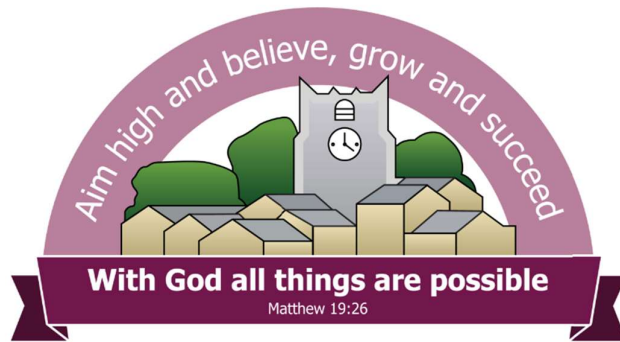




School Office Friday Update

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEKS AHEAD	
Monday 10 th March	• Class 3 Forest School
Tuesday 11 th March	• Churchtown Tots- 9am-10.30am. All welcome. • After school sports club- Badminton. Please see Parentpay for bookings.
Wednesday 12 th March	• Swimming- Class 2
Thursday 13 th March	• After school sports club- Boxercise. Please see Parentpay for bookings.
Friday 14 th March	• Celebration Assembly- 3pm, you will receive an invitation if your child has been chosen to receive an award this week.
Monday 17 th March	• Class 3 Forest School
Tuesday 18 th March	• Churchtown Tots- 9am-10.30am. All welcome. • After school sports club- Badminton. Please see Parentpay for bookings.
Wednesday 19 th March	• Swimming- Class 2
Thursday 20 th March	• After school sports club- Boxercise. Please see Parentpay for bookings.
Friday 21 st March	• Celebration Assembly- 3pm, you will receive an invitation if your child has been chosen to receive an award this week. • Red Nose Day- Crazy hair day for a £1 donation. Children should wear normal school uniform. Please join us for a cake sale in the playground at the end of the school day.

Other news:

- We have lots of good quality, donated school uniform in school. Please contact the office if you need anything.
- 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.
- Please ensure children have a water bottle in school every day.
- **We still have a few children without a PE kit in school. Please make sure a full PE kit including trainers is kept in school at all times, these will be sent home every half term to be washed. PE days do change and kits are also needed for after school sports clubs. We have spare uniform available in school so please do ask if you need anything.**
- **Healthy Snacks-** Children are welcome to bring a healthy snack to school to eat at morning break. **Please ensure this does not include chocolate, cake or sweets.**

FURTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
24/03/2025	Football league match
25/03/2025	Year 3 and Y4 parents meeting
28/03/2025	PTA non uniform day
02/04/2025	PTA Easter Bingo
03/04/2025	Easter Church service
01/04/2025	Football league match
29/04/2025	Football league match
30/04/2025	Class 1 multi skills at All Saints Junior School
24/02/2025	INSET
25/02/2025	School reopens
04/04/2025	Last day of term
22/04/2025	School reopens
05/05/2025	Bank holiday- School closed
23/05/2025	Last day of term
02/06/2025	INSET
03/06/2025	School reopens
24/07/2025	Last day of term

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.

Please do not hesitate to contact us on 01629 732236 or by email info@darleychurchtown.derbyshire.sch.uk with any questions or queries.



Autumn & Winter Menu



Allergen Key

Celery	C	Mustard	Mo
Cereals	G	Nuts	Mu
Crustaceans	Cr	Peas	N
Eggs	E	Sesame Seeds	P
Fish	F	Soya	Se
Lupin	L	Sulphur Dioxide	So
Milk	M		Su

Week 1

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Option 1	Chicken Curry G/M with Rice & homemade flatbread G/So & Seasonal Vegetables 	V Margarita Pizza G/M Served with Pasta G & Seasonal Vegetables	Roast of the Day with Yorkshire Pudding E/G/M Creamed Potatoes M. Seasonal Vegetables & Gravy	Beef Burger G in a Bun G with Potato Wedges & Baked Beans	Fish Fingers F/G with Chips, Carrots & Sweetcorn
Option 2	Ve Five Bean Chili with Rice & a homemade flatbread G/So & Seasonal Vegetables	Ve Vegetable Tagine served with Pasta G & Seasonal Vegetables	Ve Veggie Sausage G served with a Yorkshire Pudding E/G/M Creamed Potatoes M. Seasonal Vegetables & Gravy 	Ve Vegan Burger G/So in a bun G with Homemade Potato Wedges & Seasonal Vegetables 	V Cheese & Tomato Pinwheel E/G/M with Chips, Carrots & Sweetcorn
Option 3	Pasta Pot, Filled Jacket Potato or a Sandwich meal - Please speak with your school for their selection				
Dessert	Cooks choice of cookie G	Chocolate Cracknel G/M	Honey Cake with Fresh Fruit E/G/M 	Banana & Strawberry Yoghurt Muffin E/G/M 	Fruit Crumble G with Custard M

Weeks Starting: 04.11.24 / 25.11.24 / 16.12.24 / 20.01.25 / 10.02.25 / 10.03.25 / 31.04.25

Week 2

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Option 1	Pasta G Bolognese with French Stick G & Seasonal Vegetables	Big Breakfast G/Su with a Hash Brown, Baked Beans & Tomatoes	Roast of the Day with Stuffing G, Creamed Potatoes M. Seasonal Vegetables & Gravy	V Cheese & Tomato Pizza G/M with Pasta G & Seasonal Vegetables	Fish Stars F/G with Chips, Peas & Carrots
Option 2	Ve Dippers G with Homemade Sauce, Pasta G & Seasonal Vegetables 	Ve Veggie Breakfast G with a Hash Brown, Baked Beans & Tomatoes 	V Veggie Cottage Pie M/So with Seasonal Vegetables & Gravy	Ve Veggie Balls G in a homemade tomato sauce with Pasta G & Seasonal Vegetables 	Ve Veggie Fingers G with Chips, Peas & Carrots
Option 3	Pasta Pot, Filled Jacket Potato or a Sandwich meal - Please speak with your school for their selection				
Dessert	Shortbread G	Lemon Slice E/G	Jelly & Fresh Fruit 	Chocolate Crunch E/G & Fresh Fruit 	Cornflake Tart G with Custard M

Weeks Starting: 11.11.24 / 02.12.24 / 06.01.25 / 27.01.25 / 24.02.24 / 17.03.25

Week 3

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Option 1	Chicken Pasta Bake G/M with Seasonal Vegetables & French Stick G	V Southern Style Burger in a bun E/G/M with Potato Wedges & Baked Beans 	Sausages G/Su & Mashed Potatoes M. Seasonal Vegetables & Gravy	Cottage Pie M & Seasonal Vegetables	Fish Fingers F/G with Chips, Peas & Sweetcorn
Option 2	V Vegetable Pasta Bake G/M with Seasonal Vegetables & French Stick G	V Jacket Potato with Cheese M or Baked Beans & Seasonal Vegetables	V Broccoli & Cauliflower Cheesy Bake G/M/Mu with Seasonal Vegetables	Ve Vegan Sausage Roll G with Creamed Potatoes M. Seasonal Vegetables & Gravy	V Macaroni Cheese G/M/Mu with Peas & Sweetcorn
Option 3	Pasta Pot, Filled Jacket Potato or a Sandwich meal - Please speak with your school for their selection				
Dessert	Cooks choice of Cookie G	Flapjack G	Sprinkle Cake E/G	Beetroot Brownie E/G with Fruit	Sticky Toffee Apple Sponge E/G with Custard M

Weeks Starting: 18.11.24 / 09.12.24 / 13.01.25 / 03.02.25 / 03.03.25 / 24.03.25



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators USING TECHNOLOGY TO BOOST READING SKILLS

The way we engage with text has changed dramatically over the years. Whether reading captions on social media, instructions in a video game or an e-book on a digital device, technology plays a major role in modern literacy. While traditional books remain invaluable, digital tools can enhance reading skills by making text more accessible, interactive and engaging.

1 CHOOSING THE RIGHT TYPE OF TEXT

Before integrating technology, consider the types of text that a child engages with. If they need help on occasion, digital reading pens can assist by scanning and reciting words or sentences. These tools are especially useful for students with reading difficulties, and can even be used in exams if they're part of their routine learning process. Proper training and practice are required, but they can be a great help when tackling printed text.

2 READING ON SCREEN

Many devices now allow users to customise text for better readability. Adjusting font type, size and background colour can significantly enhance comprehension. For many readers, white text on a black background is the easiest to see, whereas other styles – such as dyslexia-friendly fonts – are designed to help those who are struggling. Teaching children how to personalise text settings on their devices empowers them to read more comfortably and with greater confidence.

3 ACCESSIBILITY TOOLS

Most modern devices include built-in tools designed to support readers. These features can be found in Settings under Accessibility and may include text-to-speech, speech-to-text and screen magnification functions. Enabling these tools can make digital reading more user friendly, especially for children with learning difficulties or visual impairments, who might have an easier time with spoken language than the written word, or who might simply require a closer look at the text.

4 INTERACTIVE READING PROGRAMMES

Many digital reading devices, such as Kindle and other e-readers, offer features like word highlighting, adjustable text speed and built-in dictionaries. These tools help learners to break down complex words and phrases while maintaining an appropriate reading pace. Some programmes even allow users to track their progress, making reading a more structured and motivating experience.

5 VIDEO GAMES AND READING SKILLS

Many video games require players to read instructions, character dialogues and mission objectives – making them an unexpected but effective literacy tool. Games that involve storytelling, puzzles or problem-solving often include large amounts of text – encouraging children to read these texts aloud or discuss them can improve their comprehension and vocabulary in a fun, engaging way.

6 SUBTITLES AND CLOSED CAPTIONS

Watching videos with subtitles or closed captions is an effective way to enhance reading skills. As children watch their favourite shows or online videos, they can follow along with the text, gaining a better understanding of how written words sound when spoken aloud. This is particularly beneficial for reluctant readers, as it exposes them to words in a familiar, engaging context. Especially watching content with subtitles reinforces word recognition and comprehension.

7 USING AUDIOBOOKS

Audiobooks are an excellent way to develop listening and reading skills simultaneously. Children can follow along with the text while listening to a narrator, reinforcing word recognition and fluency. For struggling readers, listening to an audiobook before attempting to read the text independently can boost their confidence and comprehension.

9 TEXT-TO-VOICE TECHNOLOGY

Text-to-voice software reads digital text aloud, making it easier for learners to follow along. Most smartphones, tablets and computers come with this function built in. When enabled, users can highlight a passage or sentence and press play to hear it read aloud. This tool is particularly helpful for auditory learners and those who struggle with decoding written words.

8 VOICE-TO-TEXT FOR WRITING AND READING

Voice-to-text tools allow users to dictate words, which are then transcribed into text. This feature helps children see the connection between spoken and written language. By using text-to-voice to have their dictated words read back to them, learners can identify mistakes and improve their reading and writing skills simultaneously.

10 SOCIAL MEDIA AND PARENTAL CONTROLS

While social media provides opportunities for reading, most platforms have age restrictions of 13–16 years old, making parental guidance essential. Many social media videos include captions and comments that can encourage reading. However, it's important to use the platform's parental controls (such as time limits and content filters) to create a safe and educational online environment for children. Encouraging responsible social media use can ensure a balanced and productive approach to digital literacy.

Meet Our Expert

Catrina Lawl is a qualified special needs teacher and experienced SENCO. She recently launched her own site, *Neuroteachers*, which offers a library of short, 'how-to' and explanation videos for educators. Catrina also writes and delivers online training and events for multi-academy trusts, businesses, schools and training organisations.



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