



Message from the Headteacher:

I am delighted to share with you our Ofsted report which will be published on the Ofsted website next week.

[Please click here to read.](#)

This is the first time in the schools history that the school has achieved an Outstanding outcome. Thankyou to all parents and carers who supported the inspection by completing the parent survey and speaking with inspectors.

We have made a brave decision as a school to come away from the National Curriculum and to teach a curriculum based on preparing all our young people for adulthood. I am thrilled that inspection has validated the work we are doing with your children and you as families.

I want to also take this opportunity to thank all the staff at Brackenfield for all their hardwork and ongoing commitment to the children, you as families and the school.

Key dates for the last week of term:

Some key dates for the last 2 weeks of term:

Thursday 19th December: Christmas dinner and jumper day. Children can wear a Christmas jumper with their school uniform

Friday 20th December: half day closing. School will close for pupils at 12pm

Whole School Information

Family Support:

Christmas can be a magical time, but for many autistic children, it can also be overwhelming. Caudwell Children has put together some tips to help make this season merry for everyone!

[An Inclusive and Joyful Christmas: Tips for an Autism-Friendly Celebration - Caudwell Children](#)



Save the date: Parent/Carer Coffee Morning on Wednesday 22nd January 2025 9.30am - 11am in the school hall. We will be joined by a member of the Oral Health Improvement Team from Derbyshire Community Health Services. Please come along for an informal chat and ask any question you might have.

Find your local Warm Welcome Space - [Find a Space](#) follow the link and click 'find a space' to find warm spaces offering free meals/snacks/hot drinks/device charging etc across the UK.

Sign of the week:

This weeks sign of the week is 'Weather' - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W2uLj1b23ZI>

Here are some signs for different types of weather: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0t9Tt_JlYd8

There are some good songs about weather with signing- here is an example -

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WP_F1jyDKII

Attendance

Here at Brackenfield School we strive to improve the attendance of our students. Each minute of the school day provides opportunities for learning, including social development and skills to prepare pupils for adulthood. It is important that our pupils have a routine and structure to their week and missing days of school can impact this. Thank you for all your help and support in making sure your child attends school. Please [CLICK HERE](#) for the attendance policy guidance for parents/carers.

Reminder:

Daily absence

If your child is unable to attend school because they are too ill, please phone their absence **each day** that they are not in with the reason why they are off and when you are hoping they will return.

All absences must be phoned through by 9am, **0115 9733710 option 2.**

Please see the NHS guidance about sending your child to school when they are ill. [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

Please remember we have a large healthcare team who can support with looking after your child if they are feeling unwell or on medication.

Punctuality

All pupils must be at school for 9.10am however due to the volume of drop offs we have each day; we allow up to 9.30am for pupils to be in their classroom. If a pupil arrives after 9.30am but before 9.45am they are considered late (L) and if they arrive after 9.45am (with no authorised reason given prior to arriving), pupils will be marked as an unauthorised late (U). Any absence that is marked as a 'U' is equal to 1 unauthorised session and following the government guidelines for attendance, schools can issue a fine for 10 unauthorised sessions in a 10 week rolling period.

Holidays

Holidays in term time. A reminder that holidays in term time will only be authorised with exceptional circumstances by the Headteacher. Any holidays that are not formally requested in writing will not be authorised. If you are faced with an unavoidable circumstance and need to request time off in term time, please complete the [Holiday Request Form](#).

Updated Government Guidance (from September 2024)

As you may be aware changes have been made to the government's guidance around attendance and there is a new national threshold for penalty notices. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to see the poster for an overview of these changes and how they may affect you.



PE Kits

A reminder please that pupils must have PE kits in school. This is so that class teams can support with developing independence when getting dressed and undressed. Please ensure all items are named and stored in a named bag, which will be kept in school. If you have any further queries, please contact your class teams.



Wow Moments

We love to hear about amazing things our pupils are doing at home! Please send in pictures or let us know what great things they are doing, and we can upload these to each pupils BOOP profile. You can also download templates to put your WOW moments on from our school website. Please send them to parents@brackenfield.derbyshire.sch.uk

School Uniform



Please visit: 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.

Container Self-Storage - Simply First Ltd

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

Upcoming dates from the school calendar

School Holidays:

We break up on **Friday 20th December 2024 at 12pm** until **Monday 6th January 2025**. School reopens to pupils on **Monday 6th January 2025**.

[Please click here](#) for a copy of the **2024-2025** school holidays – Please note the change in inset days from 6th May 2025 to **28th April 2025**.

Please use to the following link for the Derbyshire County Council lunch Menu: [Primary food explorers - Derbyshire Catering Service](#)

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

The class inbox email addresses:

Acorns	Acorns@brackenfield.derbyshire.sch.uk	Willow	Willow@brackenfield.derbyshire.sch.uk
Maple	Maple@brackenfield.derbyshire.sch.uk	Hickory	Hickory@brackenfield.derbyshire.sch.uk
Rowan	Rowan@brackenfield.derbyshire.sch.uk	Conkers	Conkers@brackenfield.derbyshire.sch.uk
Sycamore	Sycamore@brackenfield.derbyshire.sch.uk	Spruce	Spruce@brackenfield.derbyshire.sch.uk
Pine	Pine@brackenfield.derbyshire.sch.uk	Elm	Elm@brackenfield.derbyshire.sch.uk
Oak	Oak@brackenfield.derbyshire.sch.uk	Cedar	Cedar@brackenfield.derbyshire.sch.uk
Ash	Ash@brackenfield.derbyshire.sch.uk	Poplar	Poplar@brackenfield.derbyshire.sch.uk
Beech	Beech@brackenfield.derbyshire.sch.uk	Laurel	Laurel@brackenfield.derbyshire.sch.uk
Mulberry	Mulberry@brackenfield.derbyshire.sch.uk	Hazel	Hazel@brackenfield.derbyshire.sch.uk
Cherry	cherry@brackenfield.derbyshire.sch.uk		

We want you to feel supported and effectively communicated with, so if you feel anything has been missed please email headteacher@brackenfield.derbyshire.sch.uk and a senior leader will follow up your query.

It is also important you can access posts on BOOP, for your child and your child's class. If you are having issues with accessing this, please email pupiladmin@brackenfield.derbyshire.sch.uk. Our pupil admin team can talk you through how to access and help rectify any issues.