

September 2026 Newsletter

It is lovely to be back at school, I would like to welcome all of our new children and families to Griffe Field. I hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable summer break.

INSET Days 2026 –27 Monday 2nd November 2026, Monday 22nd February 2027, Friday 23rd July 2027 and Monday 26th July 2027.

Attendance is a priority in our school and is closely monitored. Good attendance and punctuality is essential for good academic achievement, good social development and good mental health. It ensures children are safe and supported.

One day of missed school is equal to as many as 3 days of catch up for a child to learn all the missed knowledge and skills. Persistent non-attenders (attendance score lower than 90%) on average score 15-20% lower on assessments than pupils who attend school more regularly. The earlier a pupil begins to have attendance problems the greater the impact on achievement! **Mrs Dixon will be working very closely with the ISAO (Inclusion and School Attendance Officer) Derby City Council to monitor all of the children's attendance. Where attendance falls below 90% Mrs Dixon will be contacting all parents and offering support which may include working with external agencies to improve this. Where school can see no improvement we shall be working with the ISAO to issue penalty notices.**

A penalty notice is £160 if paid within 28 days and £80 if paid within 21 days. If a second penalty notice is issued to the same parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period, the notice will be charged at the higher rate of £160 with no option for this second offence to be discharged at the lower rate of £80.

The DfE does not consider a need or desire for a holiday or other absence for the purpose of leisure and recreation to be an exceptional circumstance.

NHS guidance states children can attend school with common cold symptoms like a sore throat, runny nose or cough unless they have a high temperature.

If you're not sure if your child is well enough to come to school, check the [NHS guidance for common illnesses](#) and let us know as soon as possible if they need to stay home. The office will also ask for evidence of medical appointments, etc as per our attendance policy.

Punctuality will also continue to be monitored. The school gates open at 8:45am. Please ensure your child arrives promptly. Poor punctuality at school has a negative impact on learning. 5 minutes late each day = more than 3 days of school missed. 10 minutes late each day = almost 7 days of school missed.



Our annual 'coffee and cake' get together will be on Friday 25th September to raise money for Cancer Research. Please send children with cakes on Thursday 24th and £1 for a cake on Friday 25th September. Parents, please join us and each other, for coffee/tea and cake on Friday 25th September at 2pm before you collect your children. All money collected is to support Cancer Research. (If you are sending home made cakes please add a list of ingredients into the container the cakes are in.) Please **NO NUTS** as we have children with allergies in school.

We are also celebrating Harvest this half term. Please kindly send any harvest gift donations into school on Thursday 8th October. Year 4 will lead our Harvest Assembly on Friday 9th October. Harvest donations will be sent to The Day Centre at Padley House. Thank you.



Dates for your diary

Wed 23 Sept	Year 6 parents' meeting 5.30pm
Thurs 24 Sept	Cake donations for Macmillan coffee event
Fri 25 Sept	Children can bring £1 for a cake and the coffee and cake social for parents is at 2pm
Mon 28 Sept	Friends of Griffie Field (PTA) AGM 6pm at school ~ all welcome!
Thurs 8 October	Donation towards Harvest Festival
Fri 9 Oct	Year 4 Harvest Assembly 9am
Wed 14 Oct	Reception parents' meeting 2.15pm phonics
Fri 16 Oct	6M Class Assembly 9am
Wed 21 Oct	Parents' Evening
Thurs 22 Oct	Parents' Evening
Fri 23 Oct	Year 3 Diwali Assembly
Fri 23 Oct	Break up for half term at the normal time
Mon 2 Nov	INSET 2 school closed to all children
Fri 6 Nov	5U Class Assembly 9am
Fri 13 Nov	6C Class Assembly
Fri 13 Nov	Children In Need

parents@griffiefield.derby.sch.uk

Please let us know if your children is not at school because of illness or because of an appointment. You can do this in person at the school office, via the telephone or email. If calling/emailing please give your child's full name and class.

Thank you

Please send your child/ren in a coat everyday, the children are outside several times a day.



Please name EVERYTHING (including water bottles and packed lunch boxes), we can't return lost property if it isn't named. Thank you.

The driving and parking situation around school never improves. Cars are stopping in the middle of the road and children are getting out into the traffic, parents are mounting the curb and nearly hitting pedestrians and illegal parking is making junctions dangerous.

PLEASE PARK WITH CONSIDERATION OF OUR NEIGHBOURS, AWAY FROM SCHOOL AND SPEND 5MINS WALKING AND TALKING WITH YOUR CHILD!

PARKING SERVICES-if you observe any illegal parking before or after school please call 07917 233812. Traffic wardens will be completing 'spot checks' because of the dangerous parking.