

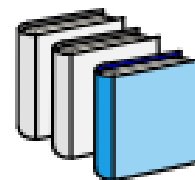


Brackenfield SEND School

Newsletter 2021-2022



February



Edition

Brackenfield

SEND School

Newsletter 2021-2022



HANDS



FACE



SPACE

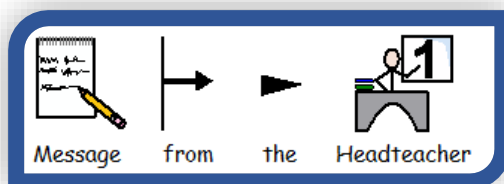


- Message from the Headteacher
- Important Dates
- School News
- School Community update



Brackenfield SEND School

Newsletter 2021-2022



Dear Parents and Carers,

Dear Parents/Carers,

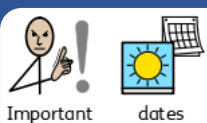
I hope this newsletter finds you well. It has been a challenging half term, with the levels of Covid amongst our staff being the highest we have had since the pandemic began. This has inevitably led to further disruption and class closures in school. I hope that the second half of the spring term brings us a more settled time in school.

Despite the challenges of the last few weeks, we are seeing an ever-increasing return to normal. We are slowly getting our pupils out in to the community to support their learning, this is a steady process due to the time the children have not been exposed to this type of learning due to the lockdowns.

The school has continued to expand due to popularity and need from our community we now have 140 children on role. Due to the growth of the school (from 64 pupils in 2016) there is a need to expand the leadership of the school. I am currently advertising for 2 Assistant Head Teachers to appoint for a September 2022 start.

Wishing you all a restful break over the half term holiday and we will see the children back on Monday 28th February.

Trish Turner- Head Teacher



End of term	Return to school	World book day	Easter half term (12pm finish)	Return to school
Fri 18 th Feb	Mon 28 th Feb	Thurs 3 rd March	Fri 8 th April	Mon 25 th April

At Brackenfield we build:





Brackenfield SEND School

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New



Build



Update

Our new build has started this week. Builders are onsite constructing the compound before demolishing the annex building on the playground and starting construction of our 4-classroom extension.

Dave- our ICT manager, is installing a time lapse camera so we will be able to keep you up to date with progress of the build.

The Brack Track has been out of bounds this week, whilst the compound has been constructed. It should be back to use after half term.



Covid Testing over half term

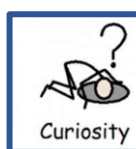
Please continue to test your secondary aged children twice a week and report the results via the link sent out in text. It is every Monday and Thursday morning.

Please email your class teams for additional testing kits.

If your child has cold like symptoms, PHE have advised your child stays at home to reduce transmission. Close contacts of COVID must do daily lateral flow tests for 7 days after contact, or self-isolate for 10 days.

Any sickness, diarrhoea or temperatures require children to be off for 48 hours since their last bout.

At Brackenfield we build:



Curiosity



Cooperation



Courage



Determination



Honesty



Kindness



Resilience



Brackenfield SEND School

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Curriculum Update



As we develop our curriculum offer to meet the needs of our children and young people, it is important as parents, you understand our vision, approaches and aspirations for our cohort.

As many of you know, we do not follow a traditional school curriculum, as the mainstream approach does not allow our pupils to develop their life skills and independence. Instead, our class timetables are focused on preparing all our pupils for adulthood- including their ability to regulate, communicate, make choices and have a voice.

You will not see English, maths or science lessons on our timetables. But you will see structured routines including breakfast, play, communication, travel training, storytelling, problem solving and sensory regulation time.

All pupils follow either an informal or semi-formal curriculum approach. All learning opportunities are built on each child's personalised learning intentions, which are informed by their Education Health and Care Plan, strengths and needs analysis and your hopes and aspirations for your child.



Underpinning both curriculum approaches are the Brackenfield Characters. These are at the heart of, not just our curriculum, but our whole school.

Our timetables provide us with opportunities to develop our character attributes, to recognise and celebrate our personal successes.

At Brackenfield we build:





Brackenfield SEND School

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Informal 'Learning to be'

Informal Approach:

As informal learners, **we are learning to be.**

Our curriculum is enabling us to **engage and make choices**. Our adults are providing us with opportunities to extend engagement by providing scenarios **we can explore**, allowing us to have realisation (noticing and engaging with the world around us).

We are learning to anticipate what happens next, to enable us to build perseverance and persistence and to **initiate play and interaction** (to opt into or to choose). Our adults are modelling how to play and are using a range of approaches to support our sensory and communication needs (inc communication aids and intensive interaction)- ensuring the environment is optimum for us when we **encounter new experiences**.

Our adults recognise what we enjoy and extend these opportunities and allow us to attend to them. We feel the passage of time, but we don't navigate it. Our adults maintain our routine during the day and use visuals to aid us to anticipate what is happening now and what will happen next. Our adults are **helping us to co-regulate** and eventually self-regulate in lots of contexts so we can learn to be comfortable outside school in the community. We are going out into the community to practice these skills. We use weekly themes (based on the overachieving themes) to give richness to our curriculum creating lots of different experience for us to explore.

Our adults play alongside us and with us. **Our adults know us**, can explain what we were like when we met them, how we are doing now, how we have progressed and what we need in adulthood, they speak to our parents and know what they want for us too.

Our informal classes are: Acorns, Maple, Sycamore, Elm, Pine, Rowan and some pupils in Willow.

At Brackenfield we build:



Curiosity

Cooperation

Courage

Determination

Honesty

Kindness

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Brackenfield SEND School

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Semi-Formal Approach:

As semi-formal learners we are **doing to learn**.

What this means is that everything we do, we do with the purpose of **preparing us for life** beyond school. All of our **learning is functional** and enables us to be **as independent as possible**.

Our adults support us by helping us to navigate a range of **enriching and real-life experiences**; modelling and supporting, repeatedly, until we are able to apply these skills independently.

Real life concepts are essential. For example, instead of simply learning about coin value in the classroom, we go to the shop and learn about what we can buy with money. Through our semi-formal approach, we learn skills and strategies to self-regulate, access the community and interact with other people without high levels of anxiety.

We learn to make our own choices and realise which activities we will do for leisure in adulthood. We may also follow whole school themes which give variety to cross contextual learning and add richness to our curriculum. Our themes run every 10 weeks and are designed to support the 4 strands of the preparation for adulthood. Thematic planning adds a richness to our curriculum and all our themes are planned skillfully with the intent of providing us with opportunities to learn inside and outside of the classroom; to extend our learning experiences through enrichment visits which enable us to contextualise our skills and knowledge.

Everything we learn is centered around Preparation for Adulthood outcomes, Independent Living, Good Health, Friends, Relationships and Community and Employment.

Our semi-formal cases are: Ash, Poplar, Oak, Laurel, Conkers, Beech, Hazel and some pupils in Willow.

If you have any questions about this, please email parents@brackenfield.derbyshire.sch.uk and a senior leader will be in touch.

At Brackenfield we build:





Brackenfield SEND School

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If something concerns you about what your child is doing on Teams or online, please report to safeguarding@brackenfield.derbyshire.sch.uk



Busy Things

Teach • Laugh • Learn



We are excited to announce that we are trying a new website called Busy Things across school. The website has a range of interactive and fun learning games with lots of animations and fun sounds.

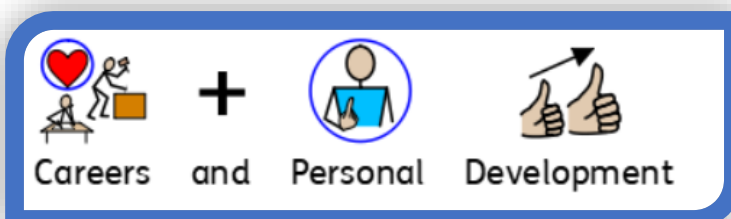
We have been trying the games out in classes in school and the pupils have really engaged with them in both iPads and the interactive whiteboards. All pupils can log in using the following:

Username: bf

Password: bf

Some classes have set up individual logins for pupils and will send these out to you if they have done this. This lets us see what games the pupils have been playing so we get a good idea of what they have engaged in most and letting us find similar games for them to try. The games are organised into age categories and you can easily navigate between them to try out different games.

We hope the pupils enjoy the games at home and please feel free to ask school staff if you have any questions.

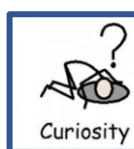


We are keen to build relationships with a range of employers who would work with us on this fantastic opportunity. If you have any contacts or are keen to work with us, please send their details to:

pupilarcareers@brackenfield.derbyshire.sch.uk

If you have any further questions, please email: parents@brackenfield.derbyshire.sch.uk

At Brackenfield we build:



Curiosity



Cooperation



Courage



Determination



Honesty



Kindness



Resilience



Brackenfield SEND School

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Teddy



Tales

It's been a busy half term since Christmas for me! I have been out on walks with pupils from across school. I've been visiting lots of classrooms and also helping children during their intervention sessions.

I have so many friends across school. I get daily visits Yusuf! He thinks I'm so funny.

We have lots of visitors in school and I am usually in all the meetings, saying hello. One of our newest pupils fed me treats!

That was a great day!



It is with a heavy heart we all say bye to my friend, Miss Jones. She has been with us since last summer, teaching in Sycamore.

Miss Jones told me she has enjoyed her time at Brackenfield and has felt privileged to have been able to be a part of your children's journey here.

Miss Jones will be working for Team Teach and The National Autistic Society for the interim.

Love Teddy



Private



School



Fund

There have been no donations made to the private school fund this half term.

At Brackenfield we build:



Curiosity



Cooperation



Courage



Determination



Honesty



Kindness



Resilience



Brackenfield SEND School

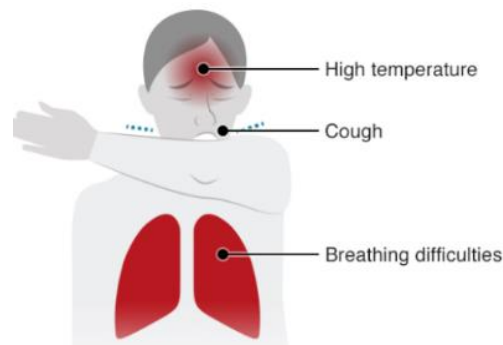
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What are the Coronavirus symptoms?

A high temperature – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back.
(You do not need to measure your temperature)

- A new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- A loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – this means you have noticed. you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.



To protect others, do not go to places like a GP surgery, pharmacy, or hospital if you have any of these symptoms. Stay at home (self-isolate) and get a test.

What happens if my child develops Coronavirus symptoms at home?

You must keep your child off school if they develop Covid-19 symptoms. Your child must self-isolate for 10 days and the rest of your family should self-isolate for 10 days. You should also consider getting a test for your child or any family members with symptoms.

What happens if my child develops Coronavirus symptoms at school?

If your child develops symptoms at school, we will call you and ask you to collect your child. Your child will be unable to attend school for 10 days whilst they are self-isolate. In school, we will follow a strict process to ensure other pupils are safe and your child is kept safe and calm. We will provide home learning packs to support a school routine at home.

What should I do if my child has symptoms?

The Government advise anyone with COVID-19 symptoms gets a test.

How do I book a test for my child?

You can book a test through this link: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-an-antigen-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>

Does my child have to have a test?

We appreciate this may be a distressing experience for your child and therefore understand if you do not do this. We will still require your child to follow the self-isolation rules and be off school for 10 days.

When can my child return to school?

Your child can return to school after 10 days of isolation or after a negative test result and no one else in your household is symptomatic. You MUST email parents@brackenfield.derbyshire.sch.uk to inform the senior leadership team of the result before your child returns to school. You can also call or text 07930909976 with your child's name and test result.

If you have any questions, please email parents@brackenfield.derbyshire.sch.uk and we will get back to you within 24 hours. If you want to speak to someone on the phone, please call the school office on 0115 9733710.

At Brackenfield we build:





Brackenfield SEND School

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The following pages are external links and are being shared with you by the early help team. If you have any early help queries or would like some support at home, please email: earlyhelp@brackenfield.derbyshire.sch.uk

growing, bushcraft skills

Grow your own Way

SESSIONS STARTING:
THURSDAY 3RD MARCH // TIME: 4:15 - 5:45PM

WHERE: - Garden 61 - Church Street Allotments, Cotmanhay, Ilkeston DE7 8QP

£3/SESSION including refreshments.
Age Group: 9 - 13. Booking is essential.

GET OUTSIDE & FEEL BETTER!

Please contact us to book a place:
info@parksidehigh.co.uk or 0115 9301000
(Speak to us about funded places for activities)

PARKSIDE HIGH

UK YOUTH | Social Enterprise | erewash partnership | Q&A | EREWASH | DERBYSHIRE County Council | The Pod

At Brackenfield we build:





Brackenfield SEND School

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NEW SESSIONS THIS SPRING!

THE POD
YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE

STREETSIDE
URBAN YOUTH PROJECT

STARTING WEDNESDAY 2ND MARCH - £3/SESSION
AT THE POD (FORMERLY ABBOTSFORD) 6:30PM - 8PM
FOR 11 - 16 YEARS (MUST ALREADY BE IN SECONDARY SCHOOL)
Email: info@parksidehigh.co.uk Phone: 0115 930 1000
The POD 17 Summerfields Way South Ilkeston DE7 9JJ
All StreetSide Activities Follow National Youth Agency Guidance!



At Brackenfield we build:





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STARTING THIS SPRING!

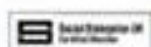
THE POD
YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE

STREETSIDE JUNIORS

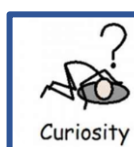
LEARN NEW SKILLS IN ART, MUSIC, SPORT & MORE...
STARTING WEDNESDAY 2ND MARCH // 4:15 - 5:45PM
FOR 8 - 12 YEARS £3/SESSION

Email: info@parksidehigh.co.uk Phone: 0115 930 1000
The POD 17 Summerfields Way South Ilkeston DE7 9JJ
All StreetSide Activities Follow National Youth Agency Guidance!

UK YOUTH



At Brackenfield we build:



Curiosity



Cooperation



Courage



Determination



Honesty



Kindness



Resilience



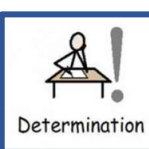
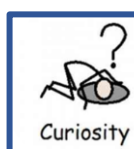
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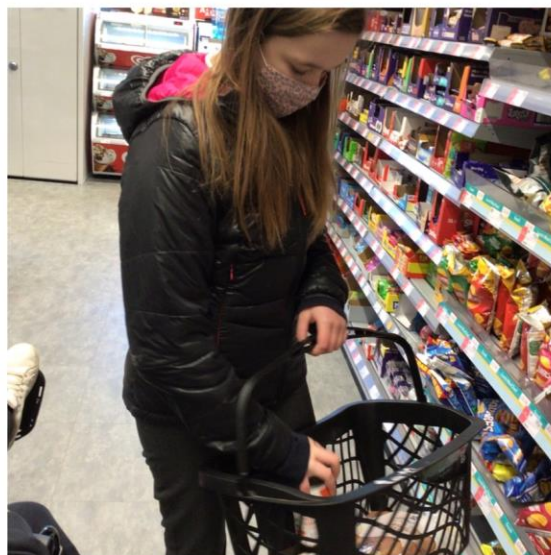
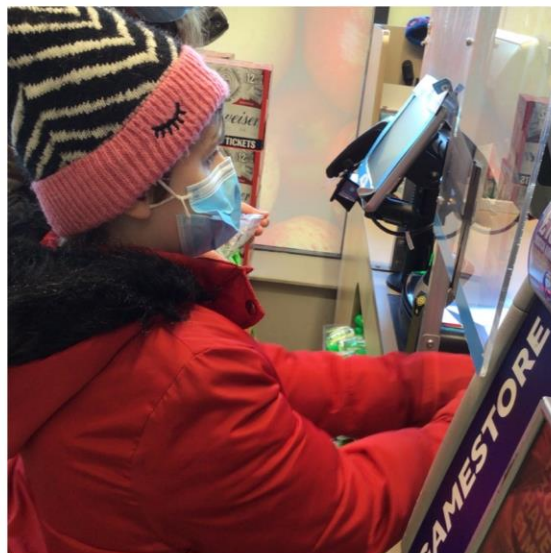
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We have been
busy this half
term. Our theme
is food. 
Class video links are on
the last page.
Enjoy!

At Brackenfield we build:





PIC•COLLAGE











New
taxi
time
uniform!

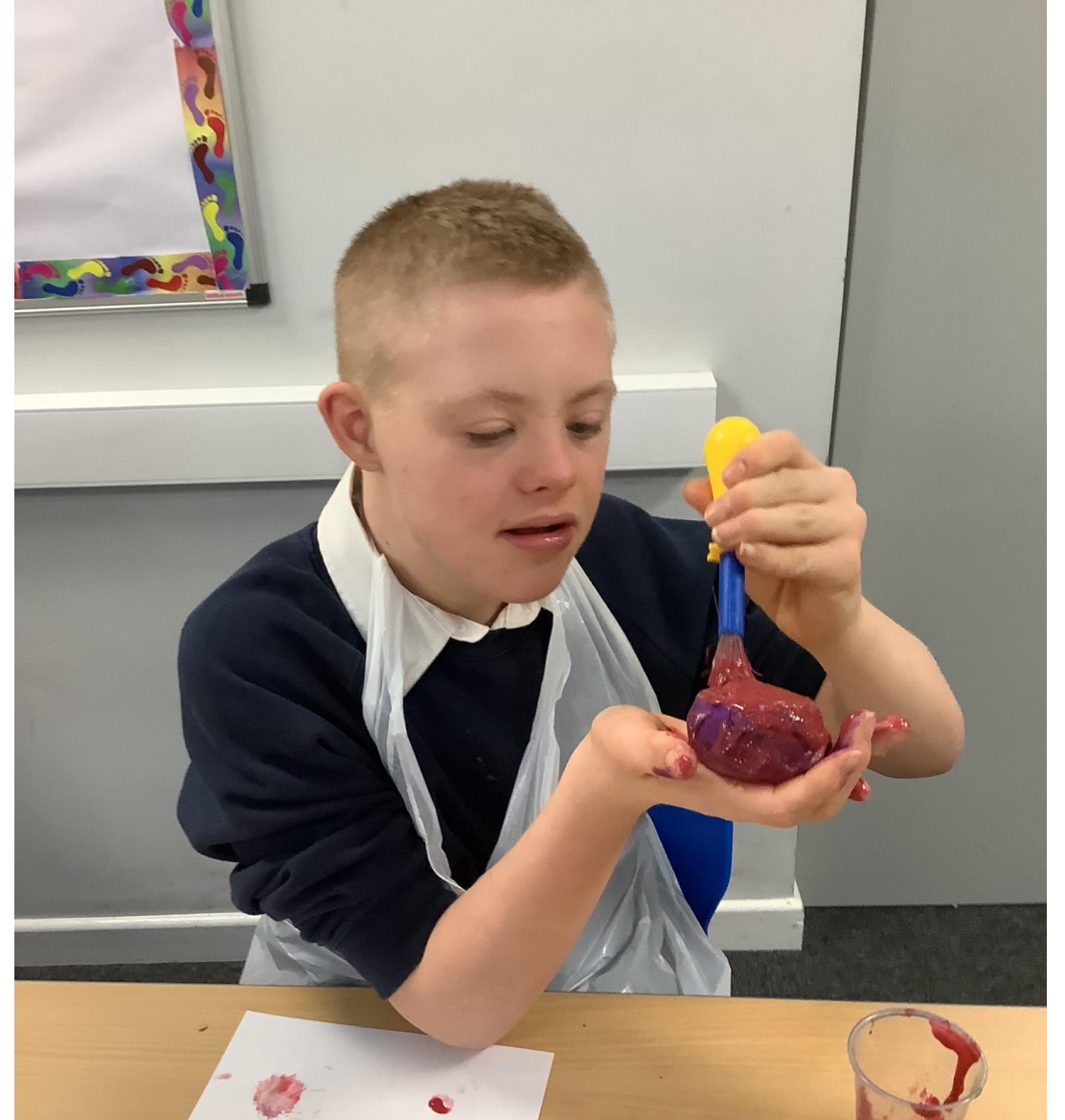




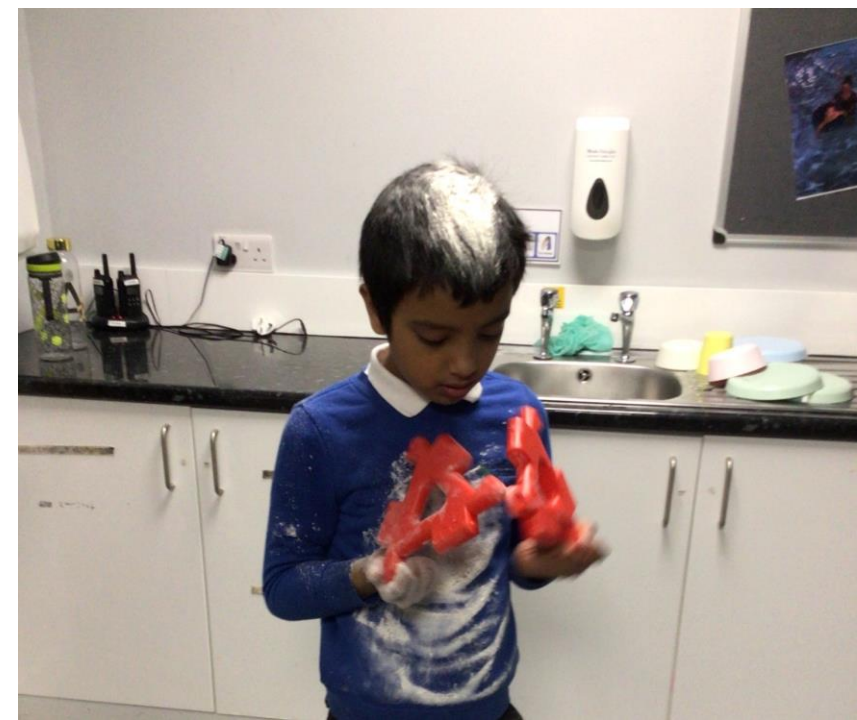




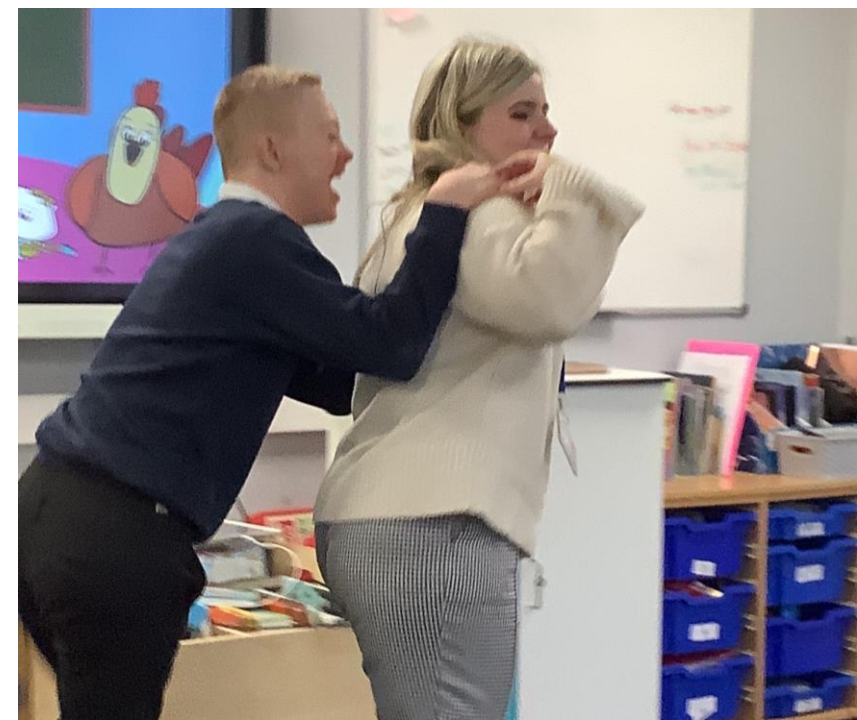














Each class has made a video of their learning adventures over this spring half term



MAPLE

[Click here
for Acorns
Video](#)

[Click here
for Maple
Video](#)



SYCAMORE

[Click here
for
Sycamore
Video](#)



PINE

[Click here
for Pine
Video](#)



ELM

[Click here
for Elm
Video](#)



WILLOW

[Click here
for Willow
Video](#)

[Click here
for Laurel
Video](#)



ROWAN

[Click here
for Rowan
Video](#)



CONKERS

[Click here
for Conkers
Video](#)



HAZEL

[Click here
for Hazel
Video](#)



POPLAR

[Click here
for Poplar
Video](#)



ASH

[Click here
for Ash
Video](#)



BEECH

[Click here
for Beech
Video](#)



OAK

[Click here
for Oak
Video](#)

Derby City Council

Home to School Travel Service

Spring Term 2022

Newsletter

Dear Parent/Carer,

We would like to update you on how the Home to School Travel Service will be changing and making improvements. The following newsletter will give you information on:

- The Home to School Travel Service Team structure
- Contact details for the team
- An important update on waiting times

Team Structure

We have recently restructured our team and recruited new members of staff in order to help make improvements. Some of the people you have previously dealt with are no longer in the team. The people in the team are:

Michael Samra – Home to School Travel Service Apprentice

Contact Email Address: schooltravel@derby.gov.uk/michael.samra@derby.gov.uk
Contact Telephone Number: 01332 642716

Contact Michael if you need support with a bus pass application or a general enquiry about Home to School Travel Assistance

Matthew Tristram – Home to School Travel Service – Commissioning Support Officer

Contact Email Address: schooltravel@derby.gov.uk/matthew.tristram@derby.gov.uk
Contact Telephone Number: 01332 642716

Contact Matt if you need support with a SEND transport application/change of address/change of circumstance/fuel re-imbursement or Personal Budget.

Carole Zajciw – Home to School Travel Service – Commissioning Support Officer

Contact Email Address: schooltravel@derby.gov.uk/carole.zajciw@derby.gov.uk

Contact Telephone Number: 01332 642716

Contact Carole if you have a safeguarding concern or complaint or for any transport queries surrounding The Lighthouse respite.

Ben Murphy – Home to School Travel Service – Senior Commissioning Officer

Email address: schooltravel@derby.gov.uk/benjamin.murphy@derby.gov.uk

Contact number: 01332 642716

Ben will be dealing with our data and has overall responsibility for the applications process.

Helen Clarke – Home to School Travel Service – Principal Commissioning Officer

Email address: schooltravel@erby.gov.uk/helen.clarke@derby.gov.uk

Contact Number: 01332 642716/01332640463

Helen is responsible for engagement with our parents/carers, schools and providers to ensure continuous improvement to our services

Tom Hay – Home to School Travel Service – Commissioning Manager

Email address: schooltravel@derby.gov.uk/tom.hay@derby.gov.uk

Contact Number: 01332 642716/01332956424

Tom oversees the whole of the Home to School Travel Service to make sure we are doing things right.

Our team phone number of 01332 642716 can take multiple calls at any time so this means that all members of the team are able to be on the telephone answering this number as any time. Our phone lines are open between 8:30-17:00 Monday to Thursday and 8:30-16:30 on Friday.

We have a small team so please be aware that, at busy times, we may not be able to answer every call straight away. If your call is not answered, you can email the team and we will call you back as soon as we can. Please use the team email address schooltravel@derby.gov.uk

Parent/Carer/School Update:

The School Travel Contract dated 15 August 2019 is a contract held between Derby City Council and all transport operators who provide Home to School Transport. Following a review of this contract with Derby City Council's Legal and Procurement Teams, parent(s) and carer(s) are now informed that from 28 February 2022 the following element of the contract will come into force:

Schedule 1. Section 3.5.5:

'The taxi/bus driver will wait a reasonable time for service users (usually no more than 5 minutes beyond the scheduled collection time) and will report any cases of habitual lateness or disruption to the Home to School Travel Team'. The Home to School Travel Service will report any habitual lateness to the school and Derby City Council's SEND Team.

It is the parent/carers responsibility to have their child ready for school at the agreed scheduled collection time and to look out for the transport arriving. From 28 February 2022, drivers will wait no more than 5 minutes beyond the scheduled collection time. If a child misses transport due to not being ready for collection, then it will be the responsibility of parent/carers to make alternative arrangements to get the child into school.

If you believe that you are going to be negatively affected by the above, there are alternative school transport arrangements you may wish to consider, e.g.

- Fuel reimbursement
- Personal budget
- Bus Pass
- Independent Travel Training

If you would like more details or to see whether your child is eligible for this alternative support, please email schooltravel@derby.gov.uk

The above measures should ensure that no transport is late and children arrive at school on time. However, in cases where transport operators are habitually late, the Home to School Travel Service will address these directly with the transport operator.

This newsletter is the first of what we hope will be a termly newsletter to make sure we keep you informed of any changes to the team and its processes.