



### Whole School Information

#### Available Courses

As part of the school we also have the East Midlands SEND Training Hub where we run courses for staff within school and from outside of school. Two courses we have coming up maybe of interest to parents and you would be welcome to book onto these. There is a cost involved to these courses as they are run by outside professionals. If you do want to attend please use the links to book below. If you want more information, please email [jlacey@brackenfield.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:jlacey@brackenfield.derbyshire.sch.uk)

#### Sensory Processing Disorders – 19<sup>th</sup> January 2023 - £85 – Book [Here](#)

*This one-day workshop is led by a senior Occupational Therapist at Children's Sensory Therapy who has vast expertise and experience in Sensory Processing Disorder and Sensory Integration. Its aim is to increase understanding of Sensory Processing Disorder and offer practical guidance, ideas and strategies to support children who may struggle with sensory processing. Understanding a child's challenges with sensory processing and how the school can support, can make a big difference to a child's learning experience as well as their continued growth and development. This course would be ideal for parents of children who have sensory processing disorders.*

### UpRising Inclusive Choir



Helen Temple from Derby and Derbyshire Music Partnership has been in touch and is very pleased to announce that they are launching the **UpRising Inclusive Choir** in partnership with Soundabout in January 2023.

This will be an amazing opportunity for the young people (and their families) at Brackenfield to be part of a **FREE inclusive choir** with both online and in-person rehearsals, celebrating that everyone has their own way of sharing their voice.

The Inclusive Choir is open to anyone up to age 25 and is free to join. . We aim to be as inclusive as possible, and actively try to remove barriers to participation from those with severe and profound learning disabilities. The choir encourages participation and expression in any way, including using Makaton signing, singing, making sounds on instruments, using technology or through movement and dance. (It is therefore accessible to pre/non-verbal participants.) The choir will rehearse in a mixture of face-to-face and virtual rehearsals so participants can join in however is best for them.

- **Virtual rehearsals**  
**Fortnightly on Wednesdays 5.00 - 6.00pm on Zoom**
- **Face-to-face rehearsals**  
**Once every half term on Saturdays 3.00 - 4.30pm at Alfreton Park School, Derbyshire DE55 7AL**

Our first online rehearsal will take place in January 2023 and we would love to have some young people from your school at the first rehearsal.

If you would like to sign up to this choir please use this link [derbyshiremusic.org.uk/inclusive](https://derbyshiremusic.org.uk/inclusive) to join the mailing list and receive the zoom links. This will also direct you to our website and has all the information about signing up for the choir.

Any questions, please email Helen ([Helen.Temple@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:Helen.Temple@derbyshire.gov.uk))

### Wet Weather Wear Reminder



Can we please ask that you send in named wellies (or suitable outdoor footwear) and waterproof clothing for use during the wet weather. It may also be appropriate to send in named spare clothes, including socks to provide a change if needed so the children can still access outdoor learning. If you require support in sourcing these items, please let us know by emailing [parents@brackenfield.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:parents@brackenfield.derbyshire.sch.uk)

## \*IMPORTANT MESSAGE – FROZEN WATER DANGERS\*

We are still receiving calls about children and young people playing on frozen lakes and ponds in the Erewash area. The recent tragic events in Solihull brought the dangers of frozen water into sharp focus, in a heart-breaking way. Inspector Ed Browne from Erewash LPU said “As a father of two young children, I cannot begin to comprehend the pain of the families impacted by the tragic incident in Solihull. I therefore appeal directly to all parents, guardians, and young people to stay away from open water, especially frozen water”.

In response to footage on local social media pages showing young people playing on ice, Inspector Browne said “These may look like fun places to play but can become potentially lethal for those who venture onto the ice, as often the ice cannot support the weight of people or animals. The added hazards are the slippery banks, and the ice-cold temperature of the water should an incident occur, which can put anyone who tries to help at risk”.

“I do not want a local family to be receiving news that a loved one has been injured or killed as a result of playing on ice, which is why I am repeating the appeal for every parent, guardian, and young person to stay away from frozen water and to have conversations about the very real risks of this behaviour”.

Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service have published further information on their website [Warning Issued About The Dangers Of Frozen Lakes And Reservoir :: Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service \(derbys-fire.gov.uk\)](http://www.derbys-fire.gov.uk).

**If you need support over the holidays, please email [earlyhelp@brackenfield.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:earlyhelp@brackenfield.derbyshire.sch.uk) or phone 0115 9733710 and choose the child services option.**

### **Free School Meals – Digital Portal, Now Live!**

Parents and Guardians are now able to check their eligibility and apply for Free School Meals instantly via a [Parent Portal](#). For further information [please click on this link](#).

### **Festive Giving**



As we approach the end of term and the holiday season, we’re aware of the heightened financial pressures that many of you are facing at the moment. As such, we want to emphasise that our staff are not expecting any ‘thank you’ gifts from pupils and parents. Due to the potential impact of the cost-of-living crisis on many families this winter, we would like to request that you refrain from giving presents to staff. If you insist on giving something this festive season our staff love homemade cards and letters – kind words mean a lot!

Or please donate an item to the local foodbank in their name details of the local foodbank can be found [here](#)

### **Communication Strategies**



We have some upcoming workshops for parents/carers please use this [form](#) to book your place on the following workshops-

**Intensive interaction 24/01/22 13:00-14:30**

**Picture Exchange Communication System 31/01/22 13:00-14:30**

**Communication books and Pointing boards 7/02/22 13:00-14:30**

**Makaton 28/2/22 13:00-14:30**

**Attention Autism 07/3/22 13:00-14:30**

These are suitable for all and will give chance to ask questions about how these approaches are delivered in school and request resources for home where appropriate.

If you are unsure which workshop would be best please contact

[clawrence@brackenfield.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:clawrence@brackenfield.derbyshire.sch.uk) You are welcome to join as few or many as you like.

## School Uniform - Simply First



Over COVID 19 Simply First have changed the way they operate their shop.

Parent/carers are now being directed to the website:

[www.schooluniformnottingham.co.uk](http://www.schooluniformnottingham.co.uk) to place orders. You will then be sent an invoice for payment, and once payment has been received the order will be processed and you will receive a notification when your order is ready to collect. Payments are made via bank transfer using their order name and invoice number (important) as payment reference.

Please note from **Monday the 4<sup>th</sup> of April 2022** Simply First will be operation from a new Premises:

**Container Self-Storage - Simply First Ltd**

**The Embroidery Pod, Unit 13, Block B, Ind Estate, Mark St, Sandiacre, Nottingham NG10 5AD.**

## Our School Day

Please be reminded of the school times.

Student Arrival and Registration	8.55 – 9.05 – Taxi drop off 9.00 – 9.10 – Parent drop off
Morning Session	09.10 – 11.40
Lunch Session (30 minutes within this time)	11.40 – 13.10
Afternoon Session	13.10 – 14.20
Pupil Departure and Pastoral Time	14.20 – 14.35 – Taxi collection 14.30 – 14.40 – Parent collection

## Attachments

**FREE TRADITIONAL  
CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH**

**25<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 1.00-3.30  
ALL SAINTS CHURCH HALL  
SAWLEY**



**TO RESERVE A PLACE  
OR FOR MORE INFORMATION  
PLEASE CONTACT KATE ON  
07780 643 183**



**LONG EATON UNITED FC**

**HOLIDAYS  
ACTIVITIES  
& FOOD**

**3RD-6TH JANUARY  
10:00AM-2:00PM**

**GRANGE PARK,  
STATION ROAD,  
LONG EATON,  
NG10 2EF**

**FREE\*  
\*CHILDREN  
RECEIVING FREE  
ELIGIBLE SCHOOL  
MEALS**

**TO BOOK GO TO [HTTPS://BOOKINGS.ITSABOUTMEDERBYSHIRE.CO.UK](https://bookings.itsaboutmederbyshire.co.uk).**

it's about me | DERBYSHIRE County Council | Department for Education

## Sign of the week:

Our sign of the week this week is 'Daddy/Dad/Father' Please click this link to watch a video of the sign

[Daddy/ Father/ Dad \(makaton.org\)](http://Daddy/Father/Dad(makaton.org))

## Winter Holiday Clubs

It's About Me! is running FREE activity clubs in Derbyshire for those aged 4-16 who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals. Please click on the image for more information.

*it's about me!*

### Upcoming dates from the school calendar

#### Christmas Schedule:

20<sup>th</sup> December 2022, Comprehend - PM Christmas Carol and arts and crafts - parents invited

20<sup>th</sup> December 2022, Decode Derby Theatre (students)

24<sup>th</sup> January 2023, Whole school Pantomime Snow White

#### School Holidays:

We break up for Christmas half term on **Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2022 at 12pm** until **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2023**. School reopens to pupils on **Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023**.

[Please click here](#) for a copy of the 2022-2023 school holidays.

[Please click here](#) for a copy of the Autumn and Winter Menu 2022-2023