

# West Derby School

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Headteacher: Mrs S Graham



December 2025

We Deliver Success

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to you to wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

The term draws to a close ending with our fabulous Personal Growth Day. During this event, pupils will be participating in a range of activities that they would not otherwise experience which are designed to enhance their personal growth journey. It is a very exciting day and will be an enjoyable end to the term for the boys. Pupils will finish for the Christmas holidays at 3.15 p.m. on Thursday 18 December.

As well as our Personal Growth Day we have also provided a variety of opportunities for pupils to embrace new experiences by visiting the theatre, participating in trips and visits, and listening to guest speakers.

As I say every Christmas, it is the time for giving, and the 25<sup>th</sup> December will no doubt bring presents for students who will wish to bring them into school in the New Year. Please remember that the uniform and phone/valuables rules will not change and valuable items are best left at home for safety. Please see our Uniform and Valuables policy for further information, which is available on our website.

I would also like to remind you of the dangers that technology can bring with incorrect use of the internet and social media. It is all of our responsibility as adults and parents to be aware of what our children are doing when using technology.

There are some excellent guidelines for parents on keeping children safe whilst online, which are available on our website via the following link:

[Safeguarding for Parents | West Derby School](#)

In addition to the above, there is a wealth of information on the Liverpool Safeguarding Children Partners' website, including useful advice and guidance for children and young people. Your child can access this by visiting the following websites; please encourage him/her to do so:

<https://liverpoolscp.org.uk/scp/children-young-people/children-young-people>

[https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/8\\_10/stay-safe/](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/8_10/stay-safe/)

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.

On another note, and as you know, at West Derby we 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 January, 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 would be very grateful.

Please also remember that your son should attend school with a bag, pencil case, pen, pencil, ruler and calculator. Failure to have these items causes unnecessary disruption in the classroom. We would be grateful if you could ensure that your son comes to school with this equipment at all times.

I'd also like to take the opportunity to remind you of some key dates for your diary:

- Thursday 18 December – school closes for Christmas at 3.15 p.m.
- Monday 5 January – school reopens at the usual time 8.45 a.m. for **all** pupils
- Friday 13 February – Inset Day when school is closed to all pupils
- Monday 16 to Friday 20 February – Half Term
- Monday 30 March to Friday 10 April – Easter Holidays
- Monday 13 April – start of the summer term
- Monday 4 May – Bank Holiday
- Monday 25 May to Friday 29 May – Half Term
- Thursday 16 July – Last day of summer term

Finally, on behalf of all the staff and trustees at West Derby School, I wish you all a safe, happy and peaceful Christmas.

Yours faithfully



S Graham  
Headteacher