07/10/26		Ploughing match – all children will attend the ploughing match. Look out for further information
12/10/26	9:00am	Harvest Service – families are welcome to join us for our service in church
15/10/26		Flu vaccinations – look out for more information
17/10/26	10:00am	Village Hall Coffee Morning in the Village Hall
22/10/26	3:30pm to 6:00pm	Parents' Evening
23/10/26		Joint Day – all children at Marston.
26 to 30/10/26		Half Term

Date / Time	Event /Information
10/09/26 17/09/26 24/09/26 01/10/26 08/10/26 15/10/26 22/10/26	Marston Montgomery KiddiActiv – pre-school children and a parent / carer are warmly invited to join us and Primary Stars for a fun-filled session in Marston Montgomery Village Hall.
11/09/26 18/09/26 02/10/26 09/10/26 16/10/26	Long Lane Little Monkeys – pre-school children and a parent / carer are warmly invited to join us for a fun-filled session with the Garden Class. The session runs between 2:30pm and 3:30pm.
15/09/26 22/09/26 29/09/26 06/10/26 13/10/26	Meadow Class Swimming.