



READY RESPECTFUL ENGAGED

Friday 27th February 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a lovely half term holiday. Fingers crossed the weather begins to improve now and Spring makes an appearance!

Nursery applications:

Our applications are now open for anyone who would like a nursery place from September 2026. We offer 15 hours spread over 2.5 days either at the beginning or end of the week. If you are eligible for a 30 hour code we also offer 5 full days of nursery education. Our staff in Nursery are experienced early years practitioners and would love to offer you a tour or have a chat with you. Please contact the school office if you would be interested in finding out more. Mrs Brentnall will be organising some stay and play events for you and your pre-school child – look out for these dates on our Facebook page. We have a few spaces left so please contact us as soon as possible. Thank you.

This term we have lots to look forward to:

The year 2 children will be visiting Cromford Mills to enhance their learning around the question, *What does it mean to explore and invent?* Tigers and Dolphins will visit on Thursday 5th March and the Giraffes will visit on Friday 6th March. Please check you have read the communication sent out on the 5th February. Any questions please speak to the class teachers.

We will be celebrating World Book day on Wednesday the 4th March so that everyone in school can be part of the fun. Following the letter sent on the 4th February children are invited to either dress up as their favourite character from any story or they can come in their pyjamas. Don't forget to send them in wearing a warm coat and suitable shoes.

On Monday 9th March we will begin science week – look out for information from the classroom staff and do ask the children what they have been doing in science during that week.

This term we have our third Inset day on Friday March 20th. School will be closed to all children on this day. We then break up for Easter on Friday 27th March, returning to school on Monday 13th April 2026.



This week I was invited to The House of Lords to be part of a gathering to launch an important research document and a presentation on the cost benefit of installing sprinklers in all new school buildings. This is a continuation of work I have been doing with the National Fire Sprinkler Network to support this legislation, aiming to ensure other schools and their communities do not have to go through the experience we had following our school fire.

The school day:

Please remember that school starts at 8.50am and all gates are locked after this time. If you arrive late you must sign your child in at the front office, in the foyer. From a safeguarding point of view it is crucial that the children are signed in so they can be added to the registers as well as their lunch being ordered. School finishes at 3.20pm. All children should be collected from the classroom doors at this time. It can be distressing for children when their adults don't arrive to collect them. If you are late please ensure you sign the children out in the foyer so we know they have left the site.

School dinners

As you know we have outsourced our catering to Relish School Food. The new catering service began at the beginning of February and we are really pleased with the meals provided for the children. All of our meals are cooked from scratch using fresh ingredients, and bread is baked fresh, daily! The recipes are categorised to ensure they comply with The School Food Standards, as well as Food for Life and other lifestyle choices where needed. If your child hasn't tried the food yet please encourage them to choose one of the available choices from the menus shared. You can find the menus on our website at <https://www.ravensdalei.derby.sch.uk/lunch-menus/> just check the dates to see which week we are currently on.

Safeguarding:

We are continuing to work alongside the Junior School to keep our site safe. Thank you to all those families who park away from the cul-de-sac and walk a short distance to school. Let's hope the weather continues to improve to make this a pleasant experience! You may notice staff outside the school gates at the beginning and end of the day. Please do not try and drive onto the site unless you have a signed agreement in place.

When you drop off or collect your child, we would ask that you **do not** use your mobile phone whilst on the site. Here are a few benefits associated with talking with your child:

Talking to your child instead of using a phone fosters stronger emotional bonds, supports critical language development, and teaches social cues through face-to-face interaction. It builds trust, boosts their confidence, and ensures they feel valued rather than ignored. Active communication is vital for their mental, social, and emotional health.

Celebrations:

Through the OPAL ethos we continue to improve and develop our outside playtimes. Miss Hill is always on the lookout for volunteers and freebies to help develop our Go Wild curriculum and lunchtimes. Her current project is to create a large sand pit for the children to use when outside. This will be on the grass just behind the green garage. We have a kind volunteer coming to dig and flatten the area for us – now all we need is the sand! If you have any contacts that might be of use to use, please let Miss Hill know via the school office.

The sensory garden is in the development stage and again any help would be gratefully received. Thank you.

During the final week of this term the children will be engaging in easter activities. On Friday the 27th March we will be having our annual Easter Bonnet Parade, where children are invited to show case the bonnet they have made at home. If you would like to join us to watch the children model their creations, please join us on the playground at 3pm. Please send any bonnets made, into school on that morning, if possible please add names to the bonnets.

We are all looking forward to a busy half term ahead.

Kind regards,

Mrs L. Blanchenot

Dates for your diary:

Wednesday 4th March – World Book Day

Thursday 5th March – Dolphins and Tigers to Cromford Mills

Friday 6th March – Giraffes to Cromford Mills

Tuesday 17th March – Parent/carer consultation evening

Wednesday 18th March - Parent/carer consultation evening

Wednesday 18th March – Class photos

Friday 20th March – INSET day – school closed

Friday 27th March – Easter Bonnet Parade 3pm

Friday 27th March – break up

Monday 13th April – return to school