SEPTEMBER 2026

Redwood News



WELCOME BACK!

We hope everyone had a lovely Summer break. We have provided some information about the term ahead; you can also find lots of useful information on the school website www.redwoodprimary.com Year groups will continue to send out half-termly newsletters with more information for parents about topics and events.

Welcome to the new school year, and an especially warm welcome to the families who are attending Redwood for the first time. We will continue to do our utmost to ensure that all of our pupils are happy, learn well and behave brilliantly.

'What should you do if you have any questions about your child's education?'

Please raise any questions or concerns you may have at the earliest opportunity, in the first instance with your child's class teacher, who will respond promptly. If you are not satisfied with the class teacher's response, you can make an appointment to speak to one of our Senior Leaders, who will endeavour to resolve any concerns quickly.

We hope you and your child enjoy an excellent start to the new school year!

Mrs Shepherd (Headteacher)

OUTCOMES IN 2026

As always, we are incredibly proud of how well pupils at Redwood have done in their end-of-year assessments.

We have worked hard to ensure children receive a high-quality education and this is reflected in some great results. All of our pupils have shown incredible resilience - they always give of their best at Redwood and our dedicated staff will continue to support them in the best ways they can.

	Redwood 2026	National Average 2026
FS GLD	**68%**	72%
Y1 Phonics	**81%**	81.9
Y2 Phonics	**89%**	TBC
End of KS2:		
KS2 Combined RWM	**60%**	63%
KS2 Reading	**77%**	75%
KS2 Writing	**64%**	73%
KS2 Maths	**80%**	75%
KS2 SPAG	**79%**	74%

FS – Foundation Stage GLD – Good Level of Development KS1 – Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) KS2 – Key Stage 2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6)
SPAG – Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar

AFTER SCHOOL PROVISION

We have after-school childcare available for any families who need this. The club is run by Y-Kidz and they offer two different sessions every day. The shorter session is **until 4:30pm at a cost of £9.50** per day. This includes a snack and drink. **A full session is up until 6pm at a cost of £14 per day**. Children are provided with a light tea.

All sessions need to be booked and paid for in advance using their Magic Booking system. https://ymcaderbyshire.magicbooking.co.uk You can book at short notice but this does involve an additional cost of £2.

If you have any questions about our after-school provision, please email ykidz@ymcaderbyshire.org.uk

SAFEGUARDING

Safeguarding is a vital part of our school ethos, and it encompasses everything we do to protect children from harm, whether that be physical, emotional, or even digital. It is imperative that we all work together to create a safe environment, where every child feels secure and supported.

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.



In addition, we urge you to work with us in promoting a culture of openness and trust. Keeping the lines of communication open between parents and staff is essential. If you notice any signs that a child may not be feeling safe or if there are changes in their behaviour, please don't hesitate to share this information with us. Remember, your vigilance can make a significant difference in a child's life.

Over the next few weeks, we will be reminding the children about ways to keep themselves safe including key messages from the NSPCC such as 'Speak Out, Stay Safe' and the PANTS rule. We will also be discussing the worry boxes we have in classes and ways children can keep themselves safe online. All children will be going through our Acceptable Use of the Internet agreement and these will be shared with you at Parents' Evenings later in October.

You can find more information about E-safety and Safeguarding by visiting our school website and going to the 'Parents' section. There is also useful information on Staying Safe in the 'Children' section.

BREAKFAST CLUBS

We offer a free Breakfast Club for all pupils, available every school day from 8:15am in the Junior Hall. This is a great opportunity for children to start the day with a healthy breakfast in a calm and friendly environment, helping them feel ready to learn.
This provision is part of the national government rollout to support families and ensure all children have access to a positive start to the school day. There is no need to book—children can simply arrive and join us. We look forward to welcoming everyone!
We also have a paid option for those needing childcare earlier. Our paid Breakfast Club is open daily from 7:30am in the Infant Hall at a cost of £4 per day. No pre-booking is required.





IMPORTANT – WE ARE A NUT FREE SCHOOL

A reminder that we have children in school with nut allergies so it is crucial we work together to ensure **no child brings any nut products into school.** Even minor traces of nut oils can cause dangerous allergic reactions in those with nut allergies.
Please help us by not sending in any foods containing nuts for snacks, lunch boxes or birthday treats. **This includes any items which 'MAY INCLUDE NUTS'.**
OUR ALLERGY SAFETY POLICY CAN BE FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE.

REMINDERS

Our office staff can be contacted on 01332 767443 or by email at admin@redwood.derby.sch.uk
The cost of school dinners for children in Key Stage 2 is **£2.76 per day** (except for those receiving Free School Meals). This **must be paid in advance**, preferably using the online payment system. If you think your child may be entitled to Free School Meals, please email the office who can provide further information.
A reminder that infant children must be picked up by someone who is at least 16 years old.
We will be sending out our annual pupil information update forms shortly. It is important that we have up-to-date contact information for all pupils for safeguarding reasons. Please return these as soon as possible in the envelopes provided.



SCHOOL UNIFORM

It is lovely to see the children looking so smart in their school uniforms.



Just a reminder that **school uniform consists of**:

- a burgundy jumper/cardigan (with or without the school logo)
- white shirt/polo shirt
- black/grey trousers or skirts
- black/grey pinafore dress or red and white checked/striped dresses in summer
- black shoes

Jewellery may not be worn except watches, stud earrings and any items of religious observance. **Nail varnish** is not permitted for school along with any make-up/nail extensions etc. **Hair styles** should be moderate and hair dye is not permitted unless in exceptional circumstances.

PE kit consists of:

- plain white or black t-shirt
- black/navy blue/grey shorts
- plain tracksuit for outdoor PE (navy or black or grey)
- plimsolls for indoor PE (trainers may be worn for outdoor PE)

All jewellery **must** be removed for PE for health and safety reasons. Earrings should only be covered with tape/plasters if they have been pierced in the last six weeks; otherwise they should be removed. Sweatbands should be used to cover religious bangles.

Pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 should bring their PE kit to school in a named bag. They will get changed for PE lessons in school. Pupils in Y3-6 should come to school wearing their PE kit on their allocated PE days.

If you have any difficulty covering the cost of school uniform, please get in touch with our Pastoral Team who will be happy to help. We have stocks of good quality second-hand uniform in school.



CLASS DOJO

All classes are up and running on Class Dojo and all parents should be able to access their child's behaviour record.
Remember that you can message class teachers or the school account with any quick reminders or messages but **any absences must be reported to the School Office - not through Class Dojo.**
Also, bear in mind that teachers will usually only respond to messages during the school day as they have many after school commitments.

STAFF NEWS



We would like to extend a warm welcome to Miss Pelling who has joined our Year 4 team. Many children will know Miss Hempsall from covering classes across the infants last year – we are very pleased that she is staying with us at Redwood and she has joined our Year 1 team.
We would also like to welcome Mrs Graham and Miss Brooks who have joined our Teaching Assistant team this term.
We are also happy to have Mrs Taylor back in Nursery along with Ms Allen and Mrs Sall in FS/KS1 after they both needed to take some time away from school last year.

ATTENDANCE

Every moment in school counts and days missed add up quickly. Evidence shows that pupils who have good attendance enjoy better wellbeing and school performance than those who don't.
There are only a few circumstances where a child is allowed to miss school, such as illness or where the school has given permission because of an exceptional circumstance.
However, if your child misses school without a good reason, local councils and schools can intervene and you may be issued a fine.
Please note: 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.

Since August 2024, there has been a single consistent national threshold for when a penalty notice must be considered by all schools in England of 10 sessions (usually equivalent to 5 school days) of unauthorised absence within a rolling 10 school week period. These sessions do not have to be consecutive and can be made up of a combination of any type of unauthorised absence.

- The fine for school absences across the country will be **£80 per parent per child if paid within 21 days**, or **£160 per child per parent if paid within 28 days**.
- In the case of repeated fines, if a parent receives a **second fine** for the same child within any three-year period, **this will automatically be charged at the higher rate of £160**.
- Fines per parent will be capped to two fines within any three-year period. Once this limit has been reached, other action like a parenting order or prosecution will be considered.
- If you're prosecuted and attend court because your child hasn't been attending school, you could get a fine of up to £2,500.

Join the PTA!

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK

PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

Our recently formed PTA has already made a fantastic start, raising **over £1,000 for our school!** We'd love more parents and carers to get involved and help us build on this success. Whether you can spare an hour now and then or help more regularly, the time commitment is completely flexible. Every contribution makes a difference and helps us provide even more opportunities for our children. Please pass your details to the office if you're interested in joining the PTA and someone from our friendly group will get in touch.

RELIEF MIDDAY SUPERVISORS

We are always in need of relief midday supervisors who can cover absence etc. You do not need any previous experience to join our friendly team of lunchtime staff – you just need to enjoy spending time with children and do your best to help them have happy and safe playtimes. So, if you are flexible and could provide lunchtime cover at short notice, please speak to a member of the office team who will be able to provide you with an application form.



TERM DATES 2026-2027

Autumn term (71 days)

- Friday 4 September 2026 to Friday 23 October 2026 (36 days)
- Monday 2 November 2026 to Friday 18 December 2026 (35 days)

Spring term (54 days)

- Monday 4 January 2027 to Friday 12 February 2027 (30 days)
- Monday 22 February 2027 to Thursday 25 March 2027 (24 days)

Summer term (70 days)

- Monday 12 April 2027 to Friday 28 May 2027 (34 days)
- Monday 7 June 2027 to Monday 26 July 2027 (36 days)

INSET Days will be on:

Friday 4th September 2026
Friday 27th November 2026
Monday 22nd Feb 2027
Monday 12th April 2027
Monday 26th July 2027

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EVENT
Monday 7th September	Children return to school
Thursday 24th September	Macmillan cake sale
Monday 5th October	Harvest
Friday 16th October	School photographs Show Racism the Red Card day
Tuesday 20th October	Parents Evening
Thursday 22nd October	Parents Evening
Friday 23rd October	Children break up for HALF TERM
HALF-TERM	
Monday 2nd November	Children return to school
w/b 16th November	Anti-Bullying Week
Friday 20th November	Children in Need day
Friday 27th November	INSET day
Friday 11th December	Christmas jumper day Christmas dinner
Friday 18th December	Last day of Autumn term
Monday 4th January	Children return to school

Don't forget that you can 'sync' your phone's calendar with the school calendar on the website so that all these dates are easy to find on your mobile device. Please visit www.redwoodprimary.com and look in the Calendar section for more details.