



The Acorn Partnership

Marston Montgomery Primary School
Lung Lane C of E Primary School

Newsletter – February 2026

Dear Parents / Carers,

As we step into the February half term, we're excited to celebrate a well-earned pause and all the opportunities it brings. Hopefully, after half term, we will see signs of spring emerging the mornings will feel a little brighter, early bulbs like snowdrops and crocuses will start to grow and the birdsong will grow livelier each day. These small but hopeful will bring the promise of warmer days.

I hope you all enjoy the half term holiday and we look forward to seeing you all again on Monday 23rd February.

Internet Safety

Please see below information for safer internet use at home.

Top Tips for parents and carers

For parents and carers: Enjoy going online together and talk regularly about your family's online lives

The internet is amazing and can help us all to access information and entertainment. Spend time online with your child to understand how they are using technology and talk together about the good and the bad parts of being online. Talk about your own experiences and find other opportunities to get the conversation started, like stories in the news. Make sure your child knows they can talk to you about anything that they see or experience online.

Understand where AI technology is being used and the impact it can have

From summaries on search engines, to voice assistants and photo editing tools, AI powered features are being added to many of the apps and devices we use day-to-day. Look out for information and warnings notifying you where AI technology is in use or where content has been created using AI. Help your child to recognise these too. Remember, AI can make some tasks simpler but may also collect data about you and your family, or share unreliable information, so consider how to use it safely and responsibly.

Recognise what safe and responsible use of technology looks like

To use technology, including AI, safely and responsibly, it's important to reflect on the potential impact it can have on yourself and others. How does your use of technology make you feel? How can you use technology with kindness and respect for others? Does your use of technology benefit you or help you build skills? How might it affect you now, and in the future? Ask these questions of your own internet use, as well as your family's.

Stay informed with free resources

Young people have told us about the incredible ways they're using AI, but also about their worries for what it means for the future. Issues such as the environmental impact of AI, what it means for job prospects, and the threat of deepfakes can seem scary but remember, you don't need to have all the answers. Stay informed using free resources like those produced for Safer Internet Day and talk to your child about their concerns about new technology – you can always work together to find more information.

Know where to go for help if something goes wrong

Like any technology, using AI comes with risks. Some AI tools, like ChatGPT, have built-in reporting features where you can raise issues such as inappropriate or harmful content. Many social media platforms also allow you to report content you suspect has been created with AI. Additionally, AI generated content can break the law. If you see illegal images that show child sexual abuse (including AI generated images), you should report these to the IWF and on the platform where they are being shared. If someone creates an image of you or your child using AI these can also be reported on the platform where they are being shared, and AI generated nude images can be reported to Stop NCII (for images of adults) and Report Remove or Take It Down (for images of under 18s).

For parents and carers of 3-7s

This Safer Internet Day, we are starting a conversation about how to use AI technology safely and responsibly. Whilst your 3 to 7 year old may not yet be ready to use the internet independently, use our top tips to start good online habits now that will help keep them safe in the future.

Enjoy going online together

Spending time online together with family is an important learning experience for the youngest internet users. Not only will you both enjoy the quality time together, but you can supervise their usage and guide them to make the safest choices.

Talk about their online experiences

Help give your child the words to explain what they're experiencing online by starting conversations about the internet and technology as early as possible. Talking regularly about what they love doing online, as well as any worries they may have, will help establish this habit and mean they're more likely to come to you for help as they get older.

Make use of settings and controls

Parental controls and other safety settings can help protect your child from online harms, including upsetting or inappropriate content. Think about how your child uses technology, for example if you have a smart TV or a voice assistant at home, and explore specific settings to support your household.

Introduce simple ideas about AI technology

You don't need to be a computing expert to start conversations at home about AI. Explaining that a voice assistant is a computer, not a person, or helping your child to understand that not everything they see online is real, is a good start. Encourage them to ask questions about the technology in their lives, and even if you don't know the answers, you can find them out together.

Make sure they know they can always come to you

The most important thing for your child to know is that you are always there to support them, online and offline. Encourage them to talk to you if anything they experience makes them feel worried or upset, and show them they can trust you to stay calm, listen and help make things better.

Farewell to Miss Dale

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Miss Dale for her hard work and dedication over the years to both our schools, she will be greatly missed. I am sure you will all join me in wishing her good luck in her new adventure.

School Business Officer (SBO)

On 11th February, we held interviews for the role of School Business Officer and have offered the position to the successful candidate. We are currently completing the required employment checks, after which they will take up the post.

In the meantime, we will continue to receive support from Miss Baldwin (formerly Mrs Forman), Mr Hopkinson (from the DDAT Central Team), and Mr Jones and Mrs Redmond, who are both experienced SBMs from other DDAT schools.

Please continue to email any queries to me, and I will ensure they are directed to the appropriate person. We kindly ask for your patience, as response times may be slightly longer than usual during this interim period.

Attendance

As always, attendance continues to be a focus for schools. At both of our schools we have reviewed our target for overall attendance to 97%. This half-term we are achieving this target with the following overall attendance at each school, -



School	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1 (to 06/02/26)	Year to date
LLPS	97.4%	95.7%	94.5%	96.1%
MMPS	98.7%	97%	96.0%	97.7%

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.

From January, if you are emailing to inform us of an absence please include ALL of the staff below, -

LLPS	Mrs Bosley: tbosley@acorn.derbyshire.sch.uk Mrs Norcross: lnorcross@acorn.derbyshire.sch.uk Mr Lovett: jlovett@acorn.derbyshire.sch.uk
MMPS	Mrs Bosley: tbosley@acorn.derbyshire.sch.uk Mrs Thomas: lthomas@acorn.derbyshire.sch.uk Mrs Sheen: nsheen@acorn.derbyshire.sch.uk

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

Events

A list of events for the spring 2 term is at the end of this newsletter. Please note some dates may change or be added. During the first few weeks of term, these dates will be added to the website calendars.

Warm regards

Teresa Bosley
Executive Head Teacher

Long Lane C.E. Primary School



Long Lane – Events in Spring 1 2026

Little Monkeys

This half term, we have thoroughly enjoyed welcoming some of our friends back to Little Monkeys. It has been wonderful to be together again and to take part in both our indoor and outdoor learning sessions.

During our outdoor learning time, we had great fun exploring the den-making equipment. The children worked brilliantly together to build a fantastic den, showing excellent teamwork and creativity. Once it was complete, we enjoyed spending time playing together inside our creation. We also made the most of the outdoor space by riding the bikes and scooters, developing our coordination and confidence.

In our indoor sessions, we explored all areas of the classroom and enjoyed working alongside the Reception children. We also completed some exciting activities linked to our topic on animals, which sparked lots of curiosity and enthusiasm.

FOLL: Coffee and Cake – 22/01/26

A huge thank you to everyone who helped, whether this was making cakes, selling cakes on the day or buying and eating the cakes! The event raised a fabulous £75 for FOLL funds.

Garden Class: Fundamentals Sports Event

Garden Class thoroughly enjoyed taking part in the annual Rural Sports Partnership Sports Morning at Ashbourne Leisure Centre.

During the morning, we had the opportunity to try a variety of different sporting activities, including curling, tai chi, golf and archery. The event gave everyone the chance to develop new skills, build confidence and most importantly, have lots of fun!

It was a fantastic experience for all involved, and the children represented the schools brilliantly throughout the morning.

Meadow Class trip to Cadbury World: 03/02/26

Meadow class experienced a fun and educational day out to Cadburys world where they learnt about the Mayans who introduced the world to chocolate, and how production has changed over the years. The day was a great introduction to their history learning after half term. They also importantly got to try some chocolate for themselves.

Parents' Evening 11/02/26

Thank you to all the parents who attended Parents' Evening. We truly appreciate you taking the time to meet with us and discuss your child's progress. Your support and partnership play a vital role in their success, and it was wonderful to share their achievements with you.

Joint Day – Sports Focus 13/02/26

The children enjoyed a fabulous day of wheelchair sports. They learnt how to control the wheelchair and most importantly how to be inclusive. They had fun dancing and playing tag. Meadow Class then upskilled and had a game of basketball! It was a great hit with all the children -here's to the next enrichment sports day.

Long Lane – Events in Spring 2026

16/02/26 to 20/02/26		Half Term Holiday	
23/02/26	School reopens	8:55am	
03/03/26	Meadow Class – Sportshall Finals	PM	A letter will be sent out with more information after half term
05/03/26	World Book Day		Children may come in fancy dress
13/03/26	Mother's Day Service	2:45pm	Families and friends are welcome to join us in church as we celebrate our wonderful mums
17/03/26	Balance Ability for EYFS	1:00pm	All children in EYFS will take part in this at Long Lane
19/03/26	FOLL Movie Night	3:30pm	Look out for more information closer to the time
23 & 24/03/26	DT Days	All day	
27/03/26	Easter Service	2:30pm	Families and friends are welcome to join us in church as we celebrate Easter
30/03/26 to 10/04/26		Easter Holiday	
13/04/26	School reopens	8:55am	

Long Lane – Events in Spring 2026: Regular Events

Date	Event	Time	Where
26/02/26 05/03/26 12/03/26	Primary Stars – lunchtime PE	12:30pm	Children will need their PE kits in school
19/03/26 26/03/26	Primary Stars – PE lesson	1:15pm	
27/02/26 13/03/26	Little Monkeys	1:30pm to 3:15pm	Outdoor Learning Session – all families with pre-school children are welcome to come along. Garden Class children need to come with a change of clothes to go outside in.
26/03/26	Meadow Class Forest School	9:30am to 11:30pm	<p>Meadow Class children will participate in a Forest School session.</p> <p>The children need to arrive at school dressed ready for forest school. Please send their PE kit into school so they can change into this ready for PE in the afternoon, thank you.</p> <p>When the children are taking part in Forest School they will need to bring suitable clothing, e.g. wellington boots, raincoats, gloves, hats etc. Forest School sessions happen whatever the weather is like so children MUST be appropriately dressed! Please take clothing home after each session.</p>
06/03/26 20/03/26	Little Monkeys	1:30pm to 3:15pm	Stay and Play Session – all families with pre-school children are welcome to come along