

19TH SEPTEMBER 2025

What a wet and windy week we've had! With this in mind, please remember to send your child to school with a suitable coat each day: staff will always try to get the children outside at break times as much as we can for some fresh air.

Thank you to everyone for your patience and perseverance to get back on board with Teams over the last week—this was something new Microsoft decided to try and, although they have now realised how problematic the change, the roll out to correct it is going to take too long to reach us—your help to fix the issue was really appreciated by staff!

Upper School: Please could our upper school parents and children stand in the area in front of the school building behind the side gates in the morning rather than in the entrance to the car park as it is safer. Mrs Glasby will close the main gates at 8:45am when the doors open and it is safe to walk round to the upper school entrance.

Please remember that I am still *unable* to authorise any term-time leave of absence requests this year and, in the majority of cases, these will incur fines. These requests should be made in advance and not retrospectively please.

Kind regards,

Mrs J Hill

Housekeeping!

The start of term is incredibly busy, so if you have five minutes this weekend to put your feet up, please check you have done everything on our housekeeping list!



- 1) Have you all **signed up to our app and checked you have notifications turned on**? The app is our quickest way of getting reminders and urgent messages to parents—and it's free, meaning we can save money and spend more on the children and creating fun, engaging learning experiences! Please check for an invite by text message.
- 2) Have you signed up to **School Money**? Even if your child brings a packed lunch to school, please sign up as this is our preferred way of collecting trip payments: we are trying to move towards a cashless office. Please contact [Mrs Wagstaff](#) in the school office if you need log in details. Thank you.
- 3) Have you signed and returned a copy of the **Home/School agreement** that came home last week? Please do so as soon as you can so that your child's class teacher can file a completed class set.
- 4) Year 3 parents: have you completed and returned the **admissions and permissions forms** that were emailed to you ahead of your child joining us for the transition days in July? Please check your emails and return these as soon as you can so we can make sure your child's records are up to date and to avoid us having to send out duplicates.
- 5) Year 3 parents: have you logged into **Microsoft Teams** using the details sent home? This is how the Year 3 team will communicate directly with you with reminders about trips, special days in school and messages about things children need to remember so it is important to get logged on as soon as you can please.
- 6) Year 6 parents: have you completed your **application for your child's secondary school place for September 2025**? The deadline for applications is midnight on 31st October. Please follow the link to find the [Secondary Admissions Page for Derby City](#)

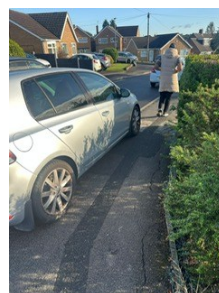
Parking

Once again, we have been witnessing some dangerous driving on the roads around the school at drop off and collection time, leading to me once again to feel the need to remind parents and carers that it is dangerous to mount kerbs and pavements to park around the school—**this is going to lead to a serious accident soon involving a child or adult walking to school.**



We have also been contacted several times by local residents from the surrounding area complaining of similar issues and also of cars once again blocking driveways. Please be more mindful of this when you are parking. Please consider whether driving to and from school is a necessity—the more that we can reduce the amount of traffic around the school, the safer it will be for everyone. I am including photographs taken by residents to help to highlight their concerns.

We do continually ask parents not to drive up to the school gates and perform three point turns as this is incredibly dangerous for the children and parents coming through the school gates. Whilst we have seen a considerable reduction in this—thank you—we are now seeing a number of parents now reversing back down the last part of Gayton Avenue back into the traffic. Please be mindful that this requires you to reverse out onto a corner and is another accident waiting to happen!



Snacks

Year 3 parents: children in junior school do not get free fruit for snacks at play time as they did in infant school. You may wish to provide a snack for play time for your child to help them get from breakfast to lunchtime without getting too hungry!

Reminder to all parents:

Children may bring a healthy snack with them to eat at playtime if they wish: snacks such as vegetable sticks, cheese strings, yoghurt pouches, fruit or cereal bars. Children should bring their snacks in their bags, not their lunchboxes/sandwich bags please. Snacks can be left in bags or trays until playtime. Please **DO NOT** send snacks that contain nuts as we have a number of children in school with severe allergies at the moment.



Prefects

A special congratulations to the children chosen to be this term's prefects. These children have stood out amongst their peers as model pupils whose attitude and effort at school at the start of the year has been exemplary:



Year 3—Barney
Year 4—Khari
Year 5—Darin
Year 6—Jim



School Dinners

Next week, we will be on our new Week 3 menu. Please remember that school dinners cost £2.80 and MUST be paid for, **ONLINE, IN ADVANCE.** [Week 3 Menu](#)



Coffee Morning

Please find an invitation from Mrs Clarke to attend our first Coffee Morning of the year. She has organised someone from the NSPCC to join her to chat about ways in which you can help to keep your children safe online—we know this is a hot topic and something lots of you have asked for support with over the last couple of months so we hope to see you there! Please click [here](#) to sign up for the event.

GAYTON JUNIOR SCHOOL
Be the best you can be!

YOU'RE INVITED!

PARENT COFFEE MORNING

Join us for our next parent coffee morning, where information will be shared by NSPCC and LEGO about keeping your child safe when gaming.

DATE: WEDNESDAY, 24TH SEPTEMBER

TIME: 9:30AM - 11AM

SPECIAL GUESTS - NSPCC - ONLINE SAFETY & LEGO SESSION

REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE

WHAT YOU WILL TAKE AWAY FROM THIS SESSION:

- UNDERSTANDING OF HOW CHILDREN USE GAMING PLATFORMS
- KNOWLEDGE OF TOOLS AND RESOURCES TO HELP KEEP YOUR CHILD SAFE ONLINE
- PLAYFUL ACTIVITIES TO HELP YOU START A CONVERSATION WITH YOUR CHILD ABOUT GAMING.

NSPCC

2025/26 DATES

Tuesday 23rd September	All Day	Year 3 Trip to Markeaton Park—details to follow
Wednesday 24th September	9:30-11:30am	Parent/Carer Coffee Morning—Device-wise Workshop—see previous page
Friday 26th September	TBC	NHS Year 6 Measures
Friday 3rd October	AM	Individual School Photos
Tuesday 7th October	3:30-4:30pm	Ridgeway Infant School Stay & Play Session—see flyer on page 5
Friday 24th October	3:30pm	Break up for Half Term Holiday
Friday 31st October	Midnight	Deadline for secondary school applications for 2026
Monday 3rd November	All Day	INSET 3
Tuesday 4th November	8:55am	Autumn Term 2 Begins
Friday 19th December	3:30pm	Break up for Christmas Holiday
Monday 5th January 2026	8:55am	Spring Term 1 Begins
Thursday 12th February 2026	3:30pm	Break up for Half Term Holiday
Friday 13th February 2026	All Day	INSET 4
Monday 23rd February 2026	8:55am	Spring Term 2 Begins
Friday 27th March 2026	3:30pm	Break up for Easter Holiday
Monday 13th April 2026	8:55am	Summer Term 1 Begins
Friday 15th—Sunday 17th May 2026	TBC	Year 6 PGL Residential
Friday 22nd May 2026	3:30pm	Break up for Half Term Holiday
Monday 1st June 2026	All Day	INSET 5
Tuesday 2nd June 2026	8:55am	Summer Term 2 Begins
Thursday 23rd July 2026	3:30pm	Break up for Summer Holiday

School Trips

We have noticed an increase in the cost of our school trips over the last three years and so we reviewed our trip programme during the summer term to ensure that the trips we plan have educational value for the children. As much as we can, we try to reduce the cost of trips to parents: Mrs Hardisty has been working incredibly hard to secure grants to support our school budget to be able to discount our trips where possible and we have tried to find alternative, closer venues to reduce costs for the coming year.



To support parents further, we aim to put together the option to pay for trips for the coming year in instalments to spread out the costs and to also give you all an idea of what is coming up for the year ahead. Please look out for these letters coming home soon with your child as they will be different for each year group. You will be able to make and track payments online using your School Money account.

Ridgeway Infant School



Gold
Award

Stay and Play Session

Come and enjoy our loose parts play with tyres, crates, wheeled vehicles and much more! And of course . . . our giant sized sand pit! 😊

When:

Tuesday 7th October 2025

Where:

Ridgeway Infant School

[find the sign in desk on the Main Playground]

Time:

3.30pm—4.30pm

Price:

£1 per playing child

[all ages welcome—children MUST be accompanied by a supervising adult]

