



Cavendish Close Infant and Nursery School

Newsletter 1

Monday 7th September 2026

Wood Road
Chaddesden
Derby
DE21 4LY

662239

Dear Parents and Carers,

A Warm Welcome Back

I hope that all our families have enjoyed a happy, restful and healthy summer holiday. It has certainly been a memorable one, with a succession of heatwaves that have felt unprecedented and perhaps offer a glimpse of the challenges that future summers may bring. I hope you were all able to find time to relax, make special memories and enjoy time together as a family.

My own family has enjoyed a wonderful summer. It was a particularly proud time for us as one of my daughters received her GCSE results and prepares for the next stage of her education, while my eldest daughter is getting ready to return to university. We were fortunate to spend some quality time together over the summer break and are now looking forward to the start of another exciting school year.

New Automated Entrance Gates

You will have seen that, over the summer holiday, we have replaced the boundary gates on Wood Road with new automated security gates. This investment forms part of our ongoing commitment to maintaining a safe and secure environment for all children, staff and visitors.

The gates will be fully operational as soon as the final technology installation work has been completed. The gates will remain closed during the school day. Parents and carers who need to access the school site outside of normal drop-off and collection times will be asked to contact the school office in advance so that arrangements can be made for entry.

We appreciate your patience as the final stages of the installation are completed and look forward to the enhanced security and safety that the new system will provide for our school community.

Welcome Back

A very warm welcome back to all of the families we know so well, and a special welcome to the new families who have joined our school community. We are delighted to have you with us and look forward to getting to know you over the coming months and years.

Our Key Stage 1 children returned to school on Friday, and it was such a pleasure to see them back. Many seemed to have grown considerably over the summer, and there were plenty of smiles, shiny new shoes and excited children eager to reconnect with friends and begin a new year of learning. I am sure it will not be long before everyone feels happy, confident and settled once again. Together, we will all readjust to the school routine.

The school building has been remarkably quiet for the past six weeks, so it is wonderful to hear it filled once again with the laughter, energy and enthusiasm of our children. Their unique personalities and characters are what make our school such a special place, and it has been lovely to welcome them back.

A Reminder About the School Day

Our school doors open at **8.40am** each morning, and staff will be ready to greet children with a smile and a warm welcome. We kindly ask all families to make every effort to arrive on time so that children can make a positive start to their day. **Doors will close and registers will be taken promptly at 8.50am.**

As you arrive at and leave the school site, please use the designated pathways at all times. To help us maintain a safe and orderly environment, we also respectfully ask that children do not play in the

Nursery or Reception outdoor areas before or after school. Thank you for your understanding and support.

Working Together

I will be sharing the outcomes of our **July 2026 Parent Questionnaire** over the coming weeks. The responses were overwhelmingly positive, and I am extremely grateful for the kindness, respect and appreciation shown towards our staff team. Every member of staff works tirelessly to provide a safe, nurturing and stimulating environment in which children can grow, develop and flourish.

The strength of our school lies in the partnership between home and school, and I greatly value the support of our families. If you ever have a question, concern or suggestion, please do not hesitate to get in touch. Open and honest communication helps us to work together in the best interests of our children.

Thank you for your continued support. I look forward to another successful and enjoyable year ahead as we work together to help every child shine.

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:

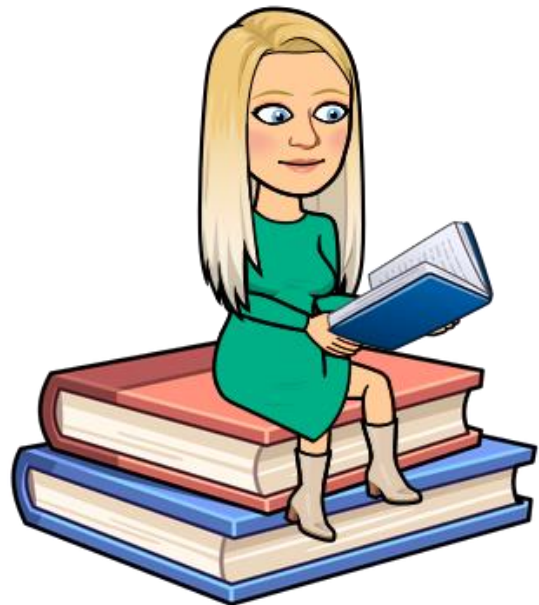


Dear Cavendish Close Children,



Be ready for school every day by bringing a coat with a hood, a sun hat and your book bag. You can add one key ring to your bookbag so that you can recognise it easily. Don't forget your PE kit too.

If you have had a break from reading in the summer, get back into a good routine of finding time to enjoy reading every day. Don't forget a bedtime story to help you settle down for a good night's sleep.



You Can Do It!



Coming to school every day that you are well is really important. Please be an Attendance HERO (Here Every day, Ready and On time) this year. Every day at school counts. The doors open every morning at 8:40am.

Best wishes from Mrs Diffin x

School day timings for 2026.27

	Nursery (Full days)	Reception (Classes 1, 2 and 3)	Year 1 (Classes 4, 5 and 6)	Year 2 (Classes 7, 8 and 9)
Breakfast Club	From 7:45am			
School day starts Doors open / Welcome	8:40am	8:40am	8:40am	
End of registration	8:50am	8:50am	8:50am	
Home time	2:50pm	3:00pm	3:10pm	
After School Club	Until 5:45pm			

Total learning and care time	6 hours a day (30 hours a week)	6.3 hours a day (31.5 hours a week)	6.5 hours a day (32.5 hours a week)
Total additional childcare hours available	4 hours	3.7 hours	3.5 hours

Nursery part-time children access a half day on a Wednesday	
Morning 8:45am to 11:45am	Afternoon 12:10pm to 3:10pm

Secure Line Gates (Nursery gates and Year 2 playground gates)	Locked at 8:55am	Unlocked at 2:50pm
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- All Nursery-aged children are entitled to 15 hours of funded education. We offer part-time 15-hour places at the beginning of the week (all day Monday, all day Tuesday, and Wednesday morning) or at the end of the week (Wednesday afternoon, all day Thursday, and all day Friday).
- Some Nursery-aged children are entitled to 30 hours of funded education. We offer full-time 30-hour places (all day Monday to Friday).

Please ensure that your child is an <u>Attendance HERO</u>			
H	E	R	O
Here	Every day,	Ready and	On time

Start of the day arrangements

- All doors will open at **8:40am** every morning.
- Early Years Foundation Stage (Nursery and Reception) children will enter school directly into their classrooms.
- Key Stage 1 (Year 1 and Year 2) classrooms are on the first floor.
- Children from Classes 4, 5 and 6 will enter school through the Year 1 door at the end of school (between Nursery and Class 3). Staff from Classes 4, 5 and 6 will be at the door to welcome the children and to communicate with parents/carers.
- Children from Classes 7, 8 and 9 will enter school through the Year 2 door at the back of school (between the hall and Class 1). Staff from Classes 7, 8 and 9 will be at the door to welcome the children and to communicate with parents/carers.
- All children should be in their classrooms ready for registration at **8:50am**.

End of the day arrangements

- The end of the school day will continue to be staggered to ease congestion on the paths around school and on site.

Nursery (Full days)	Reception (Classes 1, 2 and 3)	Years 1 and 2 (Classes 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9)
2:50pm	3:00pm	3:10pm

- The gates will be opened at 2:50pm for parents and carers to approach classrooms and the playgrounds.
- **Nursery children** will be dismissed first at 2:50pm directly from their classroom.
- **Reception children** will be dismissed next at 3:00pm directly from their classrooms.
- **Year 1 and 2 children** will be dismissed at 3:10pm. They will be led down the staircases and out onto their playgrounds before being safely dismissed to their responsible adults.
- In reality, there will be a dismissal window of about 10 minutes (3:05pm to 3:15pm) to enable all the Year 1 and Year 2 children to come safely down the staircases and out onto their playgrounds. Parents and carers are asked to wait patiently on the playgrounds by the correct class sign. Children will be dismissed one at a time by staff. Parents and carers must wait until it's their child's turn to be dismissed.
- Children from Classes 4, 5 and 6 will meet their parents and carers on the Year 1 playground.
- Children from Classes 7, 8 and 9 will meet their parents and carers on the Year 2 playground.
- The staggered timings should help parents and carers who collect siblings from different classes and year groups.

- The Junior Academy begin to dismiss their children at 3:15pm.
- Some children find arriving at school or leaving school at the same time as lots of other children overwhelming and/or distressing. We will continue to offer bespoke arrangements as appropriate. If you would like to request flexibility at the start or end of the school day, please come and speak to us.
- Please keep left as you approach school. When parents and carers have seen their children enter school safely, they can walk back down the drive.
- Parents and carers should not block the path around school. Please keep moving or wait to the side of the path near school, allowing others to pass safely.
- It is helpful if only one adult brings your child to school and collects them. Reducing numbers on site will help to ease congestion on site.
- Please try not to arrive on site too early; arriving on time is really helpful. We aim for all children to be Attendance HEROes (**H**ere **E**very day, **R**eady and **O**n time).

For safety reasons, children are not allowed to ride bikes or scooters on the school site.

Children coming to school on a bike or scooter must dismount at the Wood Road gates and walk with their bike or scooter.

We do have a bike shed near the car park. Bikes and scooters can be left at parents/carers' own risk. They should be secured by parents/carers. The school will not accept responsibility for any damage or loss incurred

For safety reasons, smoking/vaping on the school site is not allowed.

For safety reasons, dogs and other pets are not allowed on the school site.

Families with guide/assistance should approach the school to secure permission to access the school site. We currently have one assistance dog accessing our site regularly.

Do you need any help with childcare before or after the school day?

Breakfast Club	From 7:45am
After School Club	Until 5:45pm

Mrs Roberts is our Breakfast and After School Club Leader. If you need help with childcare before or after the school day, please enquire about our fantastic provision by emailing Mrs Roberts.

Clubs@cavclosei.derby.sch.uk

Key useful information

- ✓ We have a **Breakfast Club** from 7:45am and an **After School Club** until 5:45pm. Email Mrs Roberts for more information. Clubs@cavclosei.derby.sch.uk
- ✓ Children are **not allowed to ride bikes or scooters** on school premises for safety reasons.
- ✓ Your child needs a **waterproof coat with a hood** and a **sun hat** every day. Please ensure that all your child's clothes and belongings are named.
- ✓ Your child will need **sturdy school shoes** every day. Heels, slip-on shoes, and sandals are not allowed as they are not safe for outdoor play and PE.
- ✓ Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children need a PE kit in school every day. Children need a **drawstring bag** (not a rucksack) with a **white T-shirt** and a **pair of black or navy shorts** – both named. Pumps are not required as children will go to the hall in their shoes and take part in PE with bare feet.
- ✓ Children are **not allowed to wear jewellery** to school. Only small stud earrings are allowed. Hoop earrings must not be worn for school.
- ✓ Your child should not bring any belongings, toys, or resources into school from home.
- ✓ Your child needs to bring their **bookbag and diary** to school every day. Please use our wallet-style bookbags with small handles. Avoid buying your own bulky satchel-style bag with a strap as these do not fit in children's drawers easily. Your child can have **one keyring** on their bookbag if they would like.
- ✓ Your child has their own **water bottle** and a **piece of fruit** is available every day at snack time. Your child should not bring any drinks or snacks from home.
- ✓ We encourage as many Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children as possible to have a 'funded' school dinner. Our meals are made on site by our catering team. You can access our menu so that you and your child know what to expect for dinner every day. Our menu is based on our children's favourite meals. Your child will be well supported at dinner time. If there is a day when you know your child will not enjoy a school dinner, they can bring a safe and healthy packed lunch and a drink.
- ✓ Children are encouraged to **read daily** at home with an adult signing the reading diary so that children can progress on the Reading Rainbow. To build children's fluency and independence, it is helpful for them to read their books more than once.
- ✓ Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children can access **Numbots** using their own log-in details and continue learning at home. Little but frequent use of Numbots improves maths fluency.

Our uniform plays a key role in promoting the ethos of our school. It provides children with a sense of belonging and identity and sets an appropriate tone for education.

- **School logo jumper/cardigan** (branded) or **Royal blue jumper/cardigan** (generic)
- **White polo t-shirt**
- **Black/grey pinafore dress, skirt, trousers, shorts**
- **Black/grey/white tights, socks**

Harvest Festival Celebration

We would like to invite all families to contribute food items for our Harvest Festival display in the hall. Please send in tins and packets of food by Tuesday 29th September. Thank you



After our Harvest Festival Celebrations in school, we will be donating the food to the 'Derby Food 4 Thought' Alliance.

The Derby Food 4 Thought Alliance supports people in Derby who are experiencing food poverty, through food provision, signposting, education and advice. If you need assistance, call 01332 346266.



Children's birthdays

We are always pleased to celebrate children's birthdays in school. Children can wear a birthday badge to school, and they can bring a favourite birthday card to share with their class. We are great at singing 'Happy Birthday', and we love to hear about presents, parties and birthday cakes. Being at school on your birthday is really special.

As part of our commitment to being an accredited Healthy School, we do not allow children to bring sweets, lollies or cake etc into school to share with the class. Please save these sweet treats for home, parties and out of school. Thank you.



Safety on Wood Road

We work in partnership with Derby City Council, our local ward councillors, and our safer neighbourhood policing team to make Wood Road as safe as possible at the start and the end of the school day. Please play your part and help to keep our school community safe.

- ✓ **Please drive slowly on Wood Road. Do not make a 'U-Turn' on Wood Road outside school – this is not safe or considerate. Do not stop in the middle of the road to drop off adults and children. Do not mount the kerbs to park on the pavements.**
- ✓ **Please park considerately away from school and walk. Do not park in front of the gates or on the zigzag lines. Do not park on corners, on pavements or blocking driveways at all. If you need to drive to school, then park safely and considerately away from school and walk. Please allow sufficient time for this.**
- ✓ **Please keep moving when walking and keep the paths clear. Do not gather or wait by the gates – this is not safe or helpful. This is not a helpful meeting point.**
- ✓ **Please do not stand and smoke/vape by the Wood Road gates. This is not the welcome we want for our families. Please be considerate.**

Derby City Council Public Protection Officers and members of our Safer Neighbourhood Policing Team visit us occasionally so that we can challenge parents and carers who do not drive, park, or behave safely in the local area.

Cavendish Close Infant and Nursery School

Staffing Structure 2026.27

Headteacher

Mrs C Diffin

Inclusion Leader

Mrs R Vincett (2.5)

Early Years Foundation Stage Leader: Mrs C Howett (Deputy Headteacher)

Nursery – Foundation Stage 1

Mrs C Howett and Mrs A Orme

Mrs Mosley and Mrs S Bee

Reception – Foundation Stage 2

Class 1

Mrs K Merriman
Mrs A Roberts (Friday)

*Mrs L Gadsby
Miss L-M Gibson (Thursday and Friday)*

Class 2

Mrs E Wells

*Mrs W Redfern
Mrs K Bradley (Thursday)*

Class 3

Miss K Marley
Mrs A Roberts (Monday and Tuesday)

*Miss E Cunliffe
Mrs K Bradley (Friday)*

Key Stage 1 Leader: Mrs N Asghar (Assistant Headteacher)

Year 1 – Key Stage 1

Class 4

Mrs R Carter
Miss L Flynn

Class 5

Miss C Brown
*Miss L Riley
Mrs S Hird*

Class 6

Miss A Doxey
Mrs L Edwards and Mrs B Bonner

Year 2 – Key Stage 1

Class 7

Mr J Hampson
Miss S Charles

Class 8

Mrs N Asghar
Mrs L Mills

Class 9

Miss A Harker
Mrs K Taylor

Additional Key Stage 1 TA

Miss Z Stafford

Midday Supervisors

Mrs J Burton, Mrs A Pickering, Miss L Smith

HLTAs/Learning Mentors

Mrs A Roberts (HLTA)
Mrs M Smalley (HLTA)
Mrs J Leadbeater (Learning Mentor)

Mrs R Dearie (Learning Mentor)

Responsibilities

Teaching Cover, Breakfast and After School Club Leader
Teaching Cover, Speech and Language Link Champion
Safeguarding, Behaviour and Attendance Champion, Dinnertime Leader, Family Support
Safeguarding and Behaviour Champion, Dinnertime Leader, Family Support

Term Dates for 2026.27

Autumn Term 1 2026

Friday 4th September to Friday 23rd October

Children starting in Nursery and Reception will be given individual staggered start dates

Friday 25 th September	Our hymn for September is 'Welcome'
	PCSO Lily is visiting all year groups with her road safety assembly
Tuesday 29 th September	2:15 pm Reading workshop for Year 1 parents and carers
Wednesday 30 th September	Harvest festival assembly
	2:15 pm Reading workshop for Year 2 parents and carers
Thursday 1 st October	Our hymn for October is 'Thank you God for all my friends'
	2:15 pm Reading workshop for Reception parents and carers
Thursday 15 th October	Compass Changes Lives visiting all year groups with their 'five ways to well-being' assembly
Friday 23rd October	Children break up for the autumn half-term holiday

Autumn Term 2 2026

Tuesday 3rd November to Friday 18th December

Monday 2 nd November	INSET day : Children do not attend school
Wednesday 4 th November	3:15pm to 6:15pm Parents' evening for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2
Monday 9 th November	3:45pm to 5:00pm Early Years Open Evening (1) for children due to start in Nursery or Reception in September 2027 – Drop in and visit us.
Wednesday 11 th November Thursday 12 th November	School photographer, Melanie Rees, in school, taking individual and 'in school' sibling photographs.
Tuesday 3rd November	Children return to school for the second half of the autumn term
Friday 18th December	Children break up for the Christmas holiday

Spring Term 1 2027

Monday 4th January to Thursday 11th February

Monday 4th January	Children return to school for the first half of the spring term
Thursday 11th February	Children break up for the spring half-term holiday
Friday 12 th February	INSET day : Children do not attend school

Spring Term 2 2027

Monday 22nd February to Thursday 25th March

Monday 22nd February	Children return to school for the second half of the spring term
Thursday 25th March	Children break up for the Easter holiday

Summer Term 1 2027

Monday 12th April to Friday 28th May

Monday 12th April	Children return to school for the first half of the summer term
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Friday 28th May	Children break up for the summer half-term holiday
<p align="center"><u>Summer Term 2 2027</u></p> <p align="center">Monday 7th June to Friday 23rd July</p>	
Monday 7th June	Children return to school for the second half of the summer term
Friday 25 th June	INSET day : Children do not attend school
Monday 28 th June	INSET day : Children do not attend school
Friday 23rd July	Children break up for the summer holiday – Earlier finish time
Monday 26 th July	INSET day : Children do not attend school

Our School Learning Values

Our children all learn how to be superstar learners by following our learning values. These are the learning behaviours that we value the most at our school. These characters are from our Power Maths scheme, and they help us learn how to be superstar learners.

 <p>1. We think of good ideas.</p> <p>2. We think of different ways to do things.</p>	 <p>3. We are confident to try challenges.</p> <p>4. We learn from mistakes.</p>	 <p>5. We always try our best.</p> <p>6. We are resilient, we keep on trying.</p>	 <p>7. We enjoy finding out and exploring.</p> <p>8. We ask clever questions.</p>	 <p>9. We ask for help when we need it.</p> <p>10. We are happy to teach our friends.</p>
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Our School Behaviour Values

These are the behaviours that we value the most at our school. Every day in school, grown-ups teach and model these values. Children practise and demonstrate these behaviours, and they are rewarded for showing good behaviour. Children's behaviour at our school is good.

 <p>We show respect to everyone.</p>	 <p>We choose kindness.</p>	 <p>We remember to use good manners.</p>	 <p>We do what adults ask us to do.</p>
 <p>We show respect to everything.</p>	 <p>We know how to feel calm and ready to learn.</p>	 <p>We make safe, healthy, and happy choices.</p>	 <p>We are Attendance HEROs (Here Every day) Ready On time.</p>

We support a number of children with identified social, emotional and mental health needs in school. These children have special educational needs. We have significant expertise in working with families and external agencies to enable these children to succeed at our community school.

Kind hands

Kind feet

Kind words



Contacting School 2026.27

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 Marley)

year1@cavclosei.derby.sch.uk

(Mrs Carter, Miss Brown, Miss Doxey)

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)

Every day, our children work towards our STAR expectations:





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