

Newsletter 3 December 2025



Hands Road Park- Early Years Trip

We would like to thank all of the parents and carers, who supported all of the Early Years children heading down to Hands Road Park. This is a crucial part of learning about our local environment and building children's awareness of their locality.



Marlpool Church



Earlier in the Autumn term, we delivered our harvest collection of food to Marlpool Church.

This month, our Key Stage one children performed their Christmas Nativity. It is really important to us to give children different experiences and opportunities to use their speaking skills when performing and how exciting to do this in a different building.

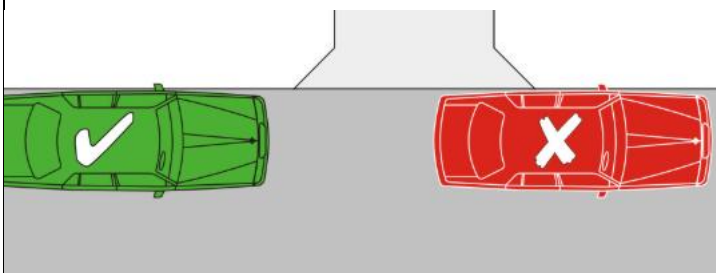
The Key Stage One children were brilliant yesterday. We felt so proud of their singing and acting. We were overwhelmed by the amount of families and friends who came to watch this special performance- thank you.

Parking

I have had a number of concerns from the community regarding parents/carers parking at drop off and pick up. This has included concerns about parents parking over driveways, which has had an impact on people being able to pull off their drives in their vehicles and has had a negative impact on other children getting to school on time. We have also had complaints about parents parking across from school and the knock-on impact this has up and down the street, making the area outside of school unsafe. **Please**

can parents pass this message on to any grandparents, family members, friends that drop off and pick up. I'm sure it is safe

to say that no one would want there to be an accident, where someone got hurt. Please help us keep school and the community safe.



Parent/Carer Survey

Thank you to all of the families who filled in our Autumn Term survey. We appreciate your feedback. Here are the results: **See my responses in bold.**

96% of parents feel that their child is happy at school.

94% of parents feel that their child is safe at school.

93% of parents feel that children are well behaved at school.



This is fantastic to hear that so many parents feel that their child is happy and safe at school. These aspects are the most important to us.

87% of parents felt that their child who has SEND needs is given the support they need to succeed.

95% parents feel that the school has high expectations of their child.

98% of parents felt that their child does well at our school.

It is wonderful to know that you feel that your child/children do well at the school and that the majority of parents can see that we have high expectations of the children. Children only get one chance at their primary journey through education, so it is vital that the foundations in an infant school are set with rigour and consistency with strong practitioners and strong provision.

I would like to further understand the 87% of parents felt that their child who has SEND needs is given the support they need to succeed. Parent voice linked to children's individual learning plans has been positive. I will prepare a further questionnaire for these parents to understand how you feel this could be better; however, I appreciate that both home and school are learning together when a child first starts Nursery/Reception especially when they haven't attended a previous setting.

Please see below for some other questions that were asked:

When I have raised concerns with the school, they have been dealt with properly.

Most popular answer was yes. Answers also included: impressive, correct, no concerns, all questions answered.

How I would you like information about how to help your child:

From most popular answer to least:

45% Pupil Progress Meetings AKA parents 'evening

42% Newsletter

5% Leaflets

3% Workshops

3% Website

3% I don't want any information.

We need to inform you of your child's attendance to date. How would you prefer to receive this information. Answers were a range: email, letter, text, in person.

In previous parent survey, when reviewing our school rules and values, a few parents said that they would like to change the rule 'We always work hard.' I wanted to know if you wanted to change it and what you wanted it changing to. There were more parents stating that they did not want this rule to change. E.g. 'I like this rule, no complaints.' 'We always work hard is a good rule.' 'Don't feel this needs changing.' 'Wouldn't like this changing.' 'I agree with always working hard.'

More parents than not, prefer the rule 'We always work hard.' Therefore, we will not be changing this.

Our School Rules



Be ready to learn	Be kind	Be safe
 We always work hard 		

Thank you to those families who took the time to write a message:

What are your favourite things about school?

The comment below filled my heart with joy- a massive thank you to the person who wrote this:

'We absolutely love the teachers here. They make our children the best versions of themselves and with them being happy here, we are happy to bring them to school, thank you for all you do for us and our children.'



Here are few other comments:

'Outdoor activities, timeframe for school entrance, kind teachers.'

'Our child's progress is monitored and adjusted according to needs.'

'Punctual, helpful, listen well.'

'Great school, great communication.'

'Teachers. How much my child enjoys going to school, how much my child has learnt/come on since starting, the forest and the weekly library book.'

'My child loves it here so everything.'

'The teachers- they clearly work hard for the children.'

'Seems to love this school, has lots of friends and gets on well with everybody.'

'All teachers are very friendly and approachable.'

When I feedback to staff after a parent survey, I always include the teaching assistants and support staff in this in that when the phrase 'teachers' is used, it is all of the educationists that do an amazing job. Thank you so much for the many positive comments. We all really appreciate this.

At the end of the survey, I asked if there was anything else you would like to share with us. Thank you for the positivity within this too!

There were a few areas that came up that I would like to address:

- One parent had the idea of tagging INSET days onto shorter half terms and to give parents more flexibility to book holidays.

We understand that booking holidays/getting time off work for INSET days can be very difficult. There are five INSET days a year. Getting INSET days right for all has always been tricky as our first task as a school is to look at the professional development offer for staff to enhance the school as a whole. We then have to look at our feeder schools and trust schools to align INSET days- this is also a tricky process.

INSET day planning supports staff professional development and planning for children. This is something we review every year and will continue to do so.

- One parent asked for events three months in advance.

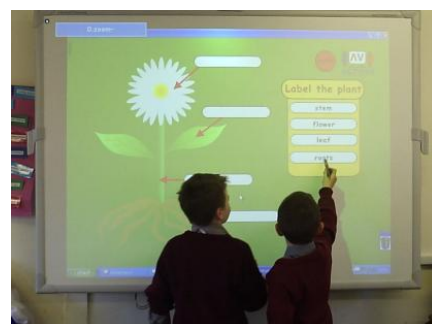
We appreciate that parents want to attend as many events as possible. We will aim to give as much notice as possible for future dates.

-One parent was concerned that there were too many apps, and that Dojo markets the premium version to parents. They were also concerns about the amount of screen time their child was having and watching TV at school.



Class Dojo is an amazing tool for us as a school and is a crucial part of our behaviour and wellbeing policy. We are really sorry to hear that the app is marketing things out of our control. It is not an expectation from school to us the Premium version. Our offer of the use of the Dojo tool is completely free and we aim to keep costs to parents at a minimum.

Where children may feel that they are watching TV is that each class has an interactive whiteboard- it is huge, so could be mistaken for a TV. We will ensure as staff that we educate the children in the correct terminology around this. Staff use the interactive whiteboards as a teaching tool to model, demonstrate and enhance teaching and learning. During 'wet break/lunchtime' when it may be raining heavily outside, children are given the option between playing with toys or watching something or even both! This is when we would play something like Number Blocks.



With regards to children having screen time on their own devices, this occurs in computing units of learning, where children may have their own iPad or laptop depending on the skills that they are needing to apply. We are very much striving for strong basic skills development and whilst technology has its place, basic skills often need to be learnt without the use of technology.

-One parents suggested that Nursery children should be entitled to a hot meal at lunchtime

Unfortunately this isn't something that we have been able to provide due to the way universal free school meals work and where we get our meals from. All children from Reception to Year 2 have their meals paid by the Government. Once children become Year 3, they are not entitled to this unless parents have applied for pupil premium funding. The kitchen we have the meals imported from is run by Derbyshire County Council so we do not have the flexibility to request and take money for Nursery children currently. I will raise this with the catering team to see if there is anything we can do.



Thanks again for all of your feedback. We have loved hearing it!!!

Pupil Voice

Pupil voice is really important and as part of this, we run class parliaments and pupil parliaments. The children decided that we needed to make the library better by having a better range of non-fiction books.

The Key Stage One children got to work by preparing Christmas crafts to sell at our Christmas enterprise to make money to buy non-fiction books. We raised a huge £150.00. Thank you soooooo much. The children felt such pride in raising this money. We haven't quite made enough to cover all of the books they have been requested so we will be putting any money raised by the Christmas raffle towards this. See books purchased in the photo! THANK YOU!





Woodland Wellies

Thank you to those families who have rinsed their child's wellies after a woodland session. It has made a difference to the running of the school, helping our site manager and cleaner to have less mud to clean up- thank you!

NSPCC- Speak Out, Stay Safe

Just to let you know, on the first day back to school, our Relationships Day will focus on how children can speak up about anything that is worrying them or anything that is wrong. It is really important that children as young as Nursery learn how they should be treated and our boundaries with our own bodies. Children from Reception to Year 2 will be taking part in the NSPCC assembly and all children will be learning that private parts are private. Please see link to NSPCC song:

[Talk PANTS with Pantosaurus and his PANTS song #TalkPANTS](#)

Attendance Hero- Meet Oakley

Meet Oakley our new Attendance Hero. Hero stands for Here Everyday Ready On time. We shared a letter about our attendance strategy and what we are doing to support individual children and families. As part of that letter, we launched a competition to name the Attendance Hero squirrel. All children entered and we had some beautiful ideas e.g. Squirrel nut man, Bob, Pippin Peanut.

The winners of the competition, who all chose Oakley are : Nolen, Arlo and Logan- well done boys! The boys have received their goodie bag!

Watch out for Oakley being out and about next half term!



Visit from Santa

This year, we invited Santa to our very own Santa's Grotto! The children absolutely loved visiting Santa and having the time to ask him questions. Questions ranged from 'Do you like cats?' to older children asking questions like: 'What is Mrs Claus doing at the moment?', 'Where are your reindeers?', 'Why do you have a beard?'



Santa knew the Laceyfields' Rules of 'Be Ready To Learn', 'Be Kind,' 'Be Safe,' and 'We Always Work Hard.' He also talked about our school values and how important it is to be respectful. Some of the children looked surprised that Santa knew all of this! We know how expensive this time of year can be and know that a visit to Santa can cost a lot of money. We hope this experience brought your child lots of joy! Santa bought everyone a bag of haribos! Merry Christmas!



Important Update- Trust Merger

As most of you will be aware, our school is part of the Djanogly Learning Trust. From 1st January 2026, Djanogly Learning Trust will merge with another multi-academy trust, QEGSMAT. The merger of these two Trusts means, we needed a new Trust name- it is **Tapestry Learning Partnership**.

What does this mean for pupils and families?

- All of our schools will continue to operate as usual and serve their communities.
- There will be **no changes to the day-to-day running of our schools**.
- Pupils will continue to be taught by the same staff in the same schools, which will retain their existing names.

What are the benefits of the merger?

- A stronger partnership that shares knowledge, best practice, resources, and expertise to enhance teaching and learning.
- Greater opportunities for staff development, supporting recruitment and retention.
- Improved efficiency and sustainability, ensuring we can continue to provide the very best education.

We already have a strong working relationship with QEGSMAT, and both trusts share a similar philosophy of serving communities across the East Midlands. This merger marks an important step in our ongoing commitment to providing the highest quality education and opportunities for all pupils. Thank you for your continued support. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Diary dates

Please see below for our term dates and/or our website, where all newsletters are stored. You can also find key dates in our calendar on the website. These dates are subject to change and more may be added. We will always endeavour to let you know dates as soon as we can.

Term dates for 2025-2026:

Spring 1: 6th January- 13th February -Monday 5th January is an INSET Day. Children back on Tuesday 6th January.

Spring 2: 23rd February- 27th March

Summer 1: 13th April- 22nd May

Summer 2: 1st June- 23rd July

INSET days:

Monday 5th January

Monday 15th June

Colour code: Nursery (London), Reception (Cardiff),
Year 1 (Belfast), Year 2 (Edinburgh) Whole School

Monday 5th January- Staff INSET day. This will be a Trust led INSET day (Tapestry Learning Partnership), where staff will have the opportunity to listen to inspiring leaders and thinking about how their stories can impact the Trust and their schools to be even better!

Tuesday 6th January-FIRST day back for all. Relationships Day. The focus for this session is all about boundaries and online safety. Children will be accessing the NSPCC unit (See section above in newsletter) Speak Out, Stay Safe. They will also be learning about how to stay safe on line. In a previous newsletter, I shared with you the school's online safety mantra on a poster- STOP- TELL- CLOSE. Three actions that the children are aware of that they should implement if something were to go wrong/pop up on a device that they are on.

Friday 9th January- Year 1 and Year 2 are asked to bring a toy to school. This is part of their history topic, thinking about how toys have changed over time. If you would like to share any of your toys too, please do! If you have a collection of toys you would like to share, please speak to a member of staff about popping in to share this with the children.

Week beginning 9th February- Children's mental health week. The theme this year is know yourself, grow yourself.

Tuesday 10th February- Safer Internet Day

Wednesday 11th February- Year 1's showcase. This is where children in Year 1 have opportunity to share their learning with you. It is all about remembering more!! Having an audience to practice our speaking and listening skills to is always much appreciated. Come to the main entrance for 2:45pm.

Thursday 12th February- Year 2's showcase. This is where children in Year 2 have opportunity to share their learning with you. It is all about remembering more!! Having an audience to practice our speaking and listening skills to is always much appreciated. Come to the main entrance for 2:45pm.

Thursday 12th February- Early Years Pancakes! A walk to the local shop to buy ingredients to make pancakes.

Wednesday 4th March- Year 1 and Year 2 will be walking down to William Gregg Leisure Centre as part of their history topic.

Thursday 5th March- World Book Day.

In March, Early Years Stay and Play- During the Spring term, we are offering parents/carers to Stay and Play sessions. Please look out for a separate letter coming out regarding dates and times you will be able to book.

Friday 20th March- Red Nose Day. Donate £1 to charity for wearing non-uniform.

Monday 23rd March and Wednesday 25th March- Pupil Progress Meetings AKA Parents' Evenings

Thursday 21st May- Parents of Early Years children are invited in to release the butterflies into the woodland area.

Tuesday 9th June- Early Years will be visiting Matlock Park Farm

Thursday 2nd July- Summer Fayre

Thursday 16th July- Sports Day

Wednesday 22nd July- Year 2 Showcase and celebrating the end of their infant journey. 2:55pm in the school hall

Thursday 23rd July- Last day of term. Guard of honour on the front playground for Year 2 leavers and signing of t-shirts (Gift from Laceyfields)

We would like to wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope that all of our families have a break full of joy, love and peace. Thank you so much for all of your help this term and we look forward to working with you again in 2026!

Kind regards,



Miss Rogers and the Laceyfields' Family

