

As we move into the second half of the Autumn term, I feel incredibly proud to be part of the Earl Sterndale CE Primary School community. The past few weeks have flown by, and it has been a joy to begin to get to know the children, staff and families. The new Reception pupils have quickly become an integral part of the school; they are confident and happy, learning and growing alongside Year 1 and 2. At the other end of school the Year 6 pupils are frequently demonstrating how mature they are, taking on responsibilities and helping the younger pupils. Class 2 have been particularly excited about our new Kapow curriculum lessons and the School Parliament selection process. I hope you all have a fantastic half-term break, and look forward to seeing everyone back in school on Monday 3rd November.

Sarah Humpleby



The response to the suggestion of an active uniform was almost unanimously positive. We are therefore asking parents to begin moving to a full-time active uniform as soon as possible. This will consist of the current school sweatshirt and polo shirt, with black leggings or joggers (all pupils are welcome to wear either of these options) worn EVERY DAY. Footwear needs to be black, sturdy and suitable for physical activity. We understand that it will take time for this change to come into full effect, but expect it to be fully phased in by the end of this academic year. PE days will remain the same, though we will be taking the opportunity to be physically active as frequently as possible once children are suitably dressed more often.

***Class 1 Tuesday and Wednesday**

***Class 2 Friday**

Please note ALL clothing in school, including wellies, hats, coats etc., needs to be clearly named.



It was lovely to see so many family and friends in the church for our Harvest Festival. We all felt really proud of how confidently the children performed, and hope you enjoyed the celebration. Thankyou for all the generous contribution of Harvest boxes which have been donated to local elderly residents and Buxton foodbank.

We are sorry to say goodbye to Mr De Pledge, who has made the decision to leave his role at school for health reasons. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his commitment to the school and am sure he will be missed.

Swimming dates

Remaining sessions for this term are as follows:

4th November, 11th November, 18th November, 25th November and 2nd December



Development Update



School staff have been very positive about our new curriculum schemes. The purchase of these has enabled us to ensure each year group has clearly identified key skills and knowledge to work on, and the lessons are presented in an engaging way.

Our weekly *Headteacher's Hot Chocolate* treat has been very popular with the children, celebrating positive behaviour and kindness.

At our last Governing Body meeting it was agreed that we would move to a Circle Model. This is a great way to ensure all our governors have the best opportunity to learn about our school and support its development.

I am delighted to announce that the following pupils have been elected to our School Parliament.



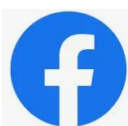
Prime Ministers: Daisy & Caser Deputy Ministers: Grace & Connie

Cabinet Members: Ellie, Layla, Stan & George M

Meetings will begin after half-term

Social Media

Our school Facebook and Instagram pages are now live. Please like and follow us if you want to stay updated.



[Earl Sterndale CE Primary School](#)



[earlsterndaleceprimary](#)

On Monday 9th December all pupils will be participating in the Merry Mile, in aid of Blythe House. Parents/carers are welcome to join us jogging (or walking) around the village at 9am. Sponsorship forms will be sent home nearer the date, and we will be receiving a special visit from the Blythe Bear to cheer us on.



We're excited to let you know that Earl Sterndale CE Primary School will be transitioning from ParentHub to ClassDojo for parent communication later this year. ClassDojo will help us share updates, celebrate achievements and stay connected more easily. Please keep an eye out for further information.



Parents' Evening

Meetings will take place on 12th November. We look forward to seeing you.



We are working with Let's Go Zero to reduce our carbon footprint. So far this has included improving our waste and recycling processes, joining the National Education Nature Park and auditing our energy use. We will soon be working with all pupils to create a vision statement, and developing stronger links to climate change and sustainability within our curriculum.

Our wraparound care is proving very popular. Please ensure you give us plenty of notice so that we can arrange staff to run the sessions.

Email clubs@earlsterndale.derbyshire.sch.uk by 1pm on Friday to book Breakfast and After School Club for the following week.

Breakfast Club is from 8.20am-8.50am. Unfortunately, funding from the Department for Education has now ended. We will therefore be charging for this from after half-term. The rate will be £2.50 per child per half-hour.

After School Club 3.30-4.30/4.30-5.30pm. £5 per child per hour.

Thank you to all those who responded to the form about our extra-curricular offer. There was a sufficient level of interest to explore things further, so I have met with a number of independent providers, as well as speaking with school staff. I hope that we will have something on offer later in the year, and will be in touch with further information as soon as possible. **Writing Club will be starting for Years 5 and 6 on Mondays, from the 10th November with Mrs Cross.** This will help your children develop their creativity and improve writing skills before the end of KS2 in a fun way.

Fundraising Committee update

We have our Bingo Evening on Friday 24th November from 6pm in school. Thank you to everyone who donated bingo prizes at our recent non-uniform day.

There will be a Christmas Wreath Making evening in school on Monday 1st December. This event will be for adults only. Further details will be circulated after the half-term break.

The Fundraising Committee have very generously purchased a new set of Phonics books for Class 1.

Thank you to everyone for supporting our fundraising events!

Upcoming dates

Mon 3rd Nov	Back to school
Fri 14th Nov	Children in Need (non-uniform day)
Mon 9th Dec	Merry Mile in aid of Blythe House (9am)
Thurs 11th Dec	Christmas Jumper Day
Weds 17th Dec	Christmas Lunch for pupils
Thurs 18th Dec	Nativity (2pm and 6pm)



CURRICULUM

Class 1

We will start the new half-term with activities based around the theme of Bonfire Night, before starting our new *Pathways to Writing* unit. Reception will be exploring the book *Someone Just Like You* by Helen Docherty, focusing on developing vocabulary and becoming more confident at forming some letters. Years 1 and 2 will be working on *Nibbles the Book Monster* by Emma Yarlett looking at writing sentences with accurate punctuation, using conjunctions (and, because etc), writing at increasing length and developing independence.

In Maths, Reception are focusing on Numbers to 5. Year 1 and 2 are developing their skills with Addition & Subtraction within 10 and beyond.

We will all be learning about different types of shapes and their properties. The children will continue developing their phonics skills through our delivery of the Monster Phonics programme. For more information about this look [here](#).

In other subjects we will also cover Remembrance Day, using nature for Art, exploring junk modelling and much more!

We have two more Forest School sessions left on Monday 10th and 17th November.

Class 2

Class 2 will be very busy this half-term! In Maths, Years 3 and 4 will be covering 'Addition and Subtraction', 'Multiplication and Division' and 'Area'. Years 5 and 6 will be studying 'Multiplication and Division' and 'Fractions'.

English will continue to be centred around high-quality texts, with Years 3 and 4 studying 'Leon and the Place Between' and Years 5 and 6 studying 'Young, Gifted and Black' and 'Race to the Frozen North', all with the aim of writing diaries.

'Why do people live near volcanoes?' will be the focus for our Geography-themed Topic; we will be studying all things 'rock', including the layers of the Earth, the formation of mountains and the features of volcanoes. In RE, we will be investigating the question 'Why do people pray?' and PSHE will cover the topic of 'Being Me'. In Music, we will be practicing our instrumental skills and learning music from South Africa, and in Design & Technology we will be studying Electrical Systems. Computing will cover online safety and connecting computers through networks. We will be continuing our swimming sessions on Tuesdays, with our other PE session remaining on Fridays.

For more information about your child's learning, visit our school website [here](#).