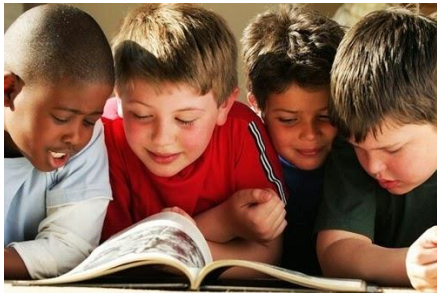


## NEWSLETTER, JANUARY 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

“Happy New Year” to you all!

Welcome back to school. This term has started well, the spring term is always busy, and the time when we can be very focussed on our learning. Children in Y1 and Y2 are bringing spellings home to practice, if you can spare 10 minutes a day for this that will help your children. We are also encouraging every child to read to an adult or older brother or sister every day, 10 minutes a day is all that is required.



### Health and Safety

We have been fortunate so far this winter that the weather has not been very cold. The forecast is for a cold spell, so please ensure that your children have coats, hats, scarves, gloves and shoes or boots for wearing outside, particularly if we have snow!

I have received a letter from Councillor Sara Bolton regarding the School Crossing Patrol Service. I am pleased to report that the council has decided not to cut this service and so the patrol on Brackensdale Avenue will remain in place.



## **The Extended Free Childcare Offer**

The government is increasing the free childcare offer for eligible three and four year olds from 570 hours a year to 1140 from September 2017. To qualify for the additional hours of free childcare, each parent (or the sole parent in a single parent family) will need to earn the equivalent of 16 hours on the national minimum wage per week. The intention is to help families by reducing the cost of childcare and supporting parents to work.

Further information regarding this offer is available at [www.derby.gov.uk/freechildcare](http://www.derby.gov.uk/freechildcare). We also have information available in school, please come and ask! To help with our nursery planning it will be helpful to know which of our families may be eligible for these additional hours.

Parents will still be able to access the 15 hours as normal, so please continue to put your children's names on our nursery list.

### **Dates for the term**

**Thursday 19 January** School census day

We need as many children as possible to have a school meal so that we receive the maximum amount of funding

**Week beginning 30 January** Parent consultations

**Friday 10 February** Close for half term holiday

**Monday 20 February** Children return to school

**Please note we will take 1 INSET day during this second half-term, date still to be arranged**

**Friday 7 April** Close for Easter holiday

Children return to school on **Monday 24 April**

Yours sincerely

*Diane Reddish*

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