



MELBOURNE INFANT SCHOOL

Head Teacher: Mrs C Gibbs

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Website: www.melbourne-inf.derbyshire.sch.uk

Packhorse Road
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Shine brightly together and reach for the stars!

Weekly Bulletin

Week Ending: Friday 10th January

Happy New Year! I hope that all of our families had a good Christmas and a restful break. The children have settled back into school routines and we are looking forward to a busy and successful term ahead.

Now that Christmas is (sadly!) behind us, if you have not yet given us your feedback on our Christmas activities- what you (and your children) enjoyed, and if there is anything you might like us to look at differently next year - please do so via our [online form](#). We really do appreciate all feedback given and will use it to help us plan Christmas 2025!

Parents/Carers with children at the Junior School will have heard that Mrs. Whirledge, Headteacher of the Junior School will be retiring in July. Myself (Mrs. Gibbs) and Mrs. Whirledge have worked in partnership for many years. Whilst we will all be very sad to see Mrs. Whirledge leave, we are all delighted for her as she approaches this new chapter of her life. I look forward to continuing to working with Mrs, Whirledge until July; and welcoming the new Junior School Headteacher when they are appointed.

Whole School Messages

Winter outerwear	As it is feeling so chilly outside, please make sure your child has a hat and gloves, as well as a suitable outdoor coat, with them every day in school.
Celebrating achievements from out of school activities	We know our children do lots of enriching activities out of school hours. We would like the opportunity to celebrate their achievements with them in school, alongside their school friends and teachers. If your child is given any certificates from any out-of-school activities, please bring them into school (with your child's full name clearly marked) and hand them to your child's teacher. We will celebrate with your child in our assembly on Monday before the certificate is returned to you. You are welcome to bring certificates in at any point of the week: certificates will be kept in school until the appropriate assembly.
Workshops - Thursday 16th January	During the Spring term, Reception children will learn all about Fairytales, and Key Stage 1 children will learn about the Great Fire of London. To kick off these topics, we are excited to be holding fun and interactive workshops for our children, led by the Big Bubble Theatre Company, throughout the day on Thursday 16 th January.
Financial Assistance	With the increasing cost of living taking a toll on many families, I wanted to remind all parents/carers that support is available from school if you are struggling. Click or tap here to find out more.
Star Student Assembly	A reminder that our first Star Student Assembly of this new term will take place on Friday 17 th January at 9.05am: where we will be celebrating all birthdays from Saturday 7 th December to Friday 17 th January.



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Year Specific Messages	
RECEPTION CHILDREN	
National Height and Weight checks - Tuesday 14th January	Each year children in Reception and year 6 are weighed and measured as part of the national child measurement programme. In Derbyshire, this process is carried out by Live Life Better Derbyshire at Derbyshire County Council, who will be contacting parents/carers of Reception children providing information about the programme and what to do if you do not want your child to be included in the measurements. Please check your email inbox (including your junk mail) and postal letters for this information. The check will take place in school on Tuesday 14 th January.

YEAR 1 & YEAR 2 CHILDREN	
Key Stage 1 groups	<p>As part of our daily timetable in school, children in Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) spend time in different groups outside of their normal class during the school day. Typically, these groups are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phonics groups: where children learn and practice their phonics sounds; • Guided reading groups: where children read aloud in small groups; • Mastering Numbers groups: where children take part in maths and number interventions <p>These groups are year group specific as well as ability related. Your child may be taught these sessions by a member of staff who is not their class teacher. English and Maths lessons take place in your child's class (where year groups are mixed). If you have any questions about these groups, your child's teacher will be happy to discuss them during next month's parent's evenings; or please contact your child's teacher to arrange an appointment.</p>
Parental Consent for local walks	<p>We are required to gather consent for children to go on local walks annually. Could we please ask parents/carers to take a few minutes to complete the online consent form which will allow teachers to take children on local walks. This consent will be valid until your child is in Year 2 (current Year 1 children) or until your child leaves Melbourne Infant School (current Year 2 children).</p>

YEAR 2 CHILDREN	
Junior School Applications	The deadline for applications for children to transfer from year 2 at infant schools to junior provision in September 2025 is 15 th January 2025. You can apply for a junior school place for your child(ren) via the Derbyshire County Council website.. More information can be found by clicking here .



Midday Supervisor / Playworker vacancy

Did you know that around 1/5th of a child's overall school life is spent at lunchtime? Our lunchtime period here at Melbourne Infants is an incredibly important part of every child's school day; and with our Play Outdoors, Learn Outdoors (POLO) project there are always lots of different areas to explore, games to play and fun to be had!



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Our Play Leaders play a vital role in ensuring our children feel safe, secure and happy during their lunchtimes. We are currently recruiting for a Midday Supervisor / Play Leader to join our team, working Mondays and Fridays (plus the opportunity to work regular or occasional Wednesdays if so desired) from 11.55am - 1.05pm from February 2025. This is a fixed-term position until August 2025; although there is the possibility of a further contract extension.

Ideally, candidates will have a background of working with children: however training will be given. Attitude is much more important than experience. Our children would love to hear from you if you like to play games, and if you are friendly, kind and fun!

[To find out more and to apply click or tap here.](#)



Financial Assistance

With the increasing cost of living taking a toll on many families at this particularly expensive time of year, I wanted to remind all parents/carers that support is available from school if you are struggling. Please come and have a confidential chat with me (Mrs. Gibbs) or the school office; or [email](#) us. An example of some of the things we can help with include groceries; food vouchers; uniform; support for school trips and/or PTA activities, and signposting to other agencies who might be able to help.

Pupil Premium - Pupil Premium is a Government fund given to schools for eligible pupils; to ensure that all children have an equal opportunity to learn and succeed. Families eligible for Pupil Premium to receive funded school holiday care, after-school clubs, school uniform and more. You can find out more about Pupil Premium [on our website](#). Parents and carers are able to check their eligibility for Pupil Premium and [apply instantly online](#).



Upcoming dates for your diary

The upcoming dates for the forthcoming term can be found below. **Did you know that you can subscribe to our school calendar via our website; and this will automatically put the dates in your calendar?** Please go to <https://www.melbourne-inf.derbyshire.sch.uk/calendar> and click "subscribe". There is also a help button immediately underneath to help with any questions you may have.

When dates are added or amended in the term, we will highlight these dates / activities in purple. Please note that these are planned dates and whilst we will aim to keep changes to a minimum, dates may be subject to change.

w/c 13th January

Date	Activity
Tuesday 14 th January	Height and Weight checks - Reception only
Tuesday 14 th January	Year 2 Fire Safety Talk (Derbyshire Fire & Rescue)



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Thursday 16 th January	Red Riding Hood / Great Fire of London Workshops (Children only)
Friday 17 th January	Star Student Assembly, 9.05am (celebrating all birthdays from Saturday 7 th December to Friday 17 th January)

w/c 20th January

Date	Activity
Friday 24 th January	Star Student Assembly, 9.05am

w/c 27th January

Date	Activity
Friday 31 st January	Star Student Assembly, 9.05am

FEBRUARY

w/c 3rd February

Date	Activity
All Week	Children's Mental Health Week
Friday 7 th February	National Number Day
	Star Student Assembly, 9.05am
	SEN Coffee Afternoon, 2.30pm

w/c 10th February

Date	Activity
Tuesday 11 th February	Safer Internet Day
Friday 14 th February	Star Student Assembly, 9.05am

Half Term: Monday 17th February - Friday 21st February

w/c 24th February

Date	Activity
Monday 24 th February	INSET Day - School closed to children
Wednesday 26 th February	Parents Evening (Date 1 of 2)
Friday 28 th February	Star Student Assembly, 9.05am

MARCH

w/c 3rd March

Date	Activity
Wednesday 5 th March	Parents Evening (Date 2 of 2)
Wednesday 5 th March	Book Fair begins



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Thursday 6 th March	World Book Day (more information to follow)
Friday 7 th March	Star Student Assembly, 9.05am

w/c 10th March

Date	Activity
All Week	National Science Week
Monday 10 th March	Last day of Book Fair
Friday 14 th March	Star Student Assembly, 9.05am

w/c 17th March

Date	Activity
Tuesday 18 th March	Maths Mission - Year 1 (more information to follow)
Wednesday 19 th March	Year 1 and 2 - Trip to Open Centre and Mosque (more information to follow)
Thursday 20 th March	Maths Mission - Year 2 (more information to follow)
Friday 21 st March	Star Student Assembly, 9.05am

w/c 24th March

Date	Activity
All Week	Mother's Day / Significant Female Lunches - Year 1 children (more information to follow)
Monday 24 th March	SEN Coffee Afternoon, 2.30pm
Friday 28 th March	Final Star Student Assembly of the term, 9.05am

w/c 31st March

Date	Activity
Wednesday 2 nd April	World Autism Awareness Day - children are invited to wear odd socks to celebrate difference
Thursday 3 rd April	Easter Bonnet Parade - 2.45pm

Easter Holidays: Friday 4th April to Monday 21st April

Our term dates and INSET dates are all available [on our website](#).