



Cavendish Close Infant and Nursery School

Newsletter 3

Thursday 15th October 2026

Wood Road
Chaddesden
Derby
DE21 4LY

662239

Dear Parents and Carers,

It's October and autumn has definitely arrived now; we will be working hard to keep our paths free of leaves! We are so lucky to have such beautiful trees, new and old, on our site. Thank you to our families who stay on our paths and use the litter bins. We appreciate you keeping our site clean and tidy. Please don't walk up the grass in front of school; it just isn't safe, and we really don't want anyone to fall. The ground is uneven and wet underfoot. Take your time and use the paths on site, please.

I am really proud of how well all the children have settled into their new year groups and classes. We have welcomed about 100 new families into our school community, mostly into the Early Years but some into Key Stage 1 as well. There are about 20 languages spoken within our school community now – how wonderful! It is important that our children leave us with an understanding of the world that they are growing up in, having learned how to live alongside, and show respect for, a diverse range of people. Thank you to everyone for being welcoming, kind and respectful.

Within our school ethos, we identify how parents and carers can work effectively with us to enable all our children to thrive:

We expect our Parents and Carers to...

- ✓ Respect the ethos, vision, and values of our school.
- ✓ Work together with staff in the best interests of our children.
- ✓ Treat all members of our school community with respect, kindness, and good manners.
- ✓ Set a good example to our children with language and behaviour.
- ✓ Seek a peaceful solution to all issues.
- ✓ Correct their own child's behaviour (or those in their care) where it could lead to conflict, aggression or unsafe conduct.
- ✓ Approach the right member of staff to help resolve any concern.

I hope that you were able to visit your children's classrooms for our recent reading workshops. Our intention was to help you understand how your children will be taught to develop their reading skills this year. We also hope that we have motivated you to find time to read with your children each day so that they can progress on the class Reading Rainbow and earn rewards. #Teamwork 😊

Thank you to all the families who donated food and drink items for our impressive Harvest display. When our friends from St Mary's Church came to join us for assembly, they said that our Harvest collection was the most impressive in the area! We have thought about thankfulness and giving to others as we have been learning about Harvest.

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,



Our Harvest display in the hall looks fantastic. Thank you so much to everyone who has brought some food in. You are all so kind. This week we will donate the food to the Derby 'Food 4 Thought' Alliance as well as visiting some local elderly residents 😊

Thank you for having such good manners in school. I like to see you greet your friends and grown-ups in school with a 'good morning,' a smile and a wave. I like to hear you using 'please' and 'thank you.' Well done 😊

Many Thanks!



I know you enjoyed showing your families a daily phonics lesson. Remember to find time to enjoy a good book at bedtime every night. Keep on reading at home.

Best wishes from Mrs Diffin x

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.



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. Respect our neighbours and prioritise keeping children safe.

If you drive on site to drop off or collect children, drive very slowly (5mph) and park in a designated parking space.

Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children can have a 'free' school dinner every day. Costs are covered 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](#).



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 recent 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 are holding two open evenings next half term for prospective 'Nursery and Reception 2027' families.

Monday 9th November 3:45pm to 5:00pm

Monday 30th November 3:45pm to 5:00pm

All nursery parents and carers need to apply to Derby City Council for a school place between 1st November 2026 and 15th January 2027.

If you know any family, friends, colleagues, etc in the local area with nursery-aged children who are due to start school in September 2027, please share these opportunities and encourage them to contact, visit and choose us.





The fundraising by our school community continues to be extraordinary, and we are delighted that work continues to progress in the Willow Garden. Mrs Redfern and the Gardening Club are always busy planting and tending, and we have further developments planned...



Our outdoor classroom is called 'Mason's Den,' in loving memory of our dear friend Mason, who showed us remarkable bravery, resilience and joy for the great outdoors.

We are looking forward to seeing Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents and carers on Wednesday 4th November for our Autumn Term Parents' Evening (appointments are between 3:15pm and 6:15pm).

Parents and carers coming to school for parents' evening should not drive or park on site. Parents collecting children from after-school club may drive slowly (5mph) and park on site in designated parking spaces.

Please use our main entrance to enter and leave school.



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.

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 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.



Children should attend school every day until we break up for the half-term holiday on Friday 23rd October. 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 autumn.

Good attendance is 96% or higher.



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



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 very uneven in places. Please take your time, be safe and stay on the path.

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.



This term's After School Curriculum Clubs have now started. 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 co-operation.

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.



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 makes a difference.

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 carefully tracks 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 2026.27	
<u>Autumn Term 1 2026</u>	
Friday 4th September to Friday 23rd October	
Thursday 15 th October	Compass Changes Lives visiting all year groups with their ‘five ways to well-being’ assembly
Friday 23 rd October	Children have been busy designing Christmas cards! They will bring their design home, and families can order cards and other products.
Friday 23rd October	Children break up for the autumn half-term holiday
<u>Autumn Term 2 2026</u>	
Tuesday 3rd November to Friday 18th December	
Monday 2 nd November	INSET day: Children do not attend school
Tuesday 3rd November	Children return to school for the second half of the autumn term
November	Our November hymn is he’s got the whole world in his hands
Tuesday 3 rd November, Wednesday 4 th November and Thursday 5 th November	NHS Health screening programme team in school – Visiting all the Reception classes
Wednesday 4 th November	3:15pm to 6:15pm Parents’ evening for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 more information to follow
Thursday 5 th November	Deadline for Christmas card orders
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.
Wednesday 11 th November	1 minute silence in school for Armistice day
Week beginning Monday 16 th November	Anti-bullying week in school – Break the silence theme
Wednesday 18 th November	Odd socks day to embrace differences and diversity – Children can come to school wearing odd socks
Thursday 26 th November	NHS Flu vaccinations team in school
Friday 27 th November	Professional pantomime performance in school for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 – Robin Hood . Parents and carers will be asked to make a monetary contribution. Letter to follow.
Monday 30 th November	3:45pm to 5:00pm Early Years Open Evening (2) for children due to start in Nursery or Reception in September 2027 – Drop in and visit us.
Wednesday 2 nd December	Christmas Jumper Wednesday – Children are invited to wear a Christmas jumper to school as part of their school uniform
Week beginning 7 th December	Christmas performance week – All classes will perform once for their parents and carers (two visitors per child). Dates and times to follow.

Wednesday 9 th December	Christmas Jumper Wednesday – Children are invited to wear a Christmas jumper to school as part of their school uniform
Monday 14 th December	Santa and his helpers visit school (hopefully!)
	Reception Christmas party day – Children can come to school in party clothes with sensible footwear, appropriate for outdoor play
Tuesday 15 th December	St Mary's Church vicar Jason joins us for a Christmas assembly
	Year 1 Christmas party day – Children can come to school in party clothes with sensible footwear, appropriate for outdoor play
Wednesday 16 th December	Christmas Jumper Wednesday – Children are invited to wear a Christmas jumper to school as part of their school uniform
	Nursery Christmas party day – Children can come to school in party clothes with sensible footwear, appropriate for outdoor play
	Christmas dinner day in school
Thursday 17 th December	Year 2 Christmas party day – Children can come to school in party clothes with sensible footwear, appropriate for outdoor play
Friday 18 th December	Christmas Jumper day for the last day of term – Children are invited to wear a Christmas jumper to school as part of their school uniform
	2:40pm to 3:10pm Year 2 Christmas sing-off
Friday 18th December	Children break up for the Christmas holiday

<u>Spring Term 1 2027</u>	
Monday 4th January to Thursday 11th February	
Monday 4th January	Children return to school for the first half of the spring term
January	Our January hymn is Give me oil in my lamp
Monday 11 th January	3:45pm to 5:00pm Early Years Open Evening (3) for children due to start in Nursery or Reception in September 2027 – Drop in and visit us.
February	Our February hymn is We are climbing Jesus' ladder
Wednesday 3 rd February	NSPCC Number day – Children are invited to dress up as digits for the day, with a £1 charity donation
Monday 8 th February	2:15pm Year 2 Maths workshops for parents and carers
Tuesday 9 th February	Shrove Tuesday – Pancake day
	2:15pm Year 1 Maths workshops for parents and carers
Wednesday 10 th February	Ash Wednesday
	Safer internet day
Thursday 11 th February	2:15pm Reception Maths workshops for parents and carers
Thursday 11th February	Children break up for the spring half-term holiday
Friday 12 th February	INSET day : Children do not attend school

<u>Spring Term 2 2027</u>	
Monday 22 nd February to Thursday 25 th March	
Monday 22 nd February	Children return to school for the second half of the spring term
Thursday 25 th March	Children break up for the Easter holiday

<u>Summer Term 1 2027</u>	
Monday 12 th April to Friday 28 th May	
Monday 12 th April	Children return to school for the first half of the summer term
Friday 28 th May	Children break up for the summer half-term holiday
<u>Summer Term 2 2027</u>	
Monday 7 th June to Friday 23 rd July	
Monday 7 th 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 23 rd July	Children break up for the summer holiday – Earlier finish time
Monday 26 th July	INSET day: Children do not attend school



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