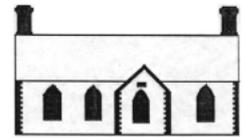


Earl Sterndale C of E Primary School

Newsletter

January 2026



Welcome to the Spring term 2026! We hope you have all had a restful break and are ready for the term ahead. It is likely that we will see some challenging weather in the weeks ahead, so please make sure you check communications from school regularly in case of closures/late openings. We will always do our best to open, but have some unique challenges in terms of access to the school and surrounding area. Our priority will always be the safety of pupils and staff.

Warm regards, *Mrs Sarah Humpleby*

Our new Active uniform has been popular with parents and pupils. It has been lovely to see the children looking smart and ready to move! Please try to ensure children have suitable footwear for this purpose. Thank you.

Class 2 will be taking part in Making Space at Buxton Opera House on 24th March. We are delighted that CC from Re:Bound Dance Collective will be working with the children to develop their performance, starting on Tuesday 3rd February. This will take place every Tuesday for six weeks. After Easter, Class 1 will have Dance sessions, also led by CC.

We have had a good response to the possibility of a Dance Club, and hope we will be able to run this after February break for 1 half term. Keep an eye out for further information.

We use some fantastic online platforms to support your child's learning, as they progress through school.

- **TT Rockstars** – Helps children build speed and confidence with times tables through fun, interactive games.
- **Numbots** – Supports number fluency and problem-solving skills in a playful, motivating way.

Every child has their own login details for these platforms. Children are welcome to use these at home. Regular use can make a big difference in confidence and progress!



If you need help with logins or accessing the platforms, please contact a member of staff.

With technology developing so quickly, it is a real challenge to keep your child safe online.

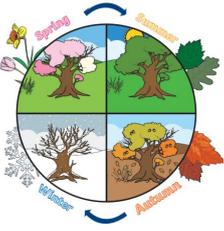
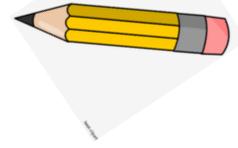
A new resource for families to use at home has been created by the Children's Commissioner for England. Visit [here](#) for more information.



After half-term, we will be moving to the **Little Wandle Letters and Sounds** phonics scheme. This is a highly regarded, systematic approach to teaching phonics that is designed to help all children become confident, fluent readers. Little Wandle provides clear progression, engaging resources, and strong support for both school and home learning, ensuring consistency and success for every child. We're excited to make this change and look forward to seeing the positive impact on reading across the school. More information will be shared in the coming weeks.



What are we learning?.....



We're excited to share what Class 1 will be learning this term! In Literacy, the children will explore two books: *The Lion Inside* by Rachel Bright and Jim Field (for Year 1 and Year 2) and *The Naughty Bus* by Jan Oke (for EYFS). The children will continue working through our Phonics programme. Please keep an eye out for 'tricky words' which will be sent home to practise. These are words that cannot be sounded out, so have to be learned as whole words. Have a look online for some engaging ways to practise them. In Maths, EYFS will continue developing their understanding of numbers to 10, Year 1 will focus on building confidence with addition and subtraction, and Year 2 will extend their number skills by exploring multiplication and division.

In Science, EYFS will learn about Changing Seasons, while KS1 will investigate Everyday Materials. Geography will see KS1 studying Weather and EYFS exploring Seasons. In RE, EYFS will consider *Which places are special and why?*, and KS1 will focus on *Expressing Beliefs* within Christianity and Judaism.

Our PSHE theme is Difference and Diversity, and in Music EYFS will enjoy Music and Movement, while KS1 will explore pitch through the theme Superheroes. Computing will involve programming and algorithms with a focus on Robots. For PE, children will take part in Dance (The Seasons) and Gymnastics (Animals) units. Finally, in Art, EYFS will work on Painting & Mixed Media: Paint My World.

Dogs & Birds keyboard sessions will continue this term, and Climbing at Whitehall for the class will run from 19th January for four weeks.



Class 2 have a busy term ahead. In Literacy, the children will be diving into *Escape from Pompeii* by Christina Balit, using this text to inspire their writing and comprehension. Spelling will continue to be tailored to each year group.

In Maths, Year 3 and 4 will focus on Multiplication and Division, then move on to Length and Perimeter and Fractions. Year 5 and 6 will begin with Multiplication and Division, before exploring Fractions, Decimals, and later Area, Perimeter and Volume.

Science will be taught by Miss Clayton during PPA sessions, when the children will be exploring materials. In History, our topic is Tudor England, where we'll explore questions such as: *Was Henry VIII a fair ruler or a tyrant? Why did he have so many wives? Why was Anne Boleyn executed?* We'll also look at Queen Elizabeth I's royal progresses and what inventories reveal about Tudor life.

In RE, we'll consider *Why do some people think life is a journey?* and explore ceremonies and milestones in Christianity, Judaism, and Hinduism. PSHE will focus on Difference and Diversity, including activities like designing flags, debating stereotypes, and discussing themes from *Wonder* and refugee experiences.

Music will take us to the Caribbean as we learn about Calypso, its rhythms, stories, and instruments. In Art, we'll develop our Drawing Skills, exploring shading, imagination, and storytelling through pictures. French lessons will cover Family, Friends and Pets, including vocabulary for names, pets, and the alphabet.



Full details of what your child will be learning this half-term are [here](#) on our website.

Reading

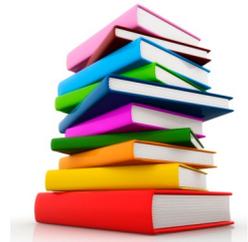
From January, Class 1 children will bring home two different reading books each week:

1. A decodable book – This book is carefully matched to your child's current phonics learning. It allows them to practise the sounds and skills they have been taught in school, helping to build confidence and fluency.
2. A reading-for-pleasure book – This is a book chosen to enjoy together at home. It may be above your child's independent reading level, so we encourage you to read it aloud, share the story, and talk about it together. These books are designed to spark curiosity, imagination, and a love of reading.

Why two books?

Research shows that children make the best progress when they have opportunities to practise decoding skills and experience rich, enjoyable stories. By combining both, we aim to develop confident readers who also see reading as something fun and rewarding.

Class 2 are also enjoying spending time in our new 'Link Library'. Your child will continue to bring home their school reading book each evening, which should be then brought back into school each day so we can continue to read them in class. Every child also has a 'Reading Eggs/Eggspress' login, which they are very welcome to access at home as well as in class.



Wraparound Care

Breakfast Club is from 8.20am-8.50am (Entry through Link door before 8.30am) Government funding has been extended, so we are able to offer this for FREE.

After School Club 3.30-4.30/4.30-5pm. £5 per child per hour/£2.50 per half hour. **Please note there is a change to the finish time from January.**

To book a place please email clubs@earlsterndale.derbyshire.sch.uk by 1pm on the Friday before.

Parents will be charged for the time they have booked, even if your child is collected earlier than planned, as staff hours will have been confirmed in advance.



Attendance

Some of your child's most important learning takes place at the start of the day. In Class 1 Phonics begins at 9.05am. Please make sure your child arrives on time every day.

Fundraising Committee update

Huge thanks to the committee for financing our whole school trip to Chatsworth. We all had a fantastic, festive time, despite the awful weather!

Many thanks also for support with the purchase of TT rockstars/numbots subscription, Phonics books and the script for Wriggly Nativity, our Christmas Performance.

If anyone is interested in becoming part of the committee, please let us know.



Class Dojo

We will be moving school communication to Class Dojo from 26th January (Parent Hub will no longer be used from this date). Details for how to set up an account will be shared separately. Please ensure you have the app installed and ask if you have any difficulties.



Please make sure your child has a clearly named (sensibly-sized) bottle in school every day. As part of our commitment to being a Healthy School, children should only have water in their bottles. Please let us know if you think your child will find this difficult.

Dates for the term

Mon 5th Jan	INSET day
Tues 6th Jan	Back to school
Mon 26th Jan	Class Dojo goes live
Fri 13th Feb	Break up for half-term
Mon 23rd Feb	INSET School closed for pupils
Tues 24th Feb	Pupils return to school
Thurs 26th Feb	Book at Breakfast event 9am (more details to follow)
Fri 27th March	Break up for Easter holidays

January 2026 Staff Team

Mrs Sarah Humpleby	Headteacher, SENCo, Safeguarding Lead, Class 1 teacher
Miss Dawn Clayton	Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead, Class 1 teacher
Mrs Katie Cross	Class 2 teacher
Mrs Jen Plevey	PPA cover teacher
Miss Leanne Cartwright	Support Staff
Mrs Tracey Critchlow	Support staff
Miss Charlotte Burton	Support staff
Mrs Margaret Smith	Support staff
Mrs Annette Stainer	Support staff
Mrs Cassie Hipkiss-Hicks	School Business Assistant
Janie Allen	School Cook