

West Derby School

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Headteacher: Mrs S Graham



DATE July 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to you towards the end of another very busy school year to update you and to share some general information with you.

There has been a slight amendment to the end of term finish date. The original published end of term finish date was Friday 18 July. However, it has been decided to close for the summer break on Thursday 17 July at the usual time of 3.15 p.m.

I must also inform you that, from September, the price of a school meal will be increasing from £2.20 to £2.50. The cost of ingredients has increased exponentially in recent years, and we have refrained from passing this cost on to parents for as long as we possibly could. Unfortunately, with the ever increasing costs, we now have no option but to make this increase.

On another note, and as you know, we continue to pride ourselves on the standard of the boys' uniform and I would like to thank parents and carers for your ongoing support with this. In September, we will look forward to the boys returning to school wearing their full school uniform including a blazer and black shoes (no training shoes allowed). A full list of our uniform is available in our Uniform and Valuables Policy which is available on our website.

Please note that some shoe brands advertise their trainer style shoes as school shoes when they are not. Our boys do know by now what is acceptable and what is not! You may be aware that we hold items of uniform and shoes in school for boys who require them. If your son has been the recipient of any uniform and/or shoes that he no longer needs, please return them to school so that I can replenish our stocks. Equally, if you have any spare items of uniform that you no longer need and could donate them to school, we'd be very grateful.

Upon return in September, your son should attend school with a bag, pencil case, pen, pencil, scientific calculator and ruler. Failure to have these items causes unnecessary disruption in the classroom but it is also especially important that boys come fully equipped to school. We would be grateful if you could ensure that your son comes to school with this equipment at all times.

I also wish to draw your attention to our Uniform and Valuables policy (available on our website). Pupils in Year 7 through to Year 11 are not allowed to have their mobile phones out whilst in school and so our school is largely a mobile-free zone. We have taken this stance because, not only can mobile phones in lessons cause disruption, but we are also mindful of the safeguarding implications for children in having unlimited access to the internet via their 4/5G connections and extensive data tariffs. The Government has, this year, taken this stance also and is advising schools to implement this policy as standard. I would ask parents to support us in this quest in the interests of safeguarding for all. If your son does bring a mobile phone into school, or wears a smart watch, he must not use it to contact you during the school day, and I respectfully request that you also refrain from contacting him. Such contact presents unnecessary issues that could otherwise have been avoided. It will also result in the confiscation of your son's mobile phone or i-Watch.

I refer again to our policy and inform you that school will confiscate any mobile phone that is seen either in lessons or in-between lessons (this includes break and lunch times); it will then be kept in the safe in the main school office until the end of the following school day, when it may be collected by the parent/carers. There are no exceptions to this rule. Furthermore, pupils who do bring a mobile phone to school, or indeed any valuable item, do so at their own risk. School cannot be liable for any loss incurred through theft or damage of a mobile phone or valuable item brought into school.

On the subject of safety, I thank those of you who have taken heed of our numerous reminders to park cars and drive safely around the school vicinity. However, unfortunately I must remind some parents that parking outside the school on the double yellow markings is not permitted. West Derby Road, and indeed Bankfield

Road, are very busy roads at the best of times, and this is further exacerbated when there are cars parked illegally. I would urge all parents to only park where it is legal to do so and where it does not cause a danger to our pupils and other road users. In addition, we receive many complaints from our neighbours throughout the year with regard to parents parking their cars across people's driveways etc. Once again, I am urging all parents to not only park legally, but also to park considerately.

In other news, this term we are saying goodbye to a very long serving member of staff, Ms McGarry, who along with the rest of the Senior Leadership team, has helped me to navigate the school to be as successful as it is. Her commitment to excellence and her devotion to the staff and pupils is an inspiration to us all. I personally, along with the Trust Board, will miss her expertise and dedication greatly.

In September we have two new teachers joining us: Mr Blackburn in Maths; and Mr McHale in Geography. I am sure they will all enjoy their onward journeys with us and being part of the West Derby family.

Finally, thank you for your continued support. On behalf of all the staff and trustees at West Derby School, I wish you all a safe, relaxing and restful summer.

Yours faithfully



S Graham
Headteacher

Important dates for your diary:

Thursday 17 July 2025: School closes for the summer at 3.15 p.m.

Thursday 14 August 2025: A Level Results Day (9.30am – 12.00pm)

Thursday 21 August 2025: GCSE Results Day (9.30am – 12.00pm)

I would also like to take the opportunity to inform you of next year's term dates:

Monday 1 September 2025: **Inset Day** – school closed to all pupils except new Year 7 who return to school at 8.45 a.m. and new Year 12 who return at 9.45 a.m.

Tuesday 2 September 2025: All year groups in school for the usual time of 8.45 a.m.

Friday 24 October 2025: **Inset Day** – school closed to all pupils

Autumn Half Term: Monday 27 October – Friday 31 October 2025**

Friday 19 December 2025: End of autumn term. School closes for Christmas Holidays

Monday 5 January 2026: All pupils return to school for the usual time of 8.45 a.m.

Friday 13 February 2026: **Inset Day** – school closed to all pupils

Spring Half Term: Monday 16 February – Friday 20 February 2026

Friday 27 March 2026: End of spring term. School closes for Easter Holidays**

Monday 13 April 2026: School reopens for pupils and staff

May Day: Monday 4 May 2026

Summer Half Term: Monday 25 May – Friday 29 May 2026**

Monday 20 July 2026: End of summer term. School closes for Summer Holidays

Friday 17 and Monday 20 July 2026: **Inset Days** – school closed to all pupils

(NB: Pupils' last day of term is Thursday 16 July 2026)

Please note: Year 11 will have revision opportunities during holidays **.