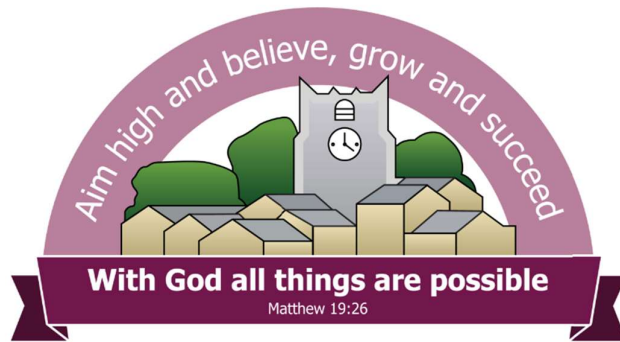




School Office Friday Update

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEKS AHEAD	
Monday 30th September	• Open Afternoon- 1.30pm- Open session for September 2025 starters, all welcome.
Tuesday 1st October	• Churchtown Tots- 9.30am- All welcome. • Junior's after school sports club- Please see Parentpay for info and bookings.
Wednesday 2nd October	• Swimming- Class 2. • Scholastic Book Fair- after school in the hall.
Thursday 3rd October	• Infants after school sports club- Please see Parentpay for info and booking. • Scholastic Book Fair in School • Individual pupil photographs • Special lunch- Big Breakfast. • Lady Manners School open evening for 2025 starters. 4.30pm.
Friday 4th October	• Celebration Assembly- 9am, you will receive an invitation if your child has been chosen to receive an award this week. • Scholastic Book Fair in School
Monday 7th October	• Scholastic Book Fair in School • Football League Match- 4pm, Churchtown. You will receive a message if your child has been chosen to play.
Tuesday 8th October	• Churchtown Tots- 9.30am-All welcome. • Junior's after school sports club- Please see Parentpay for info and bookings. • Year 6 Bikeability- Level 1- more information to follow.
Wednesday 9th October	• Swimming- Class 2
Thursday 10th October	• Infants after school sports club

	• Class 3 Skateboarding event- please see Parentpay for information and consent. • Infants after school sports club- Please see Parentpay for info and bookings.
Friday 11th October	• Celebration Assembly- 9am, you will receive an invitation if your child has been chosen to receive an award this week. • Year 6 Bikeability Level 2

Other news:

- We still have places available for Breakfast club and our after school Sports clubs, you can book these via Parentpay or pop into the office. **These clubs are free of charge if you qualify for free school meals.**
- **Our Scholastic Book Fair is returning this year!** Please support us to earn free books for our school if you can.
- 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.
- As you will already be aware, children are now being given a sticker on the gate if they are in school and on time. The stickers are added to their attendance charts and they earn a prize every Friday if they have a full chart. The children are really enjoying earning their rewards! Please note, stickers are only given out up until 8.50am when the gate closes.
- Please ensure children have a water bottle in school everyday.
- PE kits should be in school at all times.
- Year 5 & 6- The third payment for Walesby Forest is due on Friday 25th October. Please contact the office if you have any questions or concerns.
- **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.**
- Our **SENCO**, Sian Arnold, will be in school every Wednesday. She will be available for any Parents who wish to speak with her. Sian is contactable 5 days a week during school hours through the school office.

FURTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
15/10/2024	Online Safety workshop for Parents
16/10/2024	Class 1 Fun Run
16/10/2024	Year 5/6 Cross Country
17/10/2024	Open the book assembly
17/10/2024	Football League match
18/10/2024	PTA Disco
18/10/2024	Year 6 Bikeability
23/09/2024	Coffee morning
24/10/2024	Thursday Church
24/10/2024	Football League Match
25/10/2024	Last day of term
04/11/2024	INSET
05/11/2024	School reopens
20/12/2024	Last day of term
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

The Department for Education stipulates that Headteachers/ Executive Headteachers may not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. There is no automatic right to any leave in term time, and any leave of absence is granted at the Headteachers/ Executive Headteachers discretion, including the length of time the pupil is authorised to be absent for. The schools within the partnership consider each application for term-time absence individually, considering the specific facts, circumstances, and relevant context behind the request.

Any request should be submitted as soon as it is anticipated and, where possible, at least two weeks before the absence, on a leave of absence request form, accessible via the school office:

info@darleychurchtown.derbyshire.sch.uk and/ or 01629 732236.

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.

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about LEGO FORTNITE

Epic Games have recently introduced three new game modes to Fortnite: Rocket Racing, Fortnite Festival and, finally, Lego Fortnite: a survival game using official Lego characters. There are lots of great mechanics that encourage creativity in children, but – as with any online game – it's important to stay aware of the potential risks.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

MONETISATION

Lego Fortnite utilises a similar online item shop to the main Fortnite game. When this title was released, the makers introduced thousands of Lego versions of the original game's character skins. Owning an original Fortnite cosmetic means you also own the LEGO version at no extra cost, but the addition of these extra versions could potentially spark new interest in young players, making it more tempting to pay real money for these in-game accessories.

ONLINE PLAY

LEGO Fortnite can be played online, as with the base game. While a player's LEGO world is private when it's first created, they can then invite anyone on their in-game friends list to play with them. If any strangers are on this friends list, they can be invited onto their server. Thankfully, Epic Games has implemented a solid reporting system, as well as tools to kick other players from the game.

FEAR FACTOR

There is no explicit violence in Lego Fortnite, but there is a lot of combat. While the battles in Lego Fortnite remain very cartoonish and child friendly, a lot of the action unfolds inside dark caves, with spiders, skeletons or scary-looking monsters. The game can get a little spooky at times, which could potentially scare younger players.

COMPLEX GAMEPLAY

Lego Fortnite is a survival game, though it's not as simple as something like Minecraft. There are lots of different crafting stations and loads of items to use or combine (including various rarities to seek out and harvest). The gathering and crafting elements of the game can get quite complicated and confusing, which could be a source of frustration for some younger players.

Advice for Parents & Educators

LEGO IS FRIENDLY

Much like real Lego, this game is incredibly inviting: it's friendly, fun and accessible; a younger player could still enjoy this title even if they'd never played Fortnite before. With sanitised violence, it's a far more family-friendly gaming experience all round – worth bearing in mind if you're concerned about children and young people being exposed to violent or frightening content.

SET LITTLE CHALLENGES

As we've noted, the game is a lot more difficult than it may seem, which could be frustrating or upsetting for some younger players. While the game does a good job of setting realistic targets for players, it can still feel overwhelming. If parents suggest smaller challenges – such as building a house – children can flex their creativity, express themselves with their builds and feel a real sense of accomplishment.

PLAY TOGETHER

Take some time to play the game together. Not only will that help with some of the complicated tasks, but it's also just a fun pastime. Playing with family members also reduces the potential for younger players to invite strangers to enjoy the game with – if any are on their friends list. Furthermore, playing with children will let you more effectively limit their time spent on the game. Instead of "switch it off", you can now say "let's play some more later!"

MONITOR SPENDING

If a child has provided their parents' email address and been given consent to make in-game purchases, it's worth keeping an eye on how much gets spent on the in-game currency, V-Bucks. It's very tempting to buy character skins in LEGO form, as a way of expressing yourself and looking cool and unique. As you may know already, the average skin costs between £8-18, which can add up very quickly if not tracked and limited. Keep in mind that you can make it necessary to enter a PIN code to validate every purchase using the game's parental controls, and you can prevent the game from saving your payment information whenever you make a purchase. Furthermore, players under-13 automatically have their spending limited to \$100 (£78.55) per day.

Meet Our Expert

Daniel Upscombe is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality, augmented reality and Web3. He has also written 15 guidebooks for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft. With work published by the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and V0247, he has reviewed more than 50 games and products over the past year.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College