



Dear Parent/Carer,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome you back to the new academic year. It has been a pleasure to welcome both our new and existing families after the summer holiday and we hope that you all managed to enjoy the break from routine.

I would like to start by extending our thanks to all the parents and children who played such a big part in making Mrs Whirlledge's final week as our Headteacher so memorable. She was very touched by the kind words and generosity she received.

I would also like to thank our PTA and the generosity of our parent body. Our new outdoor gym equipment was paid for by the PTA and the children are thrilled with it.

Over the course of this year, our whole school community will be working towards becoming a **UNICEF UK Rights Respecting School**. The Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA) is based on the principles of the **United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC)**. This international agreement sets out the fundamental rights of all children – such as the right to learn, to be safe, to be heard and to be treated fairly. By embedding these rights into our ethos and daily practice, we will continue to strengthen our school community and ensure that every child feels respected, valued and empowered. We hope your children will share their learning with you and we look forward to sharing more about our journey towards this award.

We have an exciting term ahead and we continue to be grateful for your support and look forward to working in partnership with you.

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## Granny T

At the beginning of the summer holidays one of our much-loved volunteers Jenny Tovell – affectionately known as Granny T – passed away. Granny T was a familiar face on our playground, collecting many members of the Tovell and Elks family over the years. She also brought her generosity and marvellous sense of humour into school each week when she volunteered to read with many of our children. She will be deeply missed and the whole school community would like to pass their best wishes to the Tovell and Elks families.

## Pantomime

We are pleased to let you know that a whole school trip to see the pantomime Dick Whittington has been planned for Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> December at Derby Arena. The cost of the trip is £17.90 which includes the theatre ticket and the cost of the coach to get there and back. Please can we request that payment is made by Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October as we need to confirm numbers and pay for the theatre tickets in advance. If your child is eligible for Free School Meals, the cost of the trip will be covered.

## After school wraparound care and sports club



The Progressive Sport after school wraparound club started on Monday this week. If you would like to book your child into after school care for one or more days each week, please follow the link below:

[Link to Progressive Sport portal](#)



Premier Education are offering after-school sports clubs from week commencing 15<sup>th</sup> September 2025, the following clubs will run: Tuesday – football, Wednesday – gymnastics and Friday – basketball. If you would like to book your child onto any of these clubs, please follow the link below:

[www.premier-education.com](http://www.premier-education.com)

## School Attendance

**Sickness Absence and Attendance:** If your child is unwell, please contact the school using the absence message line by calling the school by telephone (01332 862344) before 8.55am. Please do not inform us of your child(ren)'s absence by using Class Dojo.

Please note that exclusion periods will apply to certain illnesses.

**Attendance, Appointments and Leave of Absence requests:** Our attendance policy sets out our approach to attendance at school. Every school day counts for your child and missed time means missed learning and opportunities. There are 365 days each year; of these 190 are school days which leaves 175 non school days for holidays, family time and appointments.

Requests for leave of absence will only be authorised for rare and exceptional circumstances.

Requests for leave of absence for holidays are only likely to be agreed for the most extenuating of circumstances. The majority of requests are likely to attract a penalty notice.

When children are away from school, or being collected early from school, they almost always tell us exactly what they have been up to, or where they are going – and it goes without saying that we love hearing about their adventures! Sometimes, what we hear from the children doesn't quite match the reason that school have been given about the absence; putting children, and school staff, in a difficult position. In the spirit of openness, we ask that parents/carers share with school the reason for any absence and understand why school will request written proof of appointments when they take place during school time.

If your child's attendance drops below **94%**, you will be contacted by letter to discuss this. Where attendance drops below **90%**, parents may be eligible for fines from the Local Authority.

## School Uniform reminder for September 2025

# Uniform Policy

We believe that wearing a school uniform helps promote a sense of pride, equality, and belonging among our pupils. Please find below the details of our uniform requirements:

## Everyday School Uniform



- Blue jumper or cardigan (with or without the school logo)
- White polo shirt
- Grey trousers, grey skirt, grey pinafore or grey shorts (weather appropriate)
- Black shoes or plain black trainers
- No jewellery except for small stud earrings (which must be removed or covered for PE).
- Long hair should be tied back for safety



On PE days, children should come to school in their PE kit:

- School jumper (the blue school jumper)
- T-shirt in your child's house colour
- Black shorts or black joggers/leggings
- Trainers suitable for physical activity

Kinder	Haddon
Derwent	Strutt

PE kit should be practical and weather-appropriate. In colder months, children may wear layers under their jumper. Please avoid sending your child in branded items.

- Please contact the school office if you have any difficulty obtaining uniform items.

## Dates for the diary

Date	What's On
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 5 meet the teacher, 4.30 -5pm
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 4 meet the teacher, 4.30 -5pm
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 6 meet the teacher, 4.30 – 5pm
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 3 open classroom 3 – 3.30pm (you are welcome to come and see where your child sits and to see the classrooms).
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	Parents evening
27 <sup>th</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> October	Half-term break
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents evening
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	Dick Whittington pantomime at Derby Arena