



# Ripley Infant School

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## RIPLEY INFANT SCHOOL NEWSLETTER: Spring Term 1 2026



Dear Parents/Carers,

### What a busy start we've had to 2026!

Everyone at Ripley Infants has started 2026 with a fantastic work ethic and attitude; meaning that there has been lots of amazing learning taking place. Children have certainly been demonstrating the ASPIRE value – a Passion for Learning and we have loved seeing all the extra things they have been doing at home as well as in class.

After half term we will be marking World Book Day with a Book Week (2<sup>nd</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> March). We also have a Science Week (9<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> March) where the children will explore the theme of Curiosity: What is your question? They will also have the chance to take part in a Sublime Science workshop during the school day on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March. Please see the relevant information letters for these events.

### Importance of punctuality

We would like to emphasise the importance of being in school on time as there have been numerous incidents of some families routinely arriving at 8.50 a.m. or later and collecting their children at 3.20 p.m. or later.

School starts at 8.45 a.m. every day. Children need to be in their class on time so that they can start their lessons promptly. Children who arrive late are greatly disadvantaged because they miss starting the day with their peers and the beginning of lessons. This means that they are often unsettled and confused about tasks. It is essential that you ensure that your child arrives at school on time to prevent disruption to your child's own learning and that of others. We are required to monitor children's punctuality and attendance. On-going lateness (after the class register closes) is classified as an unauthorised absence and this is contrary to The Education Act.

We understand that there may be rare occasions when you are unavoidably late due to unforeseen circumstances. On these occasions please make sure that you contact the school office to inform us when you will arrive. Thank you.

## **Sporting Success**

On Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> January our Dodgeball team took part in the Amber Valley School Sports Partnership competition at Alfreton Leisure Centre. They played several games, against lots of different schools, and showed skill, determination and great sportsmanship which resulted in them finishing 4<sup>th</sup> out of 14 schools. Well done to you all, we are very proud of you. Thank you as always to Mrs Start for coaching the team and to Mrs Young & Mrs Beighton for supporting the children at the event.

## **Governor Vacancies, a message from our Chair of Governors John Pearce**

"We are looking to appoint a new parent governor and a co-opted governor - so please help us. You might be interested, or know someone who would. If so, please contact school and ask for the details!

Being a school governor is a great way to support our school and community. We are a mixed group who get along well and always enjoy our work. We meet 6.30pm-8pm five times a year and our responsibilities, alongside Headteacher Mrs Doleman, are for leadership of the school including: the vision; accountability for pupil performance and finances.

You can find out more on the school website under governors, or contact school to have a chat with Mrs Doleman, myself, or one of the governors."

## **Other News**

- Thank you to the PTA for organising this years Valentine's Disco. The children thoroughly enjoyed themselves.
- Next term there will be a Bikeability after-school club for children in Owls and Robins. For health and safety reasons, places will be limited to 12, although all children in EYFS will have bikeability sessions during the term.
- Next term the ASPIRE value we will be focusing on is Individuality and what makes each of us special.
- We will be fundraising for Red Nose Day on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March with a 'Wear Something Red' day. We will also be holding a Sponsored Row event to raise money for physical activity resources on that day. More information to follow.

Can I take this opportunity to thank you all for your continuing support and hope that you enjoy a restful half term break.

**Many Thanks**

*P Doleman*

Mrs P Doleman  
Headteacher