



Cavendish Close Infant and Nursery School

Newsletter 9

Monday 2nd February 2026

Wood Road
Chaddesden
Derby
DE21 4LY

662239

Dear Parents and Carers,

The spring term has begun with great positivity, and it is wonderful to see the children so engaged in their exciting new topics of learning. I hope you are finding the knowledge organisers helpful as you support learning at home; the children should now be able to confidently answer their 'Let's Quiz' questions.

Although January has been particularly grey and damp, our staff have brought sunshine into school each day, creating an environment full of optimism, opportunity and memorable learning moments. Thank you for ensuring that your children arrive at school every day, on time and ready to learn—your support is truly appreciated.

This Wednesday we will be celebrating our annual NSPCC Number Day, and children are invited to come to school wearing their favourite number. A range of enjoyable maths activities are planned, including a 'countathon' and Number Blocks challenges—I have my number ready! We are raising funds for the NSPCC, whose vital work includes supporting children experiencing neglect or abuse, providing counselling through Childline, and promoting safeguarding in schools and communities; a £1 contribution from each child would be greatly appreciated.

Looking ahead to next week, we are delighted to welcome one parent or carer into school for their child's maths workshop, offering the chance to experience a lesson together and explore ways to support learning at home. Please note the change of date for Class 2.

Reading together at home is one of the simplest and most powerful ways to support your child's learning. Just a few minutes each day helps build confidence, strengthens vocabulary and deepens their understanding of the world. It also creates a calm, shared moment where children feel encouraged and valued. Your support makes a real difference, and regular reading at home gives children the best possible foundation for success across the curriculum.

As always, your views are valued, and you are welcome to contact me in person, by telephone or by email with any feedback, queries or suggestions. It is a pleasure to have your children in school—they are happy, energetic and eager to learn.

Finally, please be reminded that Friday 13th February is an INSET day, so the children's last day in school will be Thursday 12th February.

Kind regards, *Mrs C Diffin* Headteacher

Cavendish Close
Infant School (CCIS)

Our School Vision

When our children
move on from us,
we want them to
be:



Dear Cavendish Close Children,



Let's work together to make 2026 the best year ever. Come to school every day that you are well. Get up early, get ready for school and eat a healthy breakfast. Be helpful at home. Arrive on time and enter school through your door with your friends.

I am so proud of how well you are doing with your reading. You are remembering the sounds you know because you are thinking and practising. You are blending sounds to read words, and you are remembering tricky words.



GRATEFUL



Thank you for always using good manners at school 😊 Remember to say 'good morning' when you arrive at school and then, 'please' and 'thank you' throughout the day.

Best wishes from Mrs Diffin x



Please update your diaries with all the key dates for this term.

Please note the earlier finish times on the last day of the school year.

Please recommend our school to your family, friends, colleagues and neighbours etc in the local area.

Do you know any children who are due to start nursery and/or school in September 2026?

We would welcome visits from prospective families, so please promote us where you can.

We offer 15 hour and 30 hour funded places in our nursery.

We offer childcare to early years children in our Breakfast Club from 7:45am and in our After School Club until 5:45pm.

Ring 01332 662239 to arrange a bespoke visit ☺



Children should attend school every day until we break up for the half term holiday on Thursday 12th February. Children should not be taken out of school for a family holiday.



We are required to report unauthorised absences to Derby City Council who may issue fines to parents and carers. Good attendance matters, please enable your child to be an Attendance HERO this spring. Good attendance is 96% or higher.

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children can have a 'free' school dinner every day. Daily meals are funded by the government. Our meals are cooked freshly every day, and you can prepare your children for what they will choose by looking at our menus.



Children should not come to school wearing jewellery for health and safety reasons. Only small stud earrings are allowed.



Parent and Carer Communication Charter

We expect all parents and carers to abide by our communication charter.

We expect parents and carers to always be polite, respectful, positive and solution focused with all school staff.

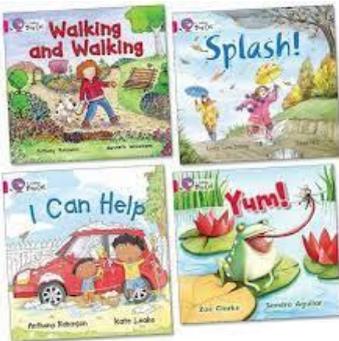
Thank you to all our parents and carers who are polite and respectful towards all staff every day. You are appreciated.



Thank you for expecting your children to walk up the path as they arrive at school. This ensures that only clean shoes come into school. Your co-operation is appreciated.



Please do not attempt to take a shortcut up the grass as the grass is muddy, slippery, and very uneven in places. Please take your time, be safe and stay on the path. Thank you.



Please find time every day to read to and with your children. Enjoying reading together will help your children to develop as confident readers who choose to read. We hope that you found our reading workshops helpful and that you feel motivated and able to help with your children's reading at home.

Help your child to be a Reading Rainbow Champion.

We're delighted with the progress that all children are making with reading. Our Little Wandle Letters and Sounds phonics programme is really effective. Please find time to support your child's reading at home regularly.



The children are loving Numbots in school. If your children can find time to access Numbots on a digital device at home, it will help with their mathematical fluency. Little and often would be great.



If you drive to school, please park safely away from school and walk. Please do not block driveways or mount pavements. Do not park on the zigzag lines outside school. Respect our neighbours and prioritise keeping children safe

Parents and carers who drive on site to drop off or pick up from our Breakfast Club or After School Club must drive very slowly (5mph) and park in a parking bay. Please do not use the disabled bays if you are not a blue badge holder.



After School Curriculum Clubs are continuing this half term. They all finish at 4:10pm. Parents and carers are not allowed to drive or park on site to pick up from these clubs. Thank you for your cooperation.

Children are not allowed to ride bikes or scooters on our school site, this includes younger siblings on balance bikes. Please help us to keep our paths safe.

If children come to school on a bike or scooter, they must dismount at the Wood Road gates and walk on the school site.



Bikes and scooters that are left in the bike shed unsecured are left at the owner's risk. Consider using a bike/scooter lock to secure your child's bike/scooter.

Thank you for expecting your child to dismount from their bike/scooter when they get to the Wood Road gates. This keeps our school site safe for everyone.

Every day at school counts

Enable your child to achieve their best educational outcomes by being an...

Attendance HERO.

Please do not book any term time holidays during this academic year as holiday absence will be unauthorised and parents/carers are likely to be fined by Derby City Council.

Mrs Asghar is our Attendance Leader and she will be carefully tracking children's attendance where it falls below our school target of 96%.

Here

Every day,

Ready and

On time

Every day, our children work towards our STAR expectations:



Term Dates for 2025.26

Please plan all family holidays during the school holidays and not during term time. Help your child to be an Attendance HERO.

Here Every day, Ready and On time – Good attendance is 96% or above

Spring Term 1 2026

Monday 5th January to Friday 13th February

February	Our February hymn is 'we are climbing Jesus' ladder'
Wednesday 4 th February	NSPCC number day – Children are invited to come to school wearing a number
Week beginning 9 th February	<p>Maths workshops for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents and carers</p> <p>Tuesday 10th February at 2:15pm: Reception – Classes 1 and 3</p> <p>Wednesday 11th February at 2:15pm: Reception – Class 2</p> <p>Wednesday 11th February at 2:15pm: Year 1</p> <p>Thursday 12th February at 2:15pm: Year 2</p>
Wednesday 11 th February	Safer internet day
Thursday 12th February	Children break up for the half term holiday
Friday 13 th February	INSET day 3 : School is closed to children for staff training

Spring Term 2 2026

Monday 23rd February to Friday 27th March

Monday 23rd February	Children return to school
March	Our March hymn is 'this little light of mine'
Wednesday 4 th March	<p>World book day, with a bedtime reading theme</p> <p>Children are invited to come to school in their pyjamas</p>
Thursday 5 th March	Parents' evening for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents and carers
Week beginning 9 th March	British Science Week, including a live farm lesson on Thursday 12 th March
Week beginning 16 th March	Reception will be hatching chicks 😊
Tuesday 17 th March	<p>St Patrick's day</p> <p>2:00pm Rocksteady concert for club parents and carers</p>
Tuesday 24 th March	<p>The St Mary's Church team visit us for an Easter assembly</p> <p>2:00pm Creative afternoon for parents and carers (Option 1)</p>
Thursday 26 th March	2:00pm Creative afternoon for parents and carers (Option 2)
Friday 27th March	Children break up for the Easter holiday

Summer Term 1 2026	
Monday 13th April to Friday 22 nd May	
Monday 13th April	Children return to school
April	Our April hymn is 'sow a seed'
Wednesday 15 th April	The Compass Changing Lives team lead assemblies called the five ways to wellbeing
Thursday 23 rd April	St George's Day
May	Our May hymn is 'kum ba yah'
Monday 4th May	Bank holiday – School is closed
Wednesday 6 th May	Class 1's assembly for their parents and carers Nature number day
Thursday 7 th May	Class 2's assembly for their parents and carers
Friday 8 th May	Class 3's assembly for their parents and carers
Week beginning 11 th May	Sun Safety Week
Tuesday 12 th May	Class 4's assembly for their parents and carers Nursery singing showcase for parents and carers (Option1)
Wednesday 13 th May	Class 5's assembly for their parents and carers
Thursday 14 th May	Class 6's assembly for their parents and carers Nursery singing showcase for parents and carers (Option1)
Tuesday 19 th May	Class 7's assembly for their parents and carers
Wednesday 20 th May	Class 8's assembly for their parents and carers
Thursday 21 st May	Class 9's assembly for their parents and carers
Friday 22nd May	Children break up for the half term holiday

Summer Term 2 2026	
Monday 1st June to Thursday 23 rd July	
Monday 1st June	Children return to school
June	Our June hymn is the 'wiggly waggly song'
Week beginning 1 st June	Creative Arts week
Week beginning 8 th June	Statutory Assessment Test Year 1 children will take the Phonics Screening Check
Friday 26 th June	INSET day 4: School is closed to children for staff training
Monday 29 th June	INSET day 5: School is closed to children for staff training
Thursday 23rd July	Children break up for the Summer holiday – Earlier finish time Nursery, Reception and Year 1 children finish at 2:45pm Year 2 children finish at 3:00pm



Contacting School 2025.26

Telephone 01332 662239

Please share any queries or concerns with us so that we can work together to keep your children safe, happy, and learning at school. Polite feedback and suggestions are always welcome.

Please be respectful with your communication and only email us on school days between 7:45am and 5:45pm.

Senior Leadership Team

leadership@cavclosei.derby.sch.uk

(Mrs Diffin - Headteacher, Mrs Howett - Deputy Headteacher and Early Years Foundation Stage Leader, Mrs Asghar - Assistant Headteacher and Key Stage 1 Leader)

School Office Team

admin@cavclosei.derby.sch.uk

(Mrs Tusa – School Business Manager, Mrs Kelly and Mrs Manners – School Business Officers)

Safeguarding Team

safeguarding@cavclosei.derby.sch.uk

(Mrs Diffin – Designated Safeguarding Leader, Mrs Leadbeater and Mrs Dearie – Learning Mentors and Safeguarding Champions)

Inclusion Leader

senco@cavclosei.derby.sch.uk

(Mrs Vincett) – Mrs Vincett is our Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO)

Year Group Class Teachers

nursery@cavclosei.derby.sch.uk

(Mrs Howett and Mrs Orme)

reception@cavclosei.derby.sch.uk

(Mrs Merriman, Mrs Wells, Miss Doxey)

year1@cavclosei.derby.sch.uk

(Mrs Carter, Miss Brown, Miss Marley)

year2@cavclosei.derby.sch.uk

(Mr Hampson, Mrs Asghar, Miss Harker)

Breakfast Club and After School Club

clubs@cavclosei.derby.sch.uk

(Mrs Roberts – Breakfast and After School Club Leader)



Keeping Cavendish Close Children Safe

The best interests of children continue to come first for our Safeguarding Team.

Keeping children safe from harm is our utmost priority.

If anyone feels concerned about the safety of a child, they should act on their concern immediately.

- Parents and carers can speak to or email the Safeguarding team to make an enquiry, to ask for help or to share information: safeguarding@cavclosei.derby.sch.uk
- **Parents and carers can ring Derby Children’s Social Care directly 01332 641172 (Out of hours Careline 01332 786968) to report their concerns first hand**
- Parents and carers can use the NSPCC helpline 0808 800 5000

The Safeguarding Team

Mrs Diffin

Headteacher and **Designated Safeguarding Lead**

Mrs Howett

Deputy Headteacher and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs Asghar

Assistant Headteacher and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mrs Vincett

Inclusion Leader and Safeguarding Champion

Mrs Leadbeater

Learning Mentor and Safeguarding, Attendance and Behaviour Champion

Mrs Dearie

Learning Mentor and Safeguarding and Behaviour Champion

Mrs Carter

Safeguarding Lead Teacher

Mrs Roberts

Breakfast and After School Club Safeguarding Champion

Keeping children safe is everyone's responsibility



Safeguarding is Everyone's Responsibility