CHURCH GRESLEY INFANT & NURSERY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Believe, Achieve, Succeed

Dear Parents /Carers,

It feels like Christmas is only just over and yet half term will soon be upon us! I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas break (although it probably feels like it was an age ago!) Well done to all our new Nursery children who have made a fantastic start to their education journey and have settled in really well. Welcome to our Church Gresley family!

Thank you so much for your co-operation during the last 'snow day'. We appreciate that closing the school is extremely inconvenient and that it will have meant many of you needing to sort out alternative childcare arrangements. We only close the school as an absolute last resort and when Mr Summers arrived at 5.30am it was clear very quickly that it would not be safe to open school that day. It was absolutely wonderful to see all the things you got up to on Seesaw– I was quite jealous! If we have such weather again, the same process of communication will be used.

A couple of quick reminders about site safety and school drop off and pick up. No mobile phones are allowed on site at any time. I am seeing increasing numbers of parents with their phones out on the playground. It is really important for safeguarding reasons, to protect both you and your children, that mobile phones are not used on site.

The top gate near the kitchen is for use by special permission only, for parents and carers that have a disability or have neurodiverse children that cannot wait in a longer line. If you are picking up after school and you do not have a disability then you do not need to wait at the top gate and can join the rest of the parents lining up at the bottom of the site. If there is a special reason why you need to join this shorter queue at the kitchen entrance, please see me or Miss Grimes for permission. This just helps with the smooth running of the site at the start and end of the day. It also means that we keep this second queue as short as possible and helps those children and parents who struggle to be around a lot of people.

Please remember not to park across resident's drives and to park safely (off verges and yellow lines) at all times. The car park is for visitors and parents with a blue badge only, unless you have a parking pass issued by school .

Thank you so much for your co-operation.

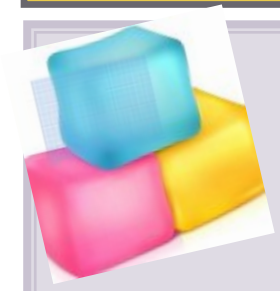
Mrs Cripps

Breakfast Club

Just another reminder for those of you who may not know, we are an 'Early Adopter' of the new government scheme to provide 30 minutes of free childcare including breakfast for all children who attend main school. We are fully expecting this to be extended to other schools by September of next year, but currently we are one of only a few schools offering this service. Our breakfast club runs from 8.15am-8.45am every morning. Doors open at 8.10am but shut promptly at 8.20am. Children who arrive after this time will have to wait with their parents until the gate opens at 8.40am for the rest of school. Children will be offered cereal, or toast and can then take part in a number of activities before being taken to their classrooms just before the bell rings. You can register for this service for the following week, up to Friday nights at 5.00pm. After this you will not be able to register online. However, there may be a small number of places offered on a first come, first served basis if you ring the night before. Places WILL NOT be offered if you ring on the day. This is so that we can be sure we have the right staff to child ratio. Wherever possible, we will run the breakfast club, however, on the days where we run a themed open morning, with activities in the classrooms, we cannot run breakfast club; simply because we do not have the capacity to set up classrooms for the first lesson and host children for breakfast. This will affect the following dates only:



Tuesday 27th January and Wednesday 18th March



Sensory Aids

We understand the need for some of our children to have sensory aids, to reduce stress and enable concentration. However, these can only be used in school after advice has been sought from Mrs Hackett, our SENDCO. We have found when children have them, who do not have a real need for them, they become a distraction in class, both for the child and the other children. Please do NOT send these aids in without discussing with a member of staff first. If children appear to have them without this initial discussion we will remove them and return them to you.

'Sticky Questions'



Thank you to those of you who have embraced our new , important initiative with enthusiasm and supported your children to think about interesting answers to the questions we pose. Good oracy is the basis for access to the curriculum. It allows children to feel confident in their communication with others, helps improve their vocabulary which in turn, improves their reading and writing skills and allows the children to develop reasoning. With this in mind, please look out for a letter from Mrs Woodward explaining that we are going to start sending these questions out on a Thursday, to enable you to have slightly longer to talk and discuss ideas with your children. They are important and we really welcome your support. If possible, it would be amazing if you could upload a short video of you discussing these questions with your children, to Seesaw. This will allow children to have access to different answers and ideas and will hopefully allow them to be more imaginative. Keep a look out for members of staff discussing these on line as well!

Derbyshire Local Offer

The Derbyshire Local Offer is in place to support children and young people with SEND, as well as their parents and carers. It provides lots of information about services and provision including how to apply for an assessment, early years support, education and learning, care services, health and wellbeing, financial support travel and transport. Scanning this QR code will give you access to lots of useful information, advices and websites you can visit for more assistance. Please take a look. If you have any questions, please ask Mrs Hackett or Mrs Edwards who should be able to give you more information.

ATTENDANCE

Current attendance up to 25th January 2026

	Attendance %	Total number of absences
Nursery	95.08%	312
Reception	96.93%	449
Year One	95.32%	637
Year 2	96.12%	586

Well done to Reception who currently have the highest attendance!

Attendance Matters			
Attendance during one school year	Equals approximate days absence	Which is approximately weeks absence	Which is approximately lessons missed
95%	9 days	2 weeks	40 lessons
90%	19 days	4 weeks	80 lessons
85%	29 days	6 weeks	120 lessons
80%	38 days	8 weeks	160 lessons
75%	48 days	10 weeks	200 lessons
70%	57 days	11.5 weeks	230 lessons
65%	67 days	13.5 weeks	270 lessons

Punctuality Matters		
Minutes per day during the school year		Approximate number of days teaching lost in a year
5 mins	=	3 days
10 mins		6 days
15 mins		9 days
20 mins		12 days
30 mins		18 days

If you need help or guidance regarding attendance please refer to our school website under Key Information/Attendance. You will find lots of helpful information about your legal responsibilities, what to do if your child is ill and what other support we may be able to give you to help if you find it difficult to get your child to school.



Dame Rachel de Souza has recently been across the media promoting her new guide for parents and carers on managing children's digital lives. She is hugely concerned about the amount our children are being exposed to on line and has written the guide to make it easier for parents and carers to start conversations with their children about being safe online. It is full of brilliant advice, hints and tips on helping your children manage the dangers of an online world. The hyperlink is below but the whole document can also be found on our website under

Parents/Carers/Safeguarding and CEOP/Online Safety

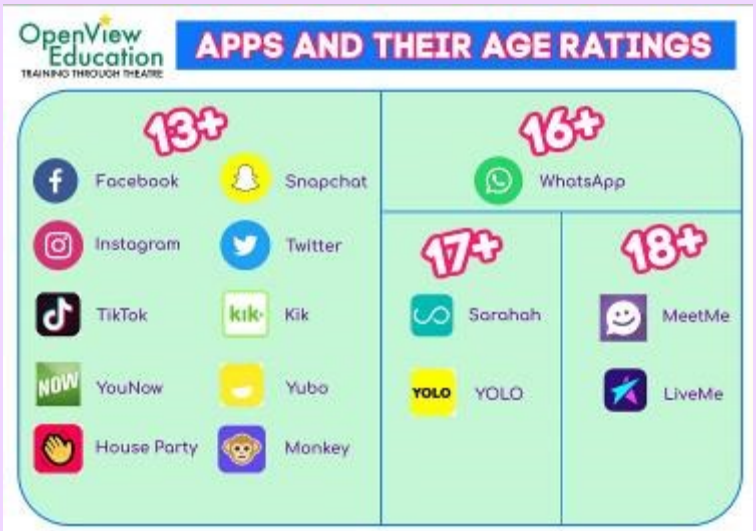
cc-what-i-wish-parent-guide.pdf



Internet Safety

As part of our ongoing work around internet safety we are having Open View Education in on 27th February. They specialise in running exciting and interactive assemblies and workshops for children based around keeping safe online. There will be an age appropriate assembly and workshop for each age group and we are looking forward to what they can teach us!

There will also be lots of information available for parents and we will let you know how you can access this nearer the time.



School Census Day



Thank you to all the children who had a school dinner on our recent census day and especially those who normally have packed lunch. We had nearly 100% take up, which was absolutely fantastic. Every child who regularly has a packed lunch and tried a dinner on that day was put into a draw and the lucky winner was Aleks K in Outstanding Owls. Well done Aleks– you have won our lego prize. It really makes a difference to our funding, so a sincere thank you to all of you and to the catering staff who made 'fake away' dinners for nearly everyone in school!



Maths Breakfast

Thank you to all the parents and carers who came to support at our maths breakfast and came to share a maths lesson with the children. We hope it furthered your understanding of how we teach maths at CGINS and that you enjoyed it! Thank you also to Miss Asquith for all her preparation!



Forest School

Some of you will have noticed that we have had a lot of work done at the bottom end of the playground in our woodland area. Led by Miss Pickerin, who is now a fully qualified Forest School Practitioner (well done Miss Pickerin!) we have had some staff in, from Little Acorns Forest School who have transformed it into a wonderful place for the children to learn and explore. Forest School is rooted in Scandinavian outdoor learning tradition which allows children to explore and take supported risks. The children who have already attended have absolutely thrived, climbing trees, building dens and much more. We hope to be able to extend this offer across school in the near future so that all children are able to benefit from the space.



Derbyshire Term Dates

4th September - 24th October 2025

3rd November - 19th December 2025

5th January - 13th February 2026

23rd February - 27th March 2026

13th April - 22nd May 2026

1st June - 23rd July 2026

INSET Days (when school will be closed to pupils)

15th June

3rd July

23rd July – school breaks up on 22nd July 2026

Please do not book holidays during term time.

Events coming up

27th January 8.15am Maths breakfast (whole school)

27th January 9.00am Maths open morning for main school

2nd February 4.15pm - 5.00pm Valentines Disco for Nursery and Reception

9th February 4.15 - 5.15pm Valentines Disco for Yr 1 and Yr 2

12th February 2.15pm What is ADHD? workshop for parents

25th February 3.15pm Take One Picture Exhibition

26th February 2.15 pm Managing Anger and Strong Emotions workshop for parents

5th March 2.15pm Saying Focussed workshop for parents

9th March Class photos

13th March Non-school uniform day (bring chocolate for Easter Bingo) and Mother's Day Breakfast

17th March Spring concert for choir and glockenspiels