



School Office Friday Update

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEKS AHEAD	
Monday 8 th December	• Handbell Club
Tuesday 9 th December	• Churchtown Tots- 9.30am-11am. All welcome. • Forest School- Class 2 & 3 • Class 1 Nativity- 6pm. Children to be dropped off at 5.30pm please.
Wednesday 10 th December	• No Swimming
Thursday 11 th December	• Netball club • Pantomime Trip- Whole school to watch Aladdin at Buxton opera house.
Friday 12 th December	• Celebration assembly. You will receive a message if your child has been chosen to receive an award this week. • Christmas Jumper Day • Christmas Craft Afternoon- 1.30pm. Families welcome. Hot chocolate available with our inclusion team from 2.30pm.
Monday 15 th December	• Handbell Club
Tuesday 16 th December	• Churchtown Tots Christmas Party- 9.30am-11am. All welcome. • PTA Bingo- 5.30pm. All welcome, lots of prizes to be won!
Wednesday 17 th December	• No Swimming • Class Christmas Parties
Thursday 18 th December	• Netball club • Christmas Dinner Day • Christmas Carol Service- 2.30pm at St Helens Church, all welcome
Friday 19 th December	• Class 2 & 3 Christmas carols at Ivonbrook care home

Other news:

- All messages are now being sent through Arbor in app messaging. Please ensure your notifications are turned on and if you have any problems please contact the school office.
- PE lessons for all classes are now on Thursdays. Please ensure all children have a PE kit in school. This should stay in school for half term and it will then be sent home for a wash.
- Please see Arbor for more information on our current after school clubs and to book a place for your child.
- If you need to apply for a medical diet for your child for this school year, please use the following link- <https://www.schoolmeals.derbyshire.gov.uk/allergies-and-special-diets/allergies-and-special-diets.aspx>
- Just to remind you, if you pay for your child's school lunches these should be paid in **advance** of the meal being taken where possible. Thank you.
- A reminder that breakfast club is now free to all children. Bookings are essential so we can ensure correct staff levels and breakfast supplies.
- The school provides all the equipment that children need for lessons and break times so they should not bring their own possessions to school. This includes pencil cases, stationary, games, playing cards or toys. This is to avoid the risk of potential upset caused if items are lost or broken and also ensures all children have access to the same resources. If parents feel that exceptions to this rule should be made for emotional or educational reasons then this should be agreed with the class teacher before items are brought in to school.
- Children are encouraged to bring a drinks bottle to school containing water. They are also allowed to bring a healthy snack for morning break. This should be either fruit or a plain biscuit. Fruit is provided for children in Class 1. Please do not send snacks that contain chocolate or have a high sugar content as these can make it difficult for children to concentrate in lessons.

FURTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
19/12/2025	Last day of term
30/01/2025	Young Voices
03/02/2025	Recycling assembly
06/02/2025	Class 2 trip to Derby museum
12/02/2025	PTA disco
24/02/2025	Bikeability
25/02/2025	Bikeability
23/02/2025	Inset- School closed
01/06/2025	Inset- School closed

In September 2013 the government introduced new regulations making it clear that Headteachers must not give approval for any leave of absence during term time, including holidays, unless there are exceptional circumstances. Parents are not entitled to take their children on holiday in term time. Planned absence can only be taken with the prior written approval of the headteacher. Each case will be considered on its own merits and the decision of the headteacher is final.

Any requests for term time leave should be made on a leave of absence request form available from the school office and handed in at least two school weeks before the first date of the requested absence whenever possible. You must have received written authorisation before your child can be absent from school.

If a request for leave is denied and the pupil is absent for 5 days or more then the school is expected to refer the case to the local authority. Parent/carers may be issued with a penalty notice fine or prosecution should leave of 5 days or more be taken which is not authorised by the Headteacher, or where repeated incidents of leave in term time for less than 5 days occur or where the unauthorised absence contributes to wider poor attendance that meets the legal threshold. If unpaid this could lead to prosecution under section 444(1) of The Education Act 1996

Absence deemed for the reason of unauthorised leave in term time will be marked in the register with the Attendance code G.

Further information regarding school attendance and penalty notices can be found on the DCC website <https://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/education/schools/welfare-services/attendance/school-attendance.aspx>

Please see our Attendance policy on our school website for more details.



Autumn & Winter Menu

Available Daily:
Bread, Salad,
Fruit, Yoghurt
& Drinking
Water

CELEBRATING
120 YEARS
OF SCHOOL
MEALS

Week 1

03.11.25	The Main Event	Beef Bolognese with Pasta & Seasonal Vegetables	Crispy Chicken or Quorn Burger V in a Bun with Potato Wedges & Seasonal Vegetables	Pork or Vegetarian V Toad in the Hole with Mashed Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables & Gravy	Sweet & Sour Quorn Dippers Ve with Mixed Rice & Seasonal Vegetables	Golden Crumbed Fish Fingers with Chips, Baked Beans & Peas
24.11.25	Alternative Choice	Margherita Pizza V & Seasonal Vegetables	Pasta with a Creamy Tomato Sauce V & Seasonal Vegetables	Creamy Cauliflower Bake V with Mashed Potatoes & Seasonal Vegetables	Vegetarian Mince Layered Tortilla Stack V with Mixed Rice & Seasonal Vegetables	Vegetable Fingers Ve with Chips, Baked Beans & Peas
15.12.25						
19.01.26						
09.02.26	Daily Choice	Pasta Pot, Filled Jacket Potato or a Sandwich meal. - Please speak with your school for their selection.				
09.03.26						
	Dessert	 Gingerbread Cookie	Chocolate Orange Muffin	 Bitesize Cornflake Bar with Fruit	 Lemon Sponge Tart	 Autumn Fruit Crumble with Custard

Week 2

	The Main Event	NEW Chicken Goujons with Homemade BBQ Sauce, Mixed Rice & Seasonal Vegetables	Margherita Pizza V with Seasonal Vegetables	Yorkshire Pudding with Beef Hot Pot / Roast Pork / Quorn Fillet V with Potatoes & Seasonal Vegetables	Big Breakfast with Sausage & Bacon or Vegan Breakfast Ve , Hash Browns, Baked Beans & Tomatoes	NEW Harry Ramsden's Battered Fish Fillet with Chips & Seasonal Vegetables
10.11.25						
01.12.25						
05.01.26	Alternative Choice	Five Bean Chilli Taco Ve with Mixed Rice & Seasonal Vegetables	Veggie Bolognese Ve with Pasta, Seasonal Vegetables & Garlic Dough Balls	Cheese & Tomato Puff Pastry Swirl V with Seasonal Vegetables	Jacket Potato with Cook's Choice of Filling V & Seasonal Vegetables	Creamy Cheesy Pasta Bake V with Crusty Bread & Seasonal Vegetables
26.01.26						
23.02.26						
16.03.26	Daily Choice	Pasta Pot, Filled Jacket Potato or a Sandwich meal. - Please speak with your school for their selection.				
	Dessert	Vanilla Shortbread Slice	Chocolate Cracknel	NEW Bitesize Sprinkle Cake with Fruit	NEW Jelly & Fruit	NEW Jam Roly Poly & Custard

Week 3

	The Main Event	Vegetarian Sausage Roll Ve , with Baked Beans, Herby Potatoes & Seasonal Vegetables	Pork or Vegan Meatball Sub Ve with a side of Pasta & Seasonal Vegetables	Roast of the Day or Quorn Fillet Ve with Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes, Seasonal Vegetables & Gravy	Chicken or Vegetable V Curry with Mixed Rice, Seasonal Vegetables & Flatbread	Golden Crumbed Fish Fingers with Chips, Peas & Sweetcorn
17.11.25						
08.12.25	Alternative Choice	Pasta with Homemade Tomato Sauce Ve & Seasonal Vegetables	Jacket Potato with Filling V & Seasonal Vegetables	Old School Cheesy Potato & Bean Pie V with Seasonal Vegetables	Mac & Cheese V with Seasonal Vegetables & Flatbread	Pizza Panini V with Chips, Peas & Sweetcorn
12.01.26						
02.02.26						
02.03.26						
23.03.26	Daily Choice	Pasta Pot, Filled Jacket Potato or a Sandwich meal. – Please speak with your school for their selection.				
	Dessert	NEW Toffee Apple Muffin	NEW Bitesize Chocolate Crunch with Fruit	NEW Cook's Choice of Mousse	NEW Carrot Cake Cookie	NEW Saucy Chocolate Fudding



CHRISTMAS



BINGO



TUESDAY 16TH DECEMBER

5.30PM



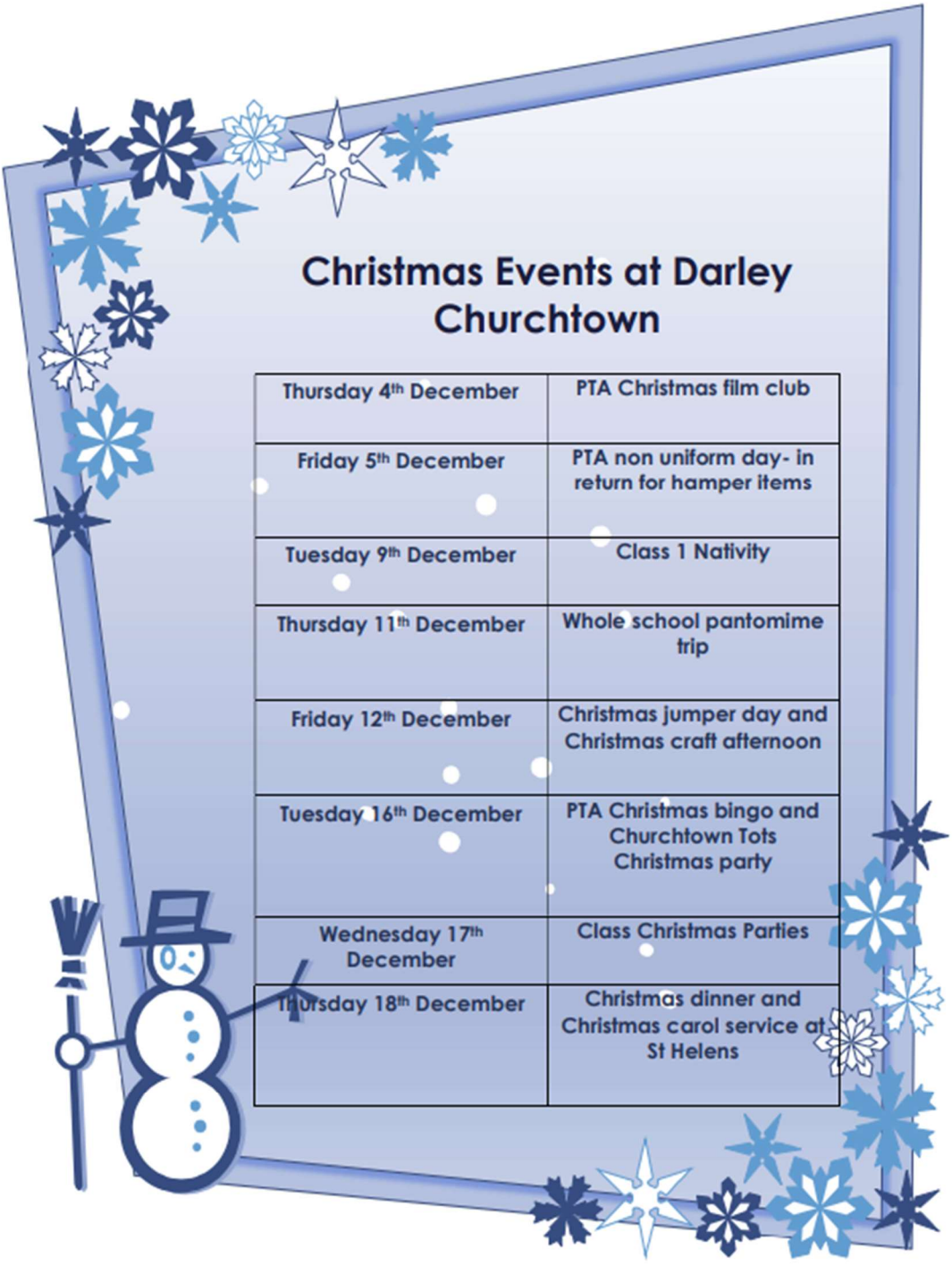
RAFFLE

WIN
PRIZES !!



CAKE &
DRINKS

Darley Churchtown Primary School CofE, Church Road, Darley Dale DE42GL



Christmas Events at Darley Churchtown

Thursday 4 th December	PTA Christmas film club
Friday 5 th December	PTA non uniform day- in return for hamper items
Tuesday 9 th December	Class 1 Nativity
Thursday 11 th December	Whole school pantomime trip
Friday 12 th December	Christmas jumper day and Christmas craft afternoon
Tuesday 16 th December	PTA Christmas bingo and Churchtown Tots Christmas party
Wednesday 17 th December	Class Christmas Parties
Thursday 18 th December	Christmas dinner and Christmas carol service at St Helens

DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION-FUNDED

HOLIDAY CLUBS IN DERBYSHIRE

it's about me

Derbyshire's Holiday Activity and Food Programme

2025/26

MORE INFORMATION

Did you know that as well as free school meals during term time, your child can also benefit from Department for Education-funded spaces at holiday clubs in your local area?

Thanks to the Holiday Activity and Food Programme, known in Derbyshire as 'It's About Me', your child can experience holiday clubs filled with fun, learning and healthy meals at no cost to you!

If your child is aged between 4-16 years old* and is eligible to receive benefits-related free school meals, they're entitled to access It's About Me holiday clubs.

With a wide range of activities such as sports, arts and crafts, cooking, dance, music and more, there's something for everyone! Plus, every session includes a nutritious meal to keep them energised and happy throughout the day.

Each club offers a unique programme depending on its location and type—there's so much to explore!

Not eligible? Many clubs also offer paid places, so every child has the chance to join the fun.

IMPORTANT DATES

SPRING

Bookings open: 17th March 2025

Holiday clubs open: 7th April 2025 - 17th April 2025

SUMMER

Bookings open: 30th June 2025

Holiday clubs open: 28th July 2025 - 3rd September 2025

WINTER

Bookings open: 1st December 2025

Holiday clubs open: 22nd December 2025 - 2nd January 2026

All dates exclude bank holidays and weekends.

HOW TO BOOK

1

Get your unique IAM/ HAF code from your child's school

2

Go to our website
itsaboutmederbyshire.co.uk

3

Follow our handy
[How to Book Guide](#)

4

Sign-up to receive It's About Me updates



*See website for full eligibility criteria.



DERBYSHIRE
County Council

 Department
for Education

MORE INFORMATION:
itsaboutmederbyshire.co.uk





Keeping children safe in the cold weather

Are you aware that children are more vulnerable to the cold? Children's bodies are smaller and they lose heat quicker than adults so here are some top tips to keep children warm and safe in the cold weather.

Be prepared!

Think about signing up to the Met office alerts and watch the weather forecast to help you prepare for colder weather.



Ensure you are aware of the procedures that your child's nursery or school has in place in case of bad weather - this will help you to avoid unnecessary travel. It would help to have a plan in place in case of school closures.

Living in a cold home has negative impacts on a child's health and wellbeing.

Many families are facing the rising costs of heating bills and it is important to be aware of the available support.

Clothing - think layers

Make sure children are layered up. Start with a vest and then a t-shirt and another layer on top.

These can be taken off throughout the day



www.derbyshire.gov.uk/staywellthiswinter

Keeping warm and well

Information around how to keep safe
in the cold weather.



[www.derbyshire.gov.uk](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/staywellthiswinter)
[/staywellthiswinter](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/staywellthiswinter)



CHURCHTOWN TOTS

CHRISTMAS PARTY

9.30 - 11.00

16 DECEMBER

ACTIVITIES | GAMES | FOOD | DRINKS



You choose!

New play equipment for the Broadwalk Recreation Ground (Tippin)

Derbyshire Dales District Council is installing new multi play equipment for 6-12yr olds at the Broadwalk Recreation Ground (Tippin) in Darley Dale and would like your help to decide which of three designs to choose.

Please vote for your favourite one at www.surveymonkey.com/r/Broadwalk or scan the QR code below.

Large scale pictures of the play equipment can be viewed in the library at the Whitworth Centre on Wednesday 3rd December 9.30am – 4.30pm.



The survey closes on 8th December 2025.

Published & printed by Derbyshire Dales District Council, Town Hall, Matlock DE4 3NN derbyshiredales.gov.uk



Join us for an exciting tour!



EXPLORE OUR SCHOOL



**9th December,
9.00 to 9.30.**

**Darley Churchtown
CE Primary School**

**COME FOR A LOOK AROUND
AND A CHANCE TO CHAT TO
STAFF AND ASK ANY
QUESTIONS.**

CHURCHTOWN TOTS

Little ones and parents can stay on
for our toddler group, which runs
from 9.30 to 11.00.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

ELECTRICAL SAFETY AND DEVICES

Electrical safety is a vital topic for parents and educators, especially with the growing use of devices like smartphones, laptops, and power banks. Electrical fires are a major risk and are the cause of many deaths and injuries each year. There are reportedly nearly 20,000 accidental fires of electrical origin each year in the UK. This guide offers practical advice to help families and schools prevent electrical hazards, and promote safety when using everyday devices.

1 CHECK FOR OVERHEATING

Devices such as laptops, tablets, and smartphones can overheat if used for long periods or when charging. Ensure that children don't use devices on soft surfaces like beds or sofas, which can block ventilation. If a device becomes unusually hot, turn it off and unplug it. Overheating can lead to fire hazards if left unchecked.

2 INSTALL RESIDUAL CURRENT DEVICES

Ensure that homes and schools are equipped with Residual Current Devices (RCDs). These devices cut off the power if an electrical fault occurs, preventing electric shocks and reducing the risk of fires. RCDs should be tested regularly to ensure they are working properly. More information about RCDs is available from Electrical Safety First.

3 AVOID OVERLOADING SOCKETS

Plugging too many devices into one socket can overload the electrical system and cause a fire. In schools and homes, ensure extension leads are not overloaded and never 'daisy-chain' multiple extension cords together. Educate children on the dangers of connecting too many devices to a single outlet.

4 POWER BANKS: SAFE USE

Power banks are a handy way to charge devices, but they can also pose a risk if misused. Ensure power banks are of high quality and comply with UK safety standards. Teach children never to leave power banks charging unattended, and to avoid placing them under pillows or bedding where they may overheat.

5 REGULAR DEVICE INSPECTIONS

Regularly check devices for signs of wear and tear. Frayed charging cables, cracked device casings, or devices that are slow to charge may indicate electrical problems. If any issues are noticed, stop using the device until it can be repaired or replaced by a qualified technician. This proactive approach helps prevent fires caused by faulty devices.

6 UNPLUG DEVICES WHEN NOT IN USE

Encourage children and pupils to unplug devices when not in use, particularly overnight. Devices left plugged in unnecessarily can overheat or become fire hazards, especially if left charging unattended for long periods. Simple habits like unplugging can prevent serious incidents.

7 USE GENUINE CHARGERS

Always use chargers supplied by the manufacturer or from a reputable retailer. Faulty or counterfeit chargers can cause devices to overheat, short-circuit, or even catch fire. Teach children the importance of avoiding poor-quality chargers, and regularly inspect charging cables for signs of wear or damage. More tips on safe charging can be found at Electrical Safety First.

8 WATER & ELECTRICITY DON'T MIX

Teach children that water and electricity are a dangerous combination. Devices should never be used near sinks, bathtubs, or swimming pools. Parents and educators should ensure that any electrical appliances near water sources have proper waterproof casings and are plugged into RCD-protected outlets.

9 KEEP DEVICES VENTILATED

Devices need proper ventilation to avoid overheating. Avoid stacking items on top of plugged-in devices like laptops or gaming consoles, and make sure there is enough space around devices to allow for airflow. Proper ventilation helps prevent dangerous heat build-up, reducing the risk of fires.

10 SUPERVISE YOUNG CHILDREN

Younger children may not understand the dangers of electricity, so it's important to supervise them when they are using devices. Keep electrical cords out of reach and always remind children never to put objects into electrical outlets.

Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is an experienced health and safety expert who is a Chartered Member of the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health. He provides services to educational settings as well as many other industries to help them maintain a safe working environment.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

See full reference list on our website

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