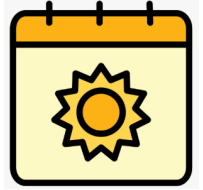


Welcome back to the final third of our academic year!

I hope you all had a restful break and enjoyed some time with family and friends. We have a busy and exciting term ahead, and are all looking forward to seeing our children continue to thrive.



As we start the new term, please can I gently remind families of a few key expectations;

- No jewellery, except for small stud earrings
- No toys to be brought into school-this often causes distraction/upset so please try to avoid
- No snacks, sweets or fizzy drinks

For anyone interested in understanding more about the new OFSTED inspection process, this [short video](#) provides a helpful overview.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Warm regards,

Mrs Sarah Humpleby

Headteacher

Fundraising Committee update

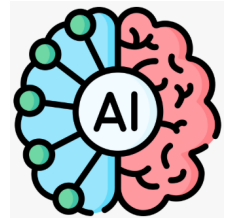


Fundraising Committee update

Thank you to everyone who attended, helped out at, donated to and baked for our Easter Sponsored Walk and Cake Sale on the last day of term. The cake sale, which was organised by our wonderful School Parliament, raised £97.50 for school funds. Thank you to all who have sent sponsorship money into school. Please send any remaining sponsorship money into school by no later than Friday 1st May. All monies raised will go towards school funds and will be used to subsidise treats and essential resources for the children.

Online Safety: AI

Children are increasingly encountering AI in apps, websites and devices. In school, we are teaching pupils how to use these tools safely, thoughtfully and responsibly.



At home, please remind children:

- Not to share personal details with online tools
- To check any information with an adult
- That AI content may not always be accurate

If you would like to find out more about using AI safely, please take a look at these useful sites:

<https://securechildrensnetwork.org/ai-safety-for-kids-parental-guide-to-online-protection/>

<https://swgfl.org.uk/topics/artificial-intelligence/>

Little Wandle Phonics & Reading

Last half-term, we introduced our new *Little Wandle* Phonics and Early Reading scheme for Class 1 and some pupils in Class 2. This built on their prior learning and ensured that children were reading books closely matched to their phonics knowledge. We were delighted to have secured funding for a full set of new reading books, which has already made a noticeable difference.

Now that we are moving into our second half-term with *Little Wandle*, we are really pleased to see the positive impact it is having. The children are highly engaged, showing growing confidence, and are making excellent progress in both decoding and reading fluency.

A gentle reminder that reading books sent home on Fridays are for your child to “show off” their skills.

Please ensure these books are returned to school the following week so they can continue to move through the reading progression.



Thank you for your continued support—it truly makes a difference.

Enrichment Opportunities

We are committed to offering a rich variety of experiences beyond the classroom, and this term brings several exciting opportunities.



French Club

Unfortunately, we haven't had enough interest to run French Club this term. If there are any additional children who would like to join, please let us know so we can make the club viable.

Making Space – Junior Class Performance

A huge well done to our Junior Class for their fantastic performance with *Making Space* at Buxton Opera House at the end of last term. Their confidence, creativity and teamwork were outstanding, and they represented the school beautifully.

Dogs and Birds Keyboard Lessons

Our *Dogs and Birds* keyboard sessions are now being delivered to Years 3–5. This is a wonderful introduction to music and notation.



Multisports Taster Session – 9th June

We are delighted to welcome Peak Power Sports for a Multisports taster session on 9th June, running from 9-9.30am. This will be a fun and active introduction to a range of skills and sports for the children, and will help us assess whether there is enough interest to run this is an extra-curricular club.

From September 2026, we will be introducing a residential trip for Class 2 on alternate years. This approach will allow us to offer a wider variety of single-day educational visits across children's time in Key Stage 2, ensuring a broad and balanced set of experiences for all pupils.

In February, we were notified that the cost of swimming lessons at Buxton Swimming and Fitness Centre will be increasing significantly. This may affect what we are able to offer going forward. We are currently reviewing the financial implications and exploring whether a parental contribution may be required to help us continue providing swimming as part of our curriculum offer.



We will provide a further update once we have clearer information.

1

Class 1 have a busy half-term of learning ahead!

In English, EYFS will explore a range of engaging texts including *The Whale Who Wanted More*, *The Snail and the Whale* and *Rainbow Fish*, using them to develop sentence writing, new vocabulary and confident retelling. KS1 will continue their Pathways to Write unit through *Toys in Space*, building skills in vocabulary, punctuation and independent writing. In Maths, EYFS will focus on counting, sharing and grouping, while Year 1 deepen their understanding of place value and Year 2 work on multiplication, division, addition, subtraction and fractions. In Science, EYFS take part in *Animal Adventures*, learning about minibeasts, zoo animals and animal homes. KS1 begin their *Introduction to Plants*, exploring plant parts, different tree types and edible plants. Our wider curriculum is equally rich: in Geography, EYFS journey "Around the World" while KS1 investigate the UK's coasts, landscapes and oceans. In RE, EYFS consider *Where do we belong?* and KS1 explore *Living* within Christianity and Islam. In Music, EYFS work on sound stories and musical symbols, while everyone develops their digital writing skills in Computing. PE includes dance with Re:Bound Collective and striking and fielding skills, and in Art, pupils explore craft, design, weaving and fibre art.

Class 2

This will be another busy term for Class 2. In English, we will be focussing on 'writing to inform and persuade', using *The Brilliant Deep* by Kate Messner and *Coral Reefs* by Jason Chin as our inspirational texts. Maths will focus on fractions, time, and decimals for Years 3 and 4, whilst Years 5 and 6 will be studying ratio, algebra, position and direction, and shape. In Science, everyone will be studying 'Animals including humans', with Years 3&4 focussing on Movement and Nutrition, and Years 5&6 learning about Circulation and Health. This term's topic is History based, discussing 'Unheard histories' and stories of some of the more unknown figures from the past. RE asks the question 'What would Jesus do?', and we will be learning about 'Money Matters' in PSHE. Keyboard sessions with 'Dogs and Birds' will continue for Years 3, 4 and 5. In Art & Design, we are studying painting and mixed media, focussing on portraits, and in French we will be learning a variety of French songs. PE will focus on Ball Games, as well as a wonderful Sports Afternoon trip to Litton CE Primary School. Our wonderful Year 6s will also sit their SATs in early May; we wish them the best of luck and know they'll do brilliantly!

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.

We are developing our after-school club offer this half-term. Each day now has its own theme. Mondays will be dedicated to Construction; Tuesdays will focus on Craft; Wednesdays, we will head outdoors (weather permitting) and finally, Thursdays will be our Movie Afternoon, complete with popcorn.

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.

Dates for the term

Thurs 16th April	Sports Afternoon at Litton Primary - Class 2
Thurs 16th April	Parents' Evening
Fri 17th April	Buxton Crescent Visit - Class 2
Mon 4th May	May Bank Holiday
Mon 11th May - Thurs 14th May	KS2 SATs (Y6)
Thurs 21st May	School Disco - 5:00-6:30pm
Fri 22nd May	Last day of half-term

Let's Go Zero Update

Our pupils continue in helping the school become more sustainable. This half-term, they have done a fantastic job turning off plug sockets and appliances that don't need to run overnight, helping us reduce unnecessary energy use. They have also been working hard to cut down on food waste, showing real awareness of how small daily actions can make a big difference.

We are now exploring ways to improve our sustainable energy use across the school, and we will keep families updated as we look into new possibilities and next steps.



Safeguarding



Keeping children safe remains our highest priority. All staff, volunteers and governors follow our safeguarding procedures and are trained to recognise and report concerns promptly. If you ever have a worry about a child's safety or wellbeing, please speak to Mrs Humpleby (Designated Safeguarding Lead), Ms Clayton (Deputy DSL), or any member of staff. No concern is ever too small. You can also contact Call Derbyshire on 01629 533190 for further advice or support.

April 2026 Staff Team

Mrs Sarah Humpleby	Headteacher, SENCo, Safeguarding Lead, Class 1 teacher
Miss Dawn Clayton	Designated Safeguarding Lead, Class 1 teacher
Ms Anne Downey	Cover 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 Annette Stainer	Support staff
Mrs Margaret Smith	Relief staff
Mrs Cassie Hipkiss-Hicks	School Business Assistant
Janie Allen	School Cook