



Friday 9th January, 2026

RE: Spring Term

Dear Parents and Carers,

It seems a little late to be wishing everyone a Happy New Year, but this week has been particularly busy, which wasn't helped by the snow and icy conditions.

Thank you for your support and positive comments in regard to the school remaining open. Deciding whether to remain open requires a complex dynamic risk assessment, which includes a multitude of elements. One major factor is the staff-to-pupil ratio. This can often mean late messaging to parents/carers, which I can understand is frustrating, but we need to know we have the correct amount of staff available.

By remaining open, hundreds of parents/carers (including doctors, nurses and other emergency workers) were able to attend work themselves, which is vital to our local community. Moreover, we served hundreds of hot meals to children eligible for free school meals, and the 70% of children who attended began their learning for the spring term. At playtimes, there were also numerous snowball fights and some fantastic snowmen built!

Having said all this, I do appreciate that those families living further afield had to make a difficult decision regarding safe travel routes to school, and I do respect the decisions made.

With our site manager away, my personal thank you goes to Mr Boulton, Mrs Ollier and other members of staff who spent hours each morning and evening gritting and clearing the site to make it as safe as possible for us all. Hopefully, there is warm weather on its way as the term progresses!

Achievements and Celebrations

I would like to begin my first parent/carer communication of 2026 with a very special thank you to all of our children for our Christingle Celebration on the last day of term. This was just magical. I was extremely proud of our whole school community coming together, and it was a fabulous way to end the calendar year. One of our youngest children, Isaac P, was presented with a certificate, in person, from our MP, Mr Connor Naismith, as one of the winners of his Christmas card competition. Isaac's design made it on to the constituency Christmas card that was sent to the Prime Minister!

My thanks also to our Reception class for their very first live performance of their nativity. This, along with the Year 1 Christmas Show and the Year 2 production of 'Everybody Loves a Baby!', meant that over 800 parents, carers and grandparents were able to see our children on stage. Well done to all involved!





Attendance and Punctuality

A plea regarding punctuality. The start of the school day is extremely important for all children. We have set times to offset some of the congestion around school and ask that parents and carers observe the following times.

Reception/Year 1/Year 2

Welcome Time: **8:45am** (Children must arrive no later than 8:55am). Arrivals after this time will be recorded as late.

Year 3 to Year 6

Welcome Time (Gates Open): **8:35am** (Children must arrive no later than 8:45am). Arrivals after this time will be recorded as late.

Attendance and punctuality are a national focus, and the Local Authority, along with the Department for Education, are requiring schools to have robust policies in place to maximise children's learning. Please support us by ensuring your child is on time, with the correct equipment and in the approved school uniform.

Goodbye and Good Luck

We will soon be saying goodbye to our Family Link Worker, Mrs Sonja Baker. This will be a huge loss for the school as her work and influence go far and wide across our school and into our community. I would like to place on record my thanks to her for the commitment and dedication to her role over the last five years. Although Mrs Sonja Baker will be moving on to working within the fostering and adoption sector, she won't be a stranger as she will become one of our governors from the start of the new academic year.

Site Safety

As you are aware, we do not allow parents/carers to park on the school site as there is no available parking. This is the same for all primary schools as they were never built with this facility. The car park behind school belongs to the Family Hub who have again requested that I put out a message to parents and carers that they should not be using this area under any circumstances. The exception to this is our families who have a valid permit and/or use the Resource Provision. **Permits are only granted for specific reasons and by exception.** One such exception is for **Blue Badge holders**; however, this permit applies to the Blue Badge holder themselves and not other family members. Furthermore, we wish to clarify that the permit is for the driver who is physically dropping the child off. If a passenger is dropping the child off, we politely ask that you park off site.

Where possible, I want to limit the number of vehicles turning into the entrance from Remer Street. The site team, along with myself, will be out on-site challenging parents/carers who use this area without authorisation.

Kind regards
Carl Leech
Principal