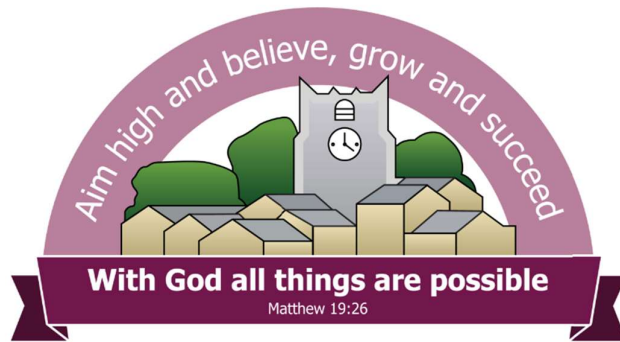




School Office Friday Update

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEKS AHEAD	
Monday 16th December	• Junior Netball Club- Last session • Class 1 Nativity- 6pm. Children to be in school at 5.30pm.
Tuesday 17th December	• Churchtown Tots Christmas Party- 9am- All welcome. • PTA Christmas Bingo • Junior trampoline club- Last session
Wednesday 18th December	• No swimming • Christmas party afternoon- children can come to school in party clothes
Thursday 19th December	• Infants after school trampoline club- Last session • Christmas dinner day • Christmas service and carols- 2.30pm at St Helens, all welcome.
Friday 20th December	• Celebration Assembly- 3pm, you will receive an invitation if your child has been chosen to receive an award this week. • Last day of term
Monday 23rd December	• School closed
Tuesday 24th December	• School closed
Wednesday 25th December	• School closed
Thursday 26th December	• School closed
Friday 20th December	• School closed

Other news:

- There are some changes to next weeks lunch menu due to Christmas dinner.
 - Wednesday 18th – Fish and chips
 - Thursday 19th- Christmas dinner
 - Friday 20th- Sausage, mashed potatoes and beans. Bacon cobs will not be available.
- The children have been enjoying using our Christmas post box for their cards, the post box will be in the library until next Friday.
- **PTA Christmas bingo will take place at 6pm on Tuesday 17th December.** We have lots of prizes to be won so please join us for a great evening. Drinks and cakes will also be available. Families and friends welcome.
- 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.**
- **Churchtown Tots Christmas party** will be on Tuesday 17th December at the usual time of 9-10.30am. All welcome.
- Class 3 parents- The 4th instalment for our trip to Walesby is due on 31st January 2025. The first 3 instalments are still open so these can still be paid if you haven't already done so. If you have any questions or concerns regarding these payments please contact the office. Thank you.
- The final trampoline club sessions are on 17th and 19th December.
Sessions for January will be available to book next week via Parentpay. These will be gymnastics on Tuesdays and archery on Thursdays. Both sessions will both be open to all ages, numbers will be limited.

FURTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
22/01/2025	Class 3 Cross Country
29/01/2025	Class 1 Space Centre Trip
12/02/2025	Class 3 Young Voices
13/02/2025	PTA Disco
26/02/2025	Class 1 Fun Run event
06/03/2025	World Book Day
24/03/2025	Football league match
28/03/2025	PTA non uniform day
01/04/2025	PTA Easter Bingo
01/04/2025	Football league match
06/01/2025	School reopens
14/02/2025	Last day of term
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

UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD



S O L I H U L L A P P R O A C H

Our Inclusion team are going to be introducing the Solihull parenting course from January 2025. This will be open to all parents and carers across the partnership who wish to attend but requires commitment to attend weekly 2 hour sessions for 10 weeks beginning on Tuesday 21st January at 9.30am at All Saints Infants.

The Solihull parenting approach focusses on parent-child relationships and on understanding your child and their behaviours.

Please phone your school office or email earlyhelp@matlockanddales.derbyshire.sch.uk to register your interest in attending this course.

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	Peanuts	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 SAFETY OVER THE FESTIVE SEASON.

The holiday season, marked by Christmas and New Year, brings joy and togetherness but also presents unique safety challenges for children, families and educators. From busy holiday shopping, traveling and family gatherings to managing digital activity during school breaks, staying safe during this period requires heightened awareness. This guide offers practical tips to help families and educators maintain a more secure and fulfilling festive period.

1 MONITOR DIGITAL ACTIVITY

Children spend more time online during school holidays, increasing exposure to potential dangers such as cyberbullying, inappropriate content and online predators. Balancing screen time, avoiding harmful websites and ensuring children engage positively online can be difficult without proper monitoring tools. Set clear boundaries, encourage open discussions about online safety and use parental controls to manage content exposure and screen time effectively. Regular check-ins and positive reinforcement around digital habits encourage safe online behaviour.

2 PRACTICE FIRE SAFETY PROTOCOLS

The incidence of house fires increases during Christmas due to greater use of candles, cookers and electrical decorations. Open flames, electrical overloads and the need for quick response plans can make fire safety challenging. Ensure smoke detectors are operational, keep fire extinguishers on hand and teach children how to respond in case of a fire emergency. Avoid leaving cooking unattended and use fire-safe candles to prevent mishaps.

3 CREATE TRAVEL SAFETY PLANS

More families tend to travel during the holidays, resulting in busier roads, increased traffic accidents and weather-related hazards. Weather conditions, road rage, fatigue and busy airports can all compromise travel safety. Pack emergency kits and adhere to seatbelt laws. Plan routes in advance and allow extra travel time to avoid rushing and mitigate risks on busy roads.

4 BEWARE OF ALLERGIES

Holiday meals often involve many foods that may contain allergens. Cross contamination, unclear labelling and lack of allergy-friendly options can lead to severe reactions. Communicate any allergy needs to hosts, provide safe food alternatives and carry necessary medications like antihistamines or EpiPens. Teaching children how to advocate for themselves and recognise dangerous foods also contributes to safer celebrations.

5 PREVENT THE SPREAD OF ILLNESS

Cold weather and seasonal socialising can increase the spread of viruses like flu and COVID-19. Crowded gatherings, schools out of session and frequent travel can lead to higher infection risks. Emphasise hygiene, encourage vaccination, disinfect surfaces and isolate symptomatic individuals. Communication with children about proper hygiene practices is essential to reduce the spread of illness.

6 STAY VIGILANT ON THE ROAD

Increased holiday traffic heightens the risk of accidents for both drivers and pedestrians. Distracted driving, pedestrian safety and inclement weather can complicate road safety. Encourage pedestrian safety practices, avoid distracted driving and never drive under the influence.

7 MAINTAIN SAFE DECORATIONS

Festive decorations such as Christmas lights and candles can pose electrical, fire and choking hazards if mishandled. Frayed wires, toppling Christmas trees, small ornaments and open flames can be difficult to control, especially in busy households with children. Inspect and maintain decorations, secure Christmas trees, place fragile or small items out of reach and ensure candles are never left unattended. Testing smoke alarms and using flame-retardant decorations can significantly reduce risks.

8 SET BOUNDARIES FOR GIFTS

Some toys and gadgets can present choking, sharp-edge or safety risks, particularly for young children. Ensuring that gifts meet safety standards and are age appropriate can be complex with so many options available. Inspect all toys carefully and ensure any tech devices have parental controls. Setting expectations around safe gift use and discarding packaging that poses a risk also helps to prevent accidents.

9 ADDRESS STRESS & FATIGUE

Holiday pressures can lead to burnout, which affects both physical and mental health. Overpacked schedules and a lack of downtime can cause stress and fatigue, leading to accidents or poor decision making. Incorporate rest, maintain regular routines and seek support to reduce stress. Encourage activities that promote relaxation to create a healthier, happier holiday experience for everyone.

10 DRINK RESPONSIBLY

Alcohol is commonly present at holiday events, raising concerns about safety and supervision. Excessive alcohol consumption can lead to accidents, impaired judgment and lack of supervision for children. Designate responsible adults, limit consumption and provide transportation alternatives for guests. Teaching moderation and modelling responsible behaviour in front of children ensures that celebrations remain positive and secure.

Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is a chartered health and safety consultant with 10 years of experience in promoting family and community safety. Specialising in risk assessment and preventative strategies, he has worked with educational institutions, public health agencies and community groups to deliver safety education and training.



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Source: See full reference list on guide page at <https://thenationalcollege.com/guides/safety-over-the-festive-season>



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