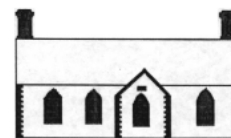


Earl Sterndale CE Primary School

Newsletter

Spring 2 2026



Welcome to the second half of the Spring term 2026, and I hope you all had a good break. We are all waiting for some sunshine after recent weeks, and I am sure the children are ready to enjoy being outside more as the weather improves. This half-term is only five weeks long, so please try to ensure your child is on time and in school as much as possible.

Warm regards,

Mrs Sarah Humpleby

Enrichment

Lots of learning at Earl Sterndale takes place outside traditional subject-based teaching. In February, Class 2 started a project with Re:Bound Dance Collective, in preparation for their performance at Buxton Opera House for *Making Space*. Later this term they will have a change to learn some keyboard skills with a block of lessons from the Dogs and Birds team. Class 1 have just finished their 4-week unit of climbing lessons, where they learned how to climb with and without a harness, as well as demonstrate persistence and resilience.



Little Wandle

Class 1, and some Class 2 pupils will be starting with our new Phonics and reading scheme this half-term. This will build on their prior learning, and ensure their reading books are closely matched to their current level of Phonics skill and knowledge. We were fortunate enough to secure funding to enable us to do this, and have purchased a full set of new books. These will be sent home on Fridays for your child to “show off”, and must be brought back to school the following week. Thank you for your support with this.



Online safety

Keeping children safe online is something we focus on all year round. With smart technology, social media and AI tools becoming part of everyday life, it's important that children know how to make safe, responsible choices online. Here are some useful resources offering clear guidance on online safety, parental controls, and talking to children about their digital lives:

- [NSPCC – Keeping Children Safe Online](#)
- [UK Safer Internet Centre – Parents & Carers Advice](#)
- [Internet Matters – Parent Guides & Online Safety Leaflets](#)



Book at Breakfast

On 26th February parents/carers are invited to join us at from 9-9.30am for a breakfast treat (many thanks to Gail's, Buxton for their support). We will have a visitor from High Peak Bookstore reading each class an age-appropriate story, and also encourage you to spend time enjoying our books with your child. Class 1 parents will have the opportunity to look at our new Little Wandle resources and ask any questions. We look forward to seeing you there.



1

Class 1 have an exciting spring term ahead!

In English, EYFS will begin with *Sunny and the Birds* before enjoying weekly toy-themed stories, practising their letter formation and early reading and writing skills. KS1 will work on *The Curious Case of the Missing Mammoth*, focusing on punctuation, vocabulary and further developing their independent writing. In Maths, EYFS are practising number skills such as doubles and counting beyond 10. Year 1 will focus on addition and subtraction within 20, while Year 2 explore multiplication and division. KS1 will also continue their work on mass and volume. In Science, KS1 will learn how to reduce, reuse and recycle, including how paper is made and which materials come from plants. EYFS will explore outdoors, learn how to care for the environment and look for early signs of spring. Our wider curriculum is just as busy: in History we're learning about Toys, and in Computing we're exploring Grouping Data. DT includes boats and structures in EYFS and stable structures in KS1. In Music, we continue 'Exploring Sound', including timbre, storytelling sounds and simple notation. In RE, EYFS consider 'Which times are special and why?' while KS1 learn about 'Expressing' in Christianity and Islam. In PSHE, everyone will explore the theme of 'Being Responsible'.

Class 2

It's a short half-term for Spring 2, and that means Class 2 will be extra busy! In English, we'll be studying 'Malala's Magic Pencil' and 'For the Right to Learn', alongside our weekly texts for Whole Class Reading. Maths will be a combination of fractions and measurements for Years 3 and 4, whilst Years 5 and 6 will be learning about decimals, before moving on to converting between fractions, decimals and percentages. Our topic this half-term is Geography based, asking 'Who lives in Antarctica?', where we will learn and discuss topics such as the climate. RE lessons will focus on the question 'Why do some people believe God exists?', and PSHE will be centred around 'Being Responsible'. We'll be focussing on technology in D&T, aiming to make a digital 'mindful moments timer', and learning all about 'systems and searching' in Computing.

2

Wraparound Care

Breakfast Club is from 8.20am-8.50am (Entry through Office door before 8.30am) **FREE**

After School Club 3.30-4.30/4.30-5pm. £5 per child per hour/£2.50 per half hour.

Places for these need to be booked in advance, so that we can staff the sessions accordingly. To book a place, please email clubs@earlsterndale.derbyshire.sch.uk by 1pm on the Friday before.

Please ensure the charges for these sessions are paid promptly. Late payment creates additional workload for staff. Thank you.

Fundraising Committee update

Class 1 children are really enjoying our recently developed continuous provision area. Huge thanks to the Fundraising Committee for their support of this.

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

Safeguarding

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility. All staff, volunteers and governors follow our safeguarding policy and are trained to recognise and report concerns promptly. If you ever have a concern about a child's safety or wellbeing, please speak directly to Mrs Humpleby (Designated Safeguarding Lead; DSL), our Deputy DSL, Ms Clayton or any other member of staff. No concern is ever too small and will always be treated confidentially and sensitively. You can also contact Call Derbyshire on 01629 533190 or visit [here](#).



Dates for the term

Mon 23rd Feb	INSET day
Tues 24th Feb	Back to school
Thurs 26th Feb	Book at Breakfast - 9am in school
Thursdays from 26th Feb - 26th March	Re:Bound After School Dance Club
Thurs 5th March	World Book Day - children to dress as their favourite book character
Thurs 12th March	Gift exchange for Mother's Day
Fri 20th March	Red Nose Day - non-uniform day in aid of Comic Relief
Tues 24th March	Making Space - Class 2 - 7:30pm at the Buxton Opera House
Thurs 26th March	Easter Service - 2pm in church
Fri 27th March	Easter Sponsored Walk
Fri 27th March	Break up for Easter holidays
Mon 13th April	First day of Summer term

Let's Go Zero update

We have been busy behind the scenes working with Let's Go Zero on our Climate Action Plan. Class 2 have been identifying devices that can be turned off at night, and all the children are trying hard to reduce their food waste at lunchtimes. Keep an eye out for more Carbon-friendly events coming up.



Bag2School

We will be booking in a Bag2school date soon. If you are having a sort out over half-term, please hold on to any potential donations. Thankyou



January 2026 Staff Team

Mrs Sarah Humpleby	Headteacher, SENCo, Safeguarding Lead, Class 1 teacher
Miss Dawn Clayton	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