

Welcome back to the final half-term of this academic year. I hope you all had an enjoyable break and some time to rest.



This is always a busy period, with plenty to look forward to. We have Sports Day, the Class 2 residential and Class trips coming up, alongside opportunities to celebrate the children's achievements. It is also a time when we begin to prepare to say goodbye to our Year 6 pupils and welcome our new starters into the school community.

This half-term also marks the end of my first year as Headteacher at Earl Sterndale, as well as the first year for other members of staff and our Reception cohort. It has been a significant year for the school, and one that has laid strong foundations for the future. Thank you to all the pupils, staff and families that have made this so year so enjoyable.

We are looking forward to making the most of the remaining weeks of term and supporting all children to finish the year positively.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Warm regards, *Mrs Sarah Humpleby*



Following the successful introduction of Kapow, we will be using this approach across most Foundation subjects from September. The children have really enjoyed the engaging and carefully sequenced lessons, and staff have reported increased confidence and consistency in teaching. This will help ensure a broad, well-structured curriculum for all pupils. If you would like to know more about Kapow, please visit the subjects areas on our [website](#), or ask a member of staff.

Screen Time & Online Safety

The government has recently published new, evidence-based [guidance](#) for parents on managing screen time for children under five. Key messages include avoiding screen time for children under two (except for shared activities), and limiting use to no more than one hour per day for children aged two to five. Screens should be avoided at mealtimes and before bed, and parents are encouraged to choose calm, age-appropriate content.

Children benefit most when screens are used alongside an adult—talking, asking questions and engaging with the content—rather than independently. Fast-paced, social media-style content and AI toys are not recommended for young children.

To further support families, we are also sharing a [simple one-page guide](#), “When Something Goes Wrong Online”. This offers clear advice to help parents respond if their child encounters something upsetting online, including how to talk to their child and where to report concerns.





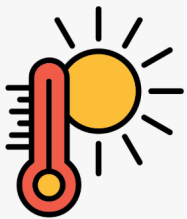
Curriculum As part of our commitment to keeping parents informed about the curriculum, we are sharing the following [link](#) which provides a clear overview of how Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RSE) and PSHE are taught in primary schools.

The information outlines how learning is delivered in an age-appropriate and supportive way, helping children to develop an understanding of relationships, wellbeing and keeping themselves safe. It also gives parents a helpful insight into the content covered at different stages and how this supports children's personal development. If you have any concerns about this, please get in touch.

WOW Wednesdays! From September 2026, we will be organising Wednesday afternoons differently through collaboration with external partners. These will include Peak Active Sports (PAS), Kidslingo and Sara-Kate Townsend, a local music teacher.

This will give our pupils the opportunity to receive specialist teaching from experts in their field, broadening their experiences and enriching the curriculum in areas such as sport, language learning and music. Alongside developing new skills, these sessions will support children's confidence, teamwork and enjoyment in learning.

We are looking forward to the enhanced opportunities this will bring for all pupils and will share further details, in September.



Please ensure children bring a named water bottle to school each day containing water only, not juice.

We also ask that children come to school with suncream already applied and bring a hat to help keep them safe and comfortable when spending time outdoors. We can then help them to reapply cream at lunchtime.

Enrichment Opportunities

Re:Bound Dance Collective

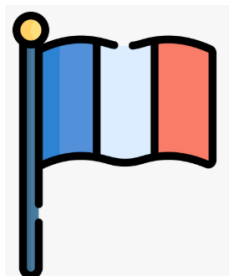
Following the success of Dance Club we are delighted to confirm we will be offering this again, during the Summer term of 2026-27. More details will be shared nearer the time including how to sign up.

Dogs and Birds Keyboard Lessons

Years 3-5 really enjoyed their keyboard lessons with Elza, and it has been lovely to hear that some children will be continuing learning with her outside of school time. We will be partnering with them again next year, starting with the younger children in the Autumn term.

Multisports

As part of our new Wow Wednesday provision (see above) we will be offering a Multi-sports after school club, run by Peak Active Sports coaches. We will share more information when we have it.



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Class 1 have a busy and exciting half-term ahead! In English, EYFS will explore a range of engaging texts including *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, *What the Ladybird Heard* and *Commotion in the Ocean*, developing sentence writing, vocabulary and storytelling. KS1 will focus on *Goldilocks and Just the One Bear*, building confidence in writing, punctuation and sequencing. In Maths, EYFS will continue developing early number skills through practical activities, while Year 1 and Year 2 will cover place value, money, time, measures and position and direction. In Science, EYFS will explore plants and the natural world, while KS1 learn about seeds, growth and plant life cycles.

In History, EYFS will reflect on their own lives and changes over time, while KS1 explore significant figures in the history of flight. In RE, children will consider what is special about our world and how we can care for it. Computing focuses on creating simple animations, and in Music pupils will be working with our specialist teacher, Sara-Kate Townsend. PE includes striking and fielding skills and preparation for Sports Day, while in Art and DT children will explore sculpture and textiles, including simple stitching projects.

Class 2 are going to be studying 'Bold and Brave Women from Shakespeare' by The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust for our English lessons, focusing on 'writing to inform' with a bit of performance and oracy thrown in for good measure - certainly useful given this will also be the term that we rehearse and perform our Leavers' Play - GRIMM! (More information to follow!). In Maths, Y3&4 will be learning about money, shape, position and direction and statistics. Y5&6 will be learning about statistics and converting units, before focusing on arithmetic and filling any knowledge gaps they may have before the end of term. In Science, Y3&4 will be studying digestion and food, and Y5&6 will study properties and changes of materials. Our Geography topic is 'Where does our energy come from?', and in RE we will be asking the question 'Is it better to express your beliefs in arts and architecture or in charity and generosity?'. In PSHE, we will all be learning about various aspects of 'Growing up' - more information and consent letters for certain lessons/year groups will follow in due course. In Music, we will be focusing on learning our songs for GRIMM, and are lucky to have Sara-Kate Townsend coming in to teach us on Wednesday afternoons. We will be spending much of our time rehearsing our play, as well as preparation for our Sports Afternoon, and computing and DT lessons. What a busy half-term!

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Uniform



As we move into warmer weather please make sure your child is dressed appropriately. While Summer dresses are preferred by some schools, they do not enable children to move actively and safely. Though we do have timetabled PE lessons, we also value being able to spontaneously take active breaks, so please support us with this by adhering to our active uniform policy, which can be found [here](#).

Please also ensure that footwear is safe and practical for running i.e. NOT Crocs or hard boots. Thank you.

Dates for the term

Friday 12th June	Class 2 Chester Zoo trip
Friday 3rd July	Class 1 Peak Wildlife Park trip
Wednesday 24th-Friday 26th June	Class 2 Residential
Monday 6th July	Sports Afternoon 1-3.30pm & Bags 2 School Collection (am)
Friday 19th June & Fri 10th July	Non-uniform days in exchange for Leavers' Party prizes
Monday 13th & Tues 14th July	White Hall - Class 2 - Activity Days
Friday 17th July	Leavers' Party 5.30pm
Tuesday 21st July	School Play 2pm & 6pm
Thursday 23rd July	Leavers' Service 2pm



The children have worked together, led by our School Parliament, to reduce food waste. They are now much more aware of portion sizes, making thoughtful choices about what they take, and the importance of not wasting food.



Sports Afternoon

Our whole school sports event will take place on **Monday 6th July, from 1-3.30pm.**

Parents are invited to attend.
More details will be shared soon.

Fundraising Committee update

Huge thanks to our fantastic Fundraising Committee, and DJ Burton, for organizing the school disco before half-term. We raised £152.50 for school funds, which will be used to contribute towards school resources, school trips and treats for the children.

Our preparations for the Leavers' Party are already underway. Ball race sales will begin within the next week or two.

June 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 Val Pow	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
Derek Savage	School Caretaker