



School Office Friday Update

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEKS AHEAD

Monday 1st December	• Handbell Club
Tuesday 2nd December	• Churchtown Tots- 9.30am-11am. All welcome. • Forest School- Class 2 & 3
Wednesday 3rd December	• Swimming- Class 2- Last session of the year.
Thursday 4th December	• Netball club- Please book via Arbor. • PTA Christmas Film Club- Please return slips and payment by Monday 4th December.
Friday 5th December	• Celebration assembly. You will receive a message if your child has been chosen to receive an award this week. • PTA non uniform day- in return for a prize for our Christmas hampers.
Monday 8th December	• Handbell Club
Tuesday 9th December	• Churchtown Tots- 9.30am-11am. All welcome. • Forest School- Class 2 & 3 • Class 1 Nativity- Shine Star Shine. Further details to follow.
Wednesday 10th December	• No Swimming
Thursday 11th December	• Netball club- Please book via Arbor. • Pantomime Trip- Whole school to watch Aladdin at Buxton opera house.
Friday 12th 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- families welcome. More info to follow.

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	
16/12/2025	PTA Christmas bingo
16/12/2025	Churchtown Tots Christmas party
17/12/2025	Class Christmas parties
18/12/2025	Christmas dinner day
18/12/2025	Christmas church service
19/12/2025	Class 2 & 3 carol singing at Ivonbrook care home
19/12/2025	Last day of term
30/01/2025	Young Voices
24/11/2025	Inset- School closed
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

	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
03.11.25						
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						
09.03.26	Daily Choice	Pasta Pot, Filled Jacket Potato or a Sandwich meal. - Please speak with your school for their selection.				
	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	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
05.01.26						
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



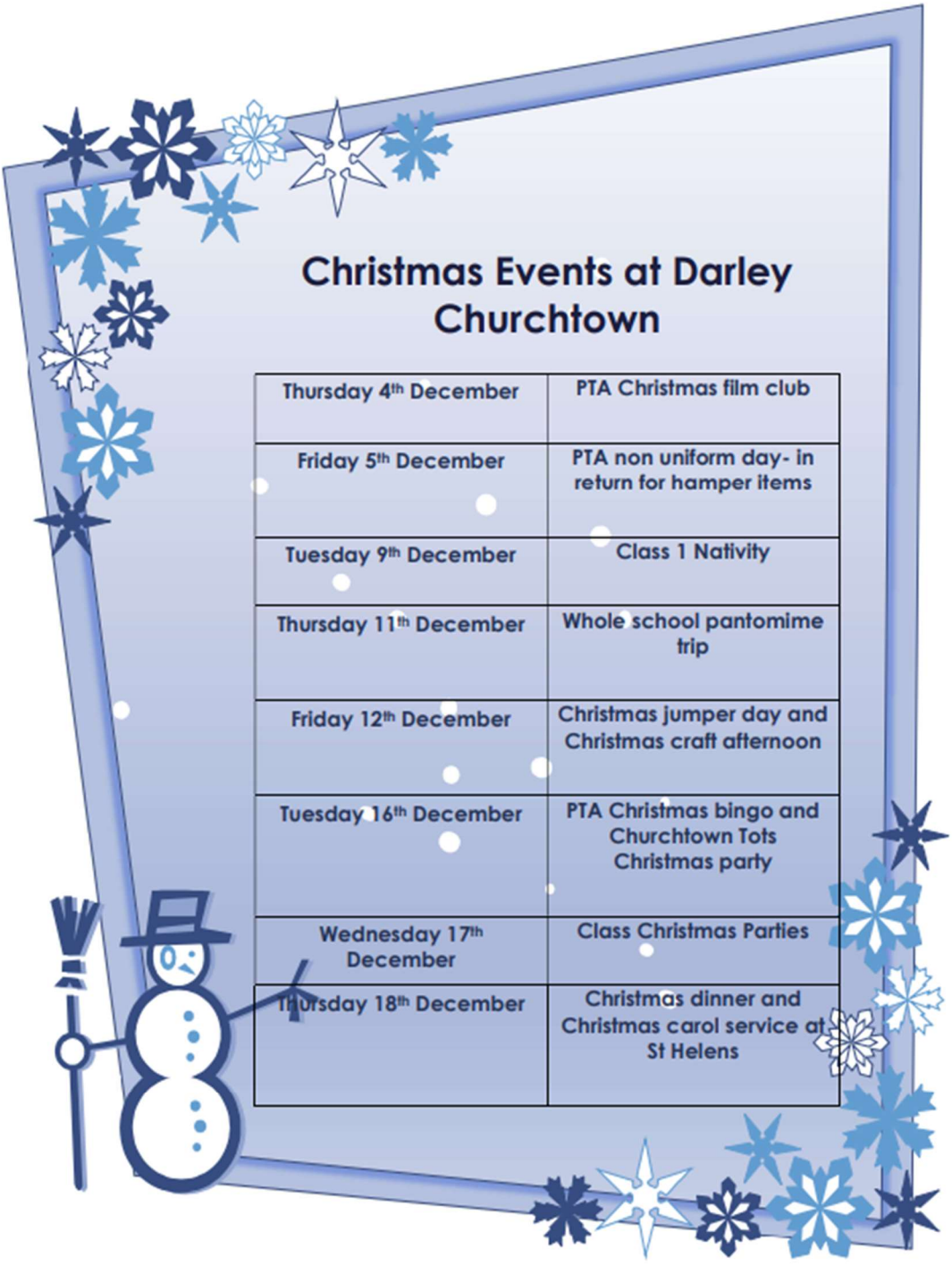
RAFFLE

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



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about

TIKTOK

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Online videos are often associated with apps such as YouTube, but among teens, TikTok is king. The app provides a potentially addictive, never-ending stream of short clips tailored to users' interests based on their viewing habits. Around half of British children use TikTok, and while most content is benign, Ofcom considers it the app where young people are "most likely to encounter a potential harm".

AGE RESTRICTION
13+
(Certain features are restricted to over-18s only)

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

TikTok's following feed shows videos from known creators, while the default For You Feed serves endless clips based on viewing history. Most are harmless, but unsuitable content can still appear, and watching for long enough signals interest to the algorithm. Although TikTok bans illegal or inappropriate uploads, the volume of posts means some slip through, increasing the chance that children encounter age-inappropriate material before it is detected or removed.

BODY IMAGE AND DANGEROUS CHALLENGES

Ofcom reports that most online harms for girls involve body image, while boys more often see dangerous stunts. Both types appear frequently on TikTok and spread quickly through its engagement-driven algorithm. Harmful challenges have included the "blackout" trend, where users held their breath until passing out. Families filed lawsuits after children died linked to the trend, showing how extreme or risky content can rapidly reach young people and negatively influence them.

IN-APP SPENDING

TikTok is free, but children can still spend money. TikTok coins, costing £9.99 to £224.99, let users buy gifts for creators. TikTok Shop adds risk by allowing purchases from influencers or companies, sometimes leading to poor-quality items driven by persuasive marketing. A Canadian investigation found TikTok collected personal data from many children for targeting and advertising despite age limits, meaning young users may lose control over their personal information.

CONTACT WITH STRANGERS

Between 1.6 and 1.8 billion people use TikTok, meaning there's a high risk of unwanted attention from strangers. Accounts created by over-18s (or young people using a fake date of birth) are set to public view by default. This means that not only is someone's profile visible to everyone else on the app, it also suggests their videos to others and allows anyone to download or comment on them.

MISINFORMATION AND RADICALISATION

TikTok's short videos may appear lighthearted, but they can expose young people to harmful ideas. Misinformation is common, and Ofcom reports that nearly one third of 12-15-year-olds use TikTok as a news source, increasing the chance of seeing racist, misogynistic, extremist or conspiracy material. Even brief clips can influence impressionable users and shape their worldview, making discussions about critical thinking, propaganda and online influence especially important for parents and educators.

ADDICTIVE DESIGN

TikTok's fast-paced stream of eye-catching videos can be potentially addictive for young users. In 2024, UK children spent an average of 127 minutes per day on the platform, double the time recorded in 2020. Excessive use can disrupt sleep, increase irritability, and distract from healthier activities. Constantly skipping between short clips may also affect attention span, making it harder to focus on longer tasks such as homework or reading.

Advice for Parents & Educators

ENABLE FAMILY PAIRING

Family Pairing allows parents to link their TikTok account to their child's in order to manage settings remotely. Parents can then turn on Restricted Mode (reducing the chances of a child seeing inappropriate content), set screen time limits, make accounts private and manage whether their child can send messages – and if they can, to whom. Children cannot alter these settings without parental approval.

BLOCK IN-APP SPENDING

Parents can restrict in-app purchases on iPhone and Android devices to prevent accidental or impulsive TikTok spending. Young people can easily spend large amounts on TikTok coins or low-quality products promoted through TikTok Shop. If a disappointing purchase occurs, turn it into a discussion about influencer marketing and how online promotions can be misleading.

DISCUSS THE DANGERS

If a child wants to use TikTok and you're happy for them to do so, it's good practice to discuss the potential risks, ensure they don't share any identifying personal information or respond to dangerous trends, and that they know to talk to a trusted adult if they're worried by interactions on the app. With more teens using TikTok for news, it's important to talk about misinformation and propaganda.

READ THE SIGNS

If you're concerned that a child is spending too much time on TikTok, or that they've been emotionally affected by something they've seen, it's important to know how to spot the signs. Increased irritability and a lack of concentration are potential red flags, as is failing to complete homework or skipping meals. Remember, the parental controls are there for a reason, and it's never too late to introduce limits.

Meet Our Expert

Alan Martin is an experienced technology journalist who has written for the likes of *Wired*, *TechRadar*, *Tom's Guide*, *The Evening Standard* and *The New Statesman*.



See full reference list on our website

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