

NOVEMBER
2025

Redwood News



WELCOME BACK

It's that busy time of year again with Christmas fast approaching! We have provided some information about the weeks ahead; you can also find lots of useful information on the school website www.redwoodprimary.com

SAFEGUARDING

This academic year, we have introduced **monthly safeguarding newsletters** containing lots of information on how to help keep your children safe. These have already included useful strategies for keeping children safe online and details of our lockdown procedures in school. We know these can be daunting topics but it is important that we share information so that we can work together to support children as they learn to navigate the wider world. Please do speak to Mrs Taylor if there are topics you think would be beneficial for the next safeguarding newsletter. Thank you to those who have already provided feedback.

Bikes and scooters

We always encourage children to come to school on bikes and scooters as this is great not only for their physical wellbeing but also has mental health benefits. However, we are aware there are some safety implications for those who ride to school. We regularly speak to pupils about bicycle safety and work closely with the Bikeability programme to ensure children know how to ride safely on public roads. Although we have a Safe Haven Zone outside of school, this does not stop all traffic so it is important to remind your children about the potential dangers on the way to and from school. If your child is older and rides to school independently, please ensure you speak to them about this and also about showing respect to other pedestrians. **It is also essential that children walk with their bikes and scooters at all times when they are on school premises at the start and end of the day.** We are a large school and the playground can be very busy. We do not want any accidents or injuries caused by those riding bikes/scooters.

Should you have any concerns regarding a child's safety or well-being, we encourage you to talk to our dedicated safeguarding team. They are here to listen and will take your concerns seriously, ensuring that every matter is handled confidentially and sensitively.

Our Safeguarding Team

If you have any concerns about the welfare of a child, please ask to speak to a member of our safeguarding team.



Mrs Dingle
Designated
Safeguarding
Lead

Mrs Kinder
Deputy
Safeguarding
Lead

Mrs Nicholson
Deputy
Safeguarding
Lead

If you have an urgent concern out of school hours, you can contact the safeguarding team by emailing safeguarding@redwood.derby.sch.uk



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

Thank you to all those who donated cakes, biscuits and goodies for our MacMillan Cake Sale on Thursday 25th September. **We raised a grand total of £851.53** for MacMillan which is a cause very close to our hearts as a school. Special thanks to Mrs Pullen for organising the event and all those who helped by selling cakes.

Thanks also for all of your donations for our **Harvest collection**. All of your items have been collected by the Padley Centre and will be used to support those in need across the city. Please remember that we have our own food and clothes bank at Redwood so please do speak to a member of our Pastoral Team if you need a food parcel or uniform.



THE END OF AN ERA!

At the end of this term, Mrs Dingle will be leaving Redwood after 35 years' service. She joined Redwood Infant School as a teacher back in 1990 and taught for many years across Key Stage 1. She later became Deputy Head of the Infants before the two schools merged and has also stepped in as Acting Head during interim periods. Mrs Dingle has had numerous responsibilities during her time at Redwood but has been our Designated Safeguarding Lead for many years, working tirelessly to support our pupils and their families.

Mrs Dingle has shown such incredible dedication and commitment to Redwood and she will be very much missed by pupils, parents and staff alike. From a personal perspective, I am very grateful for the unwavering support she has shown me in my own journey into headship and have always valued her advice and guidance.

We know how much Mrs Dingle is looking forward to spending more time with her family and is excited for the arrival of her first grandchild in the new year. We would like to wish her lots of luck for the future and hope that she has a happy and healthy retirement.

Mrs Shepherd

ATTENDANCE AND PUNCTUALITY

Good attendance at school is essential if pupils are to do well in both their academic and social development. Being punctual is also important for a settled start to the day. **Our gates open at 8:40am and the register is taken at 8:55am.** Anyone arriving after this is marked as LATE and this can affect your child's attendance figures.

At Redwood, we believe in the importance of working together with our families to ensure that any barriers to good attendance and punctuality are addressed quickly.

We expect parents/carers to:

- Bring their child to school **on time** each day.
- Call the office on 01332 767443 or email attendance@redwood.derby.sch.uk to update us on any reasons for absence.
- Keep us up-to-date if your child is going to be absent for more than one day.
- Complete leave of absence forms for any non-urgent requests for time off. NB Term time holidays will not be authorised and fines may be issued.
- Talk to us about any issues which may be affecting your child's attendance/punctuality.

As a school, we will:

- Call you on the first day of absence if a reason is not provided.
- Conduct home visits where appropriate to see if we can provide any further support.
- Alert you if your child's attendance falls below the expected levels. Children's attendance should be at least 95%. **Attendance below 90% is a cause for concern.**
- Provide support from our Pastoral Team to support good attendance and punctuality.
- Alert the Education Welfare Service if we continue to have concerns over your child's attendance so that we can support you further.

Thank you for your continued support in helping all of our pupils to have great attendance here at Redwood so they can make the most of their education.



SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our School Council have had a very busy and exciting start to the year! They began by planning and leading a fantastic whole-school assembly all about our buddy benches and how these can help children feel included and supported at playtimes.

The councillors will also continue their important role at the end of each half term by choosing and presenting their own certificates during our Golden Book assembly, celebrating pupils who have been following our SHINE rules.

Looking ahead, the council's next big project will be delivering Christmas cards to local care homes, helping to strengthen our links with the wider community. They'll also be collecting ideas and suggestions from their classmates to bring back to meetings, ensuring that **every** child's voice is heard. With plenty of exciting fundraising ideas already being discussed, it's shaping up to be a wonderful year for our School Council!

We're also delighted to share that the School Council have introduced a brand-new feature on their display board — the Kindness Pocket! If someone has been especially kind, children can fill in a Kindness Slip and pop it into the pocket to recognise their good deed. Each week, councillors will check the pocket and deliver a praise note or sticker to those who have been nominated. It's a lovely way to celebrate the small acts of kindness that make our school such a happy and caring place to be.

REMEMBRANCE DAY

It's that time of year when we remember those who have fought for our freedom and support the Royal British Legion through selling poppies. Items range in price from 20p to £1.50.

We know that many children will be taking part in Remembrance Day parades this weekend if they are part of a Beavers, Cubs or Brownies group. As a mark of respect, pupils who are part of these groups may wear their uniforms on Tuesday 11th November if they wish.

Pupils who are not a member of these groups should wear their school uniform as usual.



CLEANER REQUIRED

We are currently looking to recruit a cleaner to join our premises team. This would be for 15 hours a week with flexibility regarding timings to suit either before or after the school day. If you would like an application form, please speak to the Office who will be happy to help.

Further information is available by emailing applications@redwood.derby.sch.uk

CHRISTMAS DINNER

We always look forward to our school Christmas dinner which will be on Friday 12th December this year. To allow our catering company to place their orders in good time, all meals need to be booked by Friday 21st November. A link will be sent out for you via text to select the meal choice for your child or you can follow the link below.

[Christmas Dinner 2025 – Fill in form](#)

DEVICES TO SUPPORT HOME LEARNING

One of the many ways in which we support pupils at Redwood is by loaning out devices to help with home learning. These tablets are offered to all children in Reception - Year 6 who are entitled to Free School Meals so that they can have access to websites such as TT Rockstars and PurpleMash at home. Please note that this is for those entitled to benefits-related FSM rather than the free meals provided to all Infant pupils. Please speak to the office if you do not currently have a device but would like to borrow one.



ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICINES

We know that there may be times when children need medication administering during the school day. Please be reminded of the following procedures:

- **All medication MUST be brought directly to the school office by the child's parent/carer** so that the appropriate consent forms can be completed. The medication should be brought in its original box as we need to log details such as expiry dates.
- For safeguarding reasons, **pupils MUST NOT bring any medication to school in their bags themselves**. The only exception to this is a blue asthma inhaler which has already been logged on our system. GPs will usually prescribe another inhaler to be kept in school to avoid having to bring them home each day.
- For those on long-term medication or those with health conditions which require emergency medication (eg epi-pens), we may need to complete an Individual Health Care Plan which will need to be updated at least annually.
- If anything changes with your child's health, it is important that you let us know so that we can update our records accordingly.

SWIMMING

Towards the end of this month, you will see the arrival of our "pop-up" swimming pool. This will be located on the Junior playground near to the Infant hall and takes about a week to set up, ready for Y4 pupils to start their swimming lessons. There will be daily sessions for all those who are not yet able to swim 25m. The company will also be offering after-school swimming clubs while the pool is on site. More details will be sent out shortly.

We know there will be lots of excitement once the pool arrives but please ensure you follow the safety and security measures which will be in place. We ask that you do not enter the marquee which will house the pool without the permission from staff.



STAFF NEWS

At the end of last half-term, Miss Gibson left Redwood after eight years to take up a new role as a Library Manager for Derby City Council. Miss Gibson always showed such a passion for reading so know this new venture will be perfect for her!

We are also pleased to welcome some new Teaching Assistants this half-term. Mrs Gooding, Mrs Hutchinson and Miss Mulligan have joined our dedicated and hard-working team and we know you will make them feel very welcome.

Following Mrs Dingle's retirement at Christmas, Mrs Clark will become Acting Deputy Head for the remainder of the academic year.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT
Friday 7 th November	FS2/Y4 visiting Poppy displays at Sinfin Moor Church
w/b Monday 10 th November	Anti-Bullying Week Odd Socks Day – children can wear odd socks with usual school uniform (Monday only)
Tuesday 11 th November	Remembrance Day – children can wear Beavers/Cubs/Brownies uniforms to school if they wish
Thursday 13 th November	Pudsey visiting school for Children in Need with BBC Radio Derby
Friday 14 th November	Children in Need – wear something spotty for £1 donation (or non-uniform)
w/b Monday 17 th November	Road Safety Week
w/b Monday 1 st December	Visits to St Stephen's Church (Reception – Year 5)
Thursday 4 th December	Nursery visit to National Forest Adventure Farm
Monday 8 th December	FS2 Christmas performance 9:15am
Tuesday 9 th December	FS2 Christmas performance 9:15am
Thursday 11 th December	Y5 Theatre visit
Friday 12 th December	Christmas Dinner Christmas Jumper Day
Wednesday 17 th December	Y3 Christmas performance 9:15am Y2 Pantomime (in school) SEND Christmas Cinema event 2pm
Friday 19th December	Last day of term
Monday 5 th January 2026	Children return to school