



# Family Updates Newsletter

Working together to

*inspire nurture empower*

15<sup>th</sup> September 2023

## Updates

Welcome back to school for a new and exciting year! I hope you have all managed to have a restful and enjoyable summer.

Welcome too, to all our new families and colleagues starting at Ivy House for the first time this September, we hope you settle wonderfully into the Ivy House family.

We've had a difficult start to the new term with the sad passing of one of our students, please read our letter [here](#) for more information. Despite the sadness there have been lots of smiles from happy children and young people across school. They have engaged in brilliant learning opportunities already and we know staff have planned lots of inspiring and empowering lessons over the next few weeks.

All of our students have settled into their new classrooms and routines really well, so thank you for all of your support in helping to make that happen.

Please remember, you are always welcome to call in to school to meet with us if you would like to discuss something, you can find the key contacts later in this newsletter. I also want to say a huge thank you to all of our staff team who have worked incredibly hard this week to ensure that our students get off to the best possible start in school this year.

We have sent a text with the link to our Annual Permissions form (link on page 3), please complete this as soon as possible to ensure we have up to date information. If you did not receive the message or would like this in a paper format then please contact the school and we will arrange for this to be sent home with your child. We will also be sending home your child's basic pupil details (name, address, emergency contact etc.) and asking you to check and return them to school.



## Contact us

**Headteacher:** Ian Armstrong

**Phone:** 01332 777920

**Headteacher Email:** [Ian.Armstrong@ivy.set.org](mailto:Ian.Armstrong@ivy.set.org)

**Office Email:** [admin@ivy.set.org](mailto:admin@ivy.set.org)

**Chair of Academy Council, Peter Cade:**  
[chair@ivy.set.org](mailto:chair@ivy.set.org)

**Website:** [www.ivyhouse.derby.sch.uk](http://www.ivyhouse.derby.sch.uk)

 **Twitter:** [@IvyHouseSchool](https://twitter.com/IvyHouseSchool)

 **Instagram:** [@ivy\\_house\\_school](https://www.instagram.com/ivy_house_school)

 **Facebook:** [@IvyHouseSchool](https://www.facebook.com/IvyHouseSchool)

 **Mobile App:** Ivy House School: Code:7920

## Download our App!

We are asking all families to download our Mobile App.

Download the Greenhouse Schools App, enable push notifications, search for Ivy House School, input **code 7920**.

It is important you download it to stay informed.



[www.ivyhouse.derby.sch.uk](http://www.ivyhouse.derby.sch.uk)

## Evidence for Learning

We will continue to use Evidence for Learning to assess our pupils and share photos/videos with Families via the Family App. This will be up and running properly over the next couple of weeks, once we have set up the new classes.

[Click here](#) to read our 'How to Guide' for families which shows a step by step guide to getting online. If you still do not have access to your child's learning journey or report please email George Turner (Deputy Headteacher) [George.Turner@ivy.set.org](mailto:George.Turner@ivy.set.org)

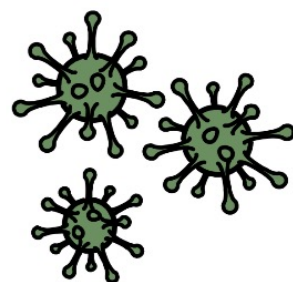


Parents' Evening will be on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023, 4:00pm-6:00pm at Ivy House School. More information about booking an appointment will be sent out closer to the time. We hope to see as many of you as possible.



## Flu Vaccinations

The NHS immunisation team will be in school on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October to administer flu vaccinations. A letter will be sent home from the NHS team with instructions about how to provide consent for your child.



## Playground updates

As you may know our playgrounds have been refurbished over the summer holidays. We now have new artificial grass, soft rubber flooring and hard resin areas which are all now free of lumps and bumps! A climbing frame and slide has been installed in Diamonds class and a large weather canopy has been installed in Calke class for even more outdoor learning!



## Home School Diaries

Our NEW Home School Diaries are here to continue to develop our communication between home and school. We trialled these over the Summer Term and following family responses tweaked them slightly and we've now turned them into a handy little book! Please use the 'notes from home' section to share any important information, it's always great to hear from you.





## New Staff

We're welcoming nine new staff members to school this September, we know you will give them a warm Ivy House welcome when you meet them!

### Office Manager



**Steph**

### Teaching Assistants



**Caitlin**



**Caroline**



**Charlene**



**Emma**



**Eldisa**



**Victoria**

### Health and Welfare Support Assistants



**Becky**



**Carly**



**Joanne**



# WE NEED YOU!

## PARENT ACADEMY COUNCILLOR

Do you care about children and young people's education at Ivy House School?

Are you willing to work as part of a team?

Are you willing to challenge and ask questions?

Are you open to new ideas, willing to learn and undertake training?

**CONTACT IAN ARMSTRONG FOR MORE INFORMATION**

## Annual Permissions

You should have received a text message from school with a link to complete the annual permission form. Please complete the form as soon as possible to ensure we have up to date information. Please follow this link to complete the form:

<https://tinyurl.com/AnnualPermissions>

## Key Contacts



**Ian Armstrong**  
Headteacher



**George Turner**  
Deputy Headteacher



**Amanda Shipley**  
Associate Assistant Headteacher



**Hannah Birks**  
Associate Assistant Headteacher



**Claire Porter**  
Safeguarding & Pastoral Lead



**Tara Gaskin**  
Pastoral & Operations Co-Ordinator



**Steph Hickling**  
Office Manager

## Pupil Absence

Please ensure that you call the school if your child is absent, for either illness or an appointment. We ask that you **call the school before 9:00am**, so that we can inform the class team. You should also call in to school, even if you've told the bus escort. Sometimes the message may not get to the right person.

We understand that children and young people are unwell from time to time and some of our students can be hospitalised for long periods due to ill health.

If your child is persistently absent, we may be in touch to discuss this with you. We also work alongside Derby City Councils Education Welfare Officer (EWO) to ensure that we can offer appropriate support where possible.

## Staying Connected...

Please ensure you keep in touch with us regarding any changes to your child's care or health needs. We want to make sure we are providing the most accurate and appropriate support.

## Medication

If you send medication into school with your child please ensure you pass this directly to the transport staff so they can sign it over to the nursing team.



## Spare Clothing

As the new year starts it's always a good opportunity to remind all of our families to send in spare clothes for each of your children. Staff will send home soiled clothes on the same day in a separate bag. Please ensure you send in enough spare pads / nappies. Your child's class staff will call you or write in the home school diary to let you know if we don't have enough.



## Start/Finish Times

Our school day will continue at the same times of 9.20am until 3.40pm.

Please ensure your child arrives in school on time, if they are late into school you must complete a 'late slip' to explain the reason why. If pupils are persistently late we will be in touch with you to provide any possible support.

We understand the morning can sometimes be a challenging time, particularly for students who have regular morning seizures.



## Important Dates

**School Council Elections** – Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September

**School Council Assemblies (International Day of Democracy)** – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September

**MacMillan Coffee Morning** – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September – 9:30am-11:30am

**Teaching Assistant Day** – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September

**Flu Vaccinations in School** – Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October

**World Teachers Day** – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October

**World Mental Health Day** – Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> October

**Parents' Evening** – Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October – 4:00pm-6:00pm

**Harvest Festival Assembly** – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October

**Family Coffee Morning** – Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October 9:30am-11:00am

**Halloween Disco** – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October (fancy dress encouraged!)

