



School Office Friday Update

REMINDERS FOR THE WEEKS AHEAD	
Monday 23rd September	• Open Afternoon- 1.30pm- Open session for September 2025 starters, all welcome.
Tuesday 24th September	• Churchtown Tots- 9.30am- All welcome. • Junior's after school sports club- Please see Parentpay for info and bookings. • Football League Match- You will have received a message if your child has been chosen to play.
Wednesday 25th September	• Swimming- Class 2. • Tea and Chat- 9am in the school hall, no need to book, all welcome.
Thursday 26th September	• Infants after school sports club- Please see Parentpay for info and booking. • Thursday Church- 10.30am at St Helens church. All welcome.
Friday 27th September	• Celebration Assembly- 9am, you will receive an invitation if your child has been chosen to receive an award this week.
Monday 30th September	• Open session for 2025 starters- 1.30pm, 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	• Scholastic Book Fair in school • Swimming- Class 2
Thursday 3rd October	• Infants after school sports club • Scholastic Book Fair in School • Individual pupil photographs • Infants after school sports club- Please see Parentpay for info and bookings.

	• Lady Manners School open evening for 2025 starters. 4.30pm. • Special lunch- Big Breakfast.
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.

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.
- Young Voices information has been sent to class 3 via Parentpay, parent tickets are now available for a short time only so please let the school office know if you wish to attend.
- 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 second payment for Walesby Forest is due on Friday 27th September. 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.

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

FURTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY	
07/10/2024	Football League match
08/10/2024	Year 6 Bikeability
10/10/2024	Year 5/6 Skateboarding Event
11/10/2024	Year 6 Bikeability
15/10/2024	Online Safety workshop for Parents
15/10/2024	Football League match
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- Harvest Service
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.

10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

CREATING FAMILY RULES FOR USING DEVICES

A set of family rules agreed on with children can promote the safe, responsible use of devices like tablets, smartphones, gaming consoles and computers. By developing rules around technology, it opens the conversation regarding boundaries and expectations, ensuring a healthy balance of screentime. This guide will help you to develop an age-appropriate family agreement to suit your household.

1 WORK TOGETHER

Collaborating with children when setting rules around the use of technology is a valuable task that can encourage them to take more ownership. It's important to make rules which reflect your family and are age appropriate. Think about what you all enjoy doing online and what apps, games or devices children use most frequently.

2 AGREE TIME LIMITS AND SUITABLE TIMES

Be realistic when setting screen time limits. These can vary depending on the child's age, whether it's a weekday or weekend, and what they're actually doing online. If they're conducting research for homework, that might require more time than if they were playing games. Consider when screen time begins: does it come after chores and homework? Agree times when technology and phones must be put away.

3 ENCOURAGE HONESTY

Family rules ensure that everyone can have fun with their devices and be safe while doing so. Nonetheless, children may make mistakes as they learn to navigate the online world. Emphasise that if they ever feel worried, unsafe or upset about something they've done, sent, said or received, they should tell you immediately so you can help them resolve the problem.

4 CHARGING AND OVERNIGHT STORAGE

To ensure children get the downtime they need overnight, it's important that devices – especially smartphones – are kept in a common space, where possible. This reduces the chance of pointless late-night scrolling or sleep being disturbed by calls, messages or notifications. There are charging boxes you can purchase, or all gadgets could be charged in the kitchen overnight to avoid distractions.

5 REVIEW RULES REGULARLY

Anything you agree on isn't set in stone. These rules will likely alter as children get older and the way they use technology changes. Take time to review these as a family; discuss what's working, and what isn't. Communication is key – so by doing this, you involve the child in their own online safety while promoting an open dialogue.

6 PROTECT PERSONAL INFO

Discuss and demonstrate the importance of protecting your personal information. Talk about what details you share online and who with. Use parental controls to block children from connecting with strangers, so that any information they do share is among their real friends. Ask a child's permission before posting any photos of them on social media, as this demonstrates positive online behaviour that they should learn and remember.

7 BE RESPECTFUL

Highlight the importance of showing respect to others when using technology. Encourage children to speak kindly to others online – such as on social media, when playing multiplayer games or in group chats (which can often lend themselves to teasing behaviour). Explain that if they aren't treating others considerately, they might be made to stay away from their devices for a while.

8 "NO TECH" ZONES

Designating spaces in the house where technology isn't allowed (for example: bedrooms, bathrooms and at the dinner table) lets you keep an eye on what children are viewing and who they're communicating with. It gives you some quality, screen-free time with them, too. It also helps reduce any impulses to potentially engage with inappropriate content, as they're unlikely to do so in a common space within the home.

9 AGREE ON CONSEQUENCES

As a family, discuss why the rules are important: to balance their screentime, to ensure everyone enjoys gaming or interacting online, and that they are safe when doing so. Therefore, if these rules are broken, there has to be a consequence. Discuss what would be fair for certain breaches of the rules, as this can prevent a disproportionate response in the future.

10 KNOW ALL PASSWORDS

To protect children from inappropriate content, parents should have access to all passwords. Parents should also make it clear that they will check children's devices, should they have any concerns about their use. Emphasise that this isn't due to a lack of trust but is an extra way of keeping them safe.

Meet Our Expert

Dr Claire Sutherland is an online safety consultant at BCyberAware. She has developed and implemented anti-bullying and cyber safety workshops and policies for schools in Australia and the UK. Claire has written various academic papers and carried out research for the Australian government comparing internet use and sexting behaviours of young people in the UK, USA and Australia.



The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at nationalcollege.com/guides/tips-for-creating-family-rules-for-using-devices

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