



St Andrew's Academy Family Update Newsletter

Autumn Term 1

Week commencing 28th September 2026

Headteacher's Welcome



We are delighted to share that the term is now well underway, and everyone has settled in beautifully. There is a real buzz around school, with lots of wonderful learning activities taking place across all classes. Our staff continue to work incredibly hard to provide the best experiences for our pupils and have recently enjoyed taking part in Gestalt Language Processing training to further support communication and learning. As always, we want to remind families that our doors are open, and we are always available should you wish to come in and speak with us. We were also pleased to welcome Arlo, our school dog, for two very successful days in school last week. Arlo enjoyed visiting Key Stages 3 and 4 and had great fun running around the playground with Lewis Class. This week, he will be making his first visit to the FE campus, and we look forward to sharing some photos with you soon!

WE HAVE MOVED TO ARBOR!



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From September 2026, St Andrew's Academy have introduced the new Parent App - Arbor. Please support communication by downloading it!

We use Arbor in school for the below:

- Taking attendance and dinner registers
- Paying for student dinners and trips
- Purchasing items from the school shop
- Booking a time slot for Parents Evening
- Reporting a student absence
- Checking and informing school of any changes to parent/student contact details
- Checking your child's attendance

Please download the FREE Arbor App (you can scan the QR code to download the App) or search on your App Store for Arbor.

We have sent login details via email, but if you need them resending, please contact the relevant school office.



Erin Madison Foundation Raffle



Erin MADISON FOUNDATION
Keeping Erin's memory alive
Making a difference
Creating magical memories

CHARITY RAFFLE
Fantastic prizes up for grabs!

TICKET PRICE £5 EACH

DRAW DATE Thursday 29th October

Live on our Facebook page
LIVE ON ERIN MADISON FOUNDATION PAGE
<https://www.facebook.com/share/1Hot19CqLS/>
Be sure to follow our page for the live draw!

TOP PRIZES

- 1st** TWO NIGHT STAY IN BLACKPOOL FOR UPTO 4 PEOPLE
- 2nd** £200 DINING OUT VOUCHER
- 3rd** £100 PAINTBALLING VOUCHER

PLUS LOTS MORE AMAZING PRIZES!

- DCFC TICKETS
- AFTERNOON TEA FOR TWO
- TRAMPOLINE PARK TICKETS
- AND SO MUCH MORE!

Every ticket makes a difference

Thank you for your support

ERIN MADISON FOUNDATION | SUPPORT | INCLUDE | CREATE | BELIEVE

Nicola Marriott



Scan to pay Nicola Marriott

Umbrella - What's on Guide



🍁 Our October What's On Guide Has Arrived! 🍁

Autumn is here, and we have a fantastic month ahead! We're delighted to share our October What's On Guide, packed with exciting opportunities for families across Derby and Derbyshire.

Inside, you'll discover a wide range of groups, activities, workshops, events, and family-friendly opportunities designed to help you connect, learn, have fun, and make memories together. From seasonal celebrations and creative activities to support groups and chances to meet other families, there's something for everyone to enjoy this October.

🌸 Whether you're looking to try something new, build friendships, learn new skills, or simply spend quality time together, we'd love to welcome you along.

Thank you for being part of the Umbrella community. We can't wait to see you at our events and activities throughout the month. If you'd like any further information, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

🌟 Let's make October a month full of connection, laughter, and fun!

familysupport@umbrella.uk.net

Please click below to see Umbrella's October What's On Guide;

[October Whats On](#)

Derby SEND events



Parent carers of children and young people with SEND are warmly invited to join us for our friendly monthly drop-in session. There is no need to book and no formal agenda, just an opportunity to meet other parent carers who understand the joys and challenges of raising a child or young person with additional needs.

Whether a child has a diagnosis, is awaiting assessment, or a family is just beginning to seek support, all are welcome.

Families will also have the opportunity to speak with representatives from:

- **SENDIASS Derby (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information, Advice and Support Service)**
- **Derby SAL (Derby SEND Advice Line)**

We offer a listening ear, peer support, signposting, and a free drink for Derby SEND Voice members. Membership is free and can be completed on the day.



As SEND parent carers, we often spend our time ensuring everyone else is okay, while our own wellbeing slips to the bottom of the list. This free online wellbeing session will explore practical and realistic ways to introduce mindfulness into everyday life.

The session will cover:

- What mindfulness is (and what it isn't)
- Why mindfulness can help stressed and busy nervous systems
- How mindful moments may already exist in daily routines

No experience is needed, and there are no expectations or judgement, just a gentle opportunity for parent carers to pause and focus on their own wellbeing.

To book a free place, please use the following Eventbrite link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/finding-mindfulness-in-the-everyday-tickets-2002517203863?aff=oddtcreator>

Derby SEND Tribunal survey

We do also currently have a survey running to gather views of families who have either gone through or started on a tribunal journey. If you feel that this would apply to any of your parent carers, we would really appreciate you sharing this link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd8oEJfMSx9LuZOiGSezJx3a_35Jj8uH60KqT7mlx5ZhBtB3A/viewform?usp=header

KS4 & The Highlands

Jura class enjoyed Outdoor Education/Forest School this term and we made our own yummy hotdogs, burgers and toast. It was really fun and adventurous!

Campus

Students have been making the most of the warm autumn weather to enjoy some outdoor learning. The group attending Morley Care Farm have been enjoying the last of the sunshine to search for wildflowers in the meadows, make toast over the fire and help to ensure the goats are well cared for. The farm is preparing for the winter season now and there are lots of fun autumnal tasks planned.

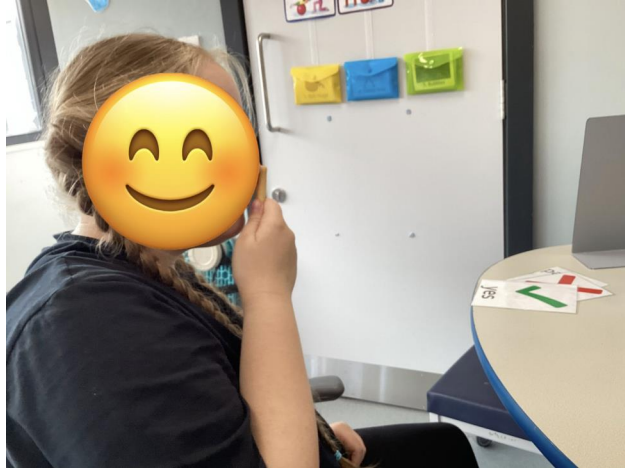






Therapy Input





Our therapy feeding group is back up and running and we are excited to welcome two new students!

This group is a wonderful support for children who struggle with specific textures or have a limited range of foods they will eat. Before we begin each session, we always focus on regulation to ensure the students feel calm and ready. From there we use a gradual 'texture

hierarchy'. We start with foods which are similar to our students preferred foods up to more challenging textures at a comfortable, pressure free pace.

If you feel this would benefit your child, please don't hesitate to contact **Emma Swierczek (Therapy Lead)** at St Andrews Main site.

School Term and Holiday Dates



St Andrew's Academy

St Andrew's Academy
School Term and Holiday Dates
2026-2027

School Holiday

Autumn Term

Bank Holiday (Shut to all)

Spring Term

Inset Day (Shut to students)

Summer Term

September 2026 (19 days)							October 2026 (17 days)							November 2026 (21 days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4	30						1
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29

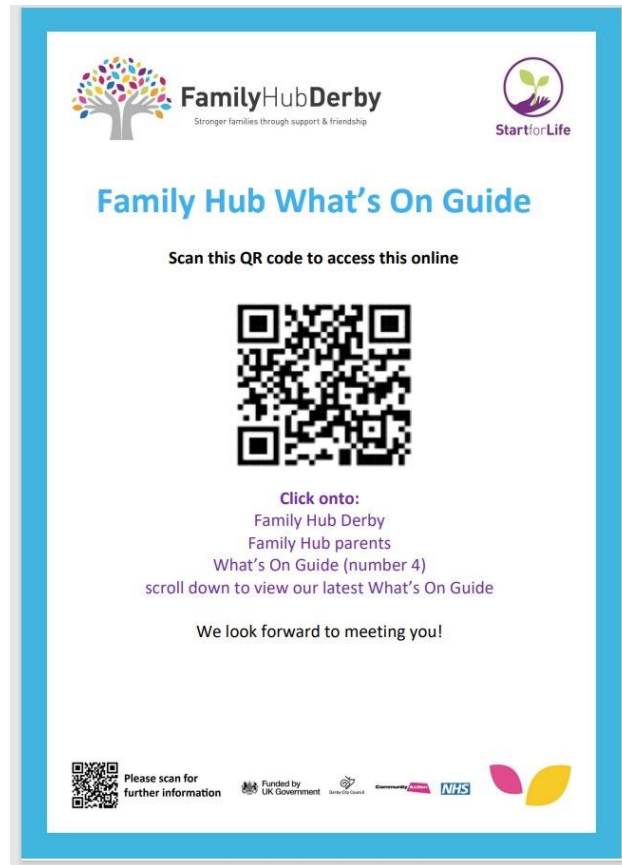
December 2026 (14 days)							January 2027 (20 days)							February 2027 (15 days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31							

March 2027 (19 days)							April 2027 (15 days)							May 2027 (19 days)						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4	31					1	2
8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30

June 2027 (18 days)							July 2027 (18 days)							August 2027						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6				1	2	3	4	30	31					1
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29

195 Days – including up to 5 days to be taken as professional development days for teaching staff.

Family Hub QR Code



Go and Follow our Social Media Pages!



Facebook - [St. Andrews Academy](#)

Instagram - [Standrews.academy](#)

LinkedIn - [St. Andrews Academy, Derby](#)

SEND Football



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