



Park House Primary School
Rupert Street, Lower Pilsley,
Chesterfield, Derbyshire,
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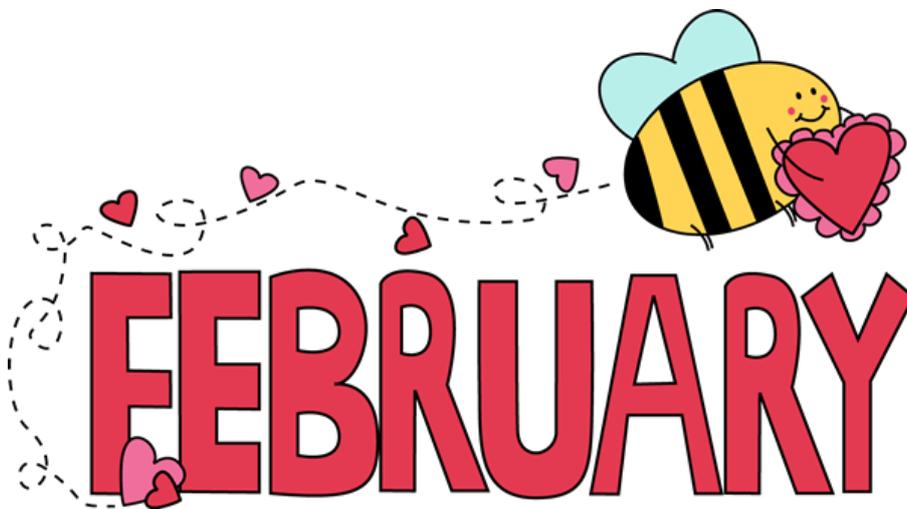
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February 2026 Newsletter

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Dear Parents and Carers,

This half term we have welcomed a variety of visitors in school and it is so lovely to hear when they share how thoughtful and engaged our pupils are.

Reception and Year 1 had a surprise visit from our local PCSO Hall and PCSO Morton. They came to talk about the role of the police and also about road safety. Our pupils had a great time exploring their kit.

We have also had a visit from Mr Mackay the 'Animal Man'. Mr Mackay brought a variety of animals and reptiles to visit Reception, Year 1 and Year 3. These included a ferret, slow worm, tortoise and a dog. There were many more and each class had a different focus for the animals they were learning about.

Year 5 have performed their ukulele concert to parents, they were fabulous and we hope you all enjoyed it as much as the pupils did. They have also completed some lovely poetry portraits, which are currently on display in their classroom.

We are rapidly approaching the half term break, leading up to us breaking up we will be holding parent consultations in the classrooms. Booking links have been sent out and if you haven't received it please get in touch with Mrs Wagstaff or Mrs Faulkner in the office. The book fair will be held in the hall, were you can also come and see me if you have any concerns. The book fair is card payments only.

Kindest regards

Mrs Kavanagh









1 - Year 5 poetry portraits

Parent Governor Vacancy



We have a parent governor vacancy currently and we will be sending out information about the role and also how to submit a nomination. If you would like to help shape the strategic direction of the school, give back to your community and develop your leadership skills, then you would be most welcome. Please come and see Mrs Kavanagh or Miss Gee (Clerk to Governors) if you would like additional information.

We would also like to welcome Kelley Ingram who was appointed by the Governing Board as a parent governor in December.



Attendance Matters

Every student. Every day.

At the January Full Governors Meeting, in preparation for the policy review of the attendance and absence policy about exceptional circumstances, it was discussed that in order to make sure we are inline with statutory guidance and schools locally, **Governors have agreed that from September 2026 no holidays in term time will be considered as exceptional circumstances.**

There is further information below and on the links included.

The Department for Education (DfE) updated its attendance guidance for 2025, emphasizing statutory requirements and best practices for improving school attendance.

Key Updates in Attendance Guidance

1. **Statutory Requirements:** The updated guidance, effective from August 19, 2024, outlines the legal obligations for schools, academy trusts, and local authorities regarding attendance. This includes maintaining accurate attendance registers and using specific coding for absences. This includes that schools cannot authorise holidays during term time.
2. **Improving Attendance:** The guidance emphasizes the importance of a supportive school culture that engages families in efforts to improve attendance. Schools are encouraged to implement strategies that address barriers to attendance and foster a positive environment for students.
3. **Ofsted Framework Changes:** The new Ofsted Schools Inspection Framework, effective from November 2025, places a greater emphasis on attendance as a cultural indicator.

or within schools. Inspectors will assess how well schools support students' attendance and address underlying issues that may affect it.

4. **Attendance Coding:** Schools must adhere to updated attendance coding requirements as per the School Attendance (Pupil Registration) (England) Regulations 2024. This includes accurately recording absences and ensuring that all attendance data is kept electronically for better accuracy and safeguarding. Therefore schools may ask for further details or evidence regarding absence reasons.
5. **Support and Collaboration:** The guidance promotes a collaborative approach, encouraging schools to work with local authorities and community organisations to tackle attendance issues. This includes sharing best practices and resources to support families facing challenges.

When your child can miss school ([School attendance and absence: Overview - GOV.UK](#))

You can only allow your child to miss school if either:

- they're too ill to go in
- you have advance permission from the school e.g. to attend a funeral

There's [extra support available](#) if your child cannot go to school for long periods because of a health problem.

Holidays in term time

A holiday is generally not considered an exceptional circumstance. You cannot usually take your child away during term time.

You can be [fined or face legal action](#) for taking your child on holiday during term time.

In order to make sure we are inline with statutory guidance and schools locally, Governors have agreed that from September 2026 no holidays in term time will be considered as exceptional circumstances.

Building Work



We have previously mentioned that the school has been experiencing some difficulties in relation to cracks in the walls. Derbyshire County Council have been working with school and Governors to help identify the cause of the cracks and to complete some remedial works.

Currently, we have two test pits in the front garden where they are looking at whether water is affecting the foundations of the school. In October half term, they completed some repairs to the school kitchen and junior girls toilets. Some of this work included the felling of two trees and repairs to the school drains. This has helped remedy some of the issues in our boiler house/cellar. We are still awaiting further testing and confirmation over more building works that will be required.

Parking



We are receiving regular reports of drives being blocked or illegal parking. I have been out and seen that although drives are not being blocked, families are parking on the curb blocking routes and safe vision for crossing the road. We also have families parking directly opposite the school gates which does prevent safe access in and out of the school grounds.

Please ensure anyone collecting or dropping off your child parks respectfully and would allow emergency services to access/leave the school site and our neighbours properties.

Key Dates For Your Diary



2025/26 Term Dates:

8.9.25 School starts back.

24.10.25 Last day of half term

3.11.25 School reopens

19.12.25 Last day of term

5.1.26 Inset Day - school closed to pupils

6.1.26 School reopens

15.1.26 Full Governors Meeting

29.1.26 Year 5 Ukulele Concert 2.50pm

4.2.26 Year 6 End of Key Stage 2 Assessment parents' meeting.

4.2.26 Year 5 Space Centre Trip

6.2.26 Year 2 Cromford Mills Trip

W/C 9.2.26 Parents' Evening and Scholastic Book Fair

13.2.26 last day of half term

23.2.26 School reopens

25.2.26 Year 5 Lea Green Residential Parents' Meeting

27.2.26 Friends of Park House Disco (volunteers needed)

3.3.26 Reception and Year 2 Dance Festival

3.3.26 Friends of Park House meeting 2pm

5.3.26 Full Governors Meeting

6.3.26 Friends of Park House Non-Uniform day for a raffle donation

W/C 9.3.26 Science Week

18-19.3.26 Year 5 Residential to Lea Green

20.3.26 Year 6 Football Team Tournament tbc

24.3.26 Year 3 and Year 4 Spring Concert (pm) @ school

25.3.26 Year 3 and Year 4 Spring Concert (am) @school

25.3.26 Netball tournament tbc

27.3.26 Last day of term

13.4.26 School reopens

23.4.26 Full Governors Meeting

4.5.26 Bank holiday - school closed

11-14.5.26 KS2 SATs

15.5.26 Disco tbc

18-20.5.26 Year 6 residential to Dukes Barn

21.5.26 Last day of half term

22.5.26 Inset Day - school closed to pupils

1.6.26 School reopens

15.6.26 Year 6 trip to Bestwood Environmental Centre

24.6.26 Inset Day - school closed to pupils

1-3.7.26 Tupton Hall Transition Days

1.7.26 Move Up Day

2.7.26 Full Governors Meeting

4.7.26 Community Summer Fayre

23.7.26 Last day of term

2025/26 Inset days:

- Thursday 4th September 2025 - completed
- Friday 5th September 2025 - completed
- Monday 5th January 2026 - completed
- **Friday 22nd May 2026**
- **Wednesday 24th June 2026**