

**May 2026**

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the May newsletter.

We have had a busy half term and are proud of the children and their attitude to learning.

A special mention for all our Year Six children! Well done, to them all! They all worked incredibly hard and showed real determination, resilience and focus throughout their SATs. Completing them is a big achievement, and they should all feel extremely proud of themselves.

Wishing you all a half term filled with fun and sunshine.

Warmest regards  
Teresa Bosley  
Executive Headteacher



**The Acorn Partnership**

Manston Montgomery Primary School

Long Lane C of E Primary School



## School Information

### School Business Officer

We are pleased to announce that we have successfully appointed a School Business Officer. We are hoping that Mrs Day will join Team Acorn on Monday 1st June.

We will continue to receive support from Mr Hopkinson, Mrs Redmond and Miss Baldwin while Mrs Day becomes familiar with our two schools.

In this period of transition, please continue to email any queries to both myself and Mrs Day.

Mrs Day's email address will be –  
[cday@acorn.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:cday@acorn.derbyshire.sch.uk)

### Absence procedures

If your child is too unwell to attend school, please contact school by telephone or email before 9.00am and inform us of the reason for their absence and when you expect them to return to school.

From 1st June, if you are emailing to inform us of an absence please include ALL of the staff below, -

<b>Both schools</b>	<a href="mailto:cday@acorn.derbyshire.sch.uk">cday@acorn.derbyshire.sch.uk</a> <a href="mailto:tbosley@acorn.derbyshire.sch.uk">tbosley@acorn.derbyshire.sch.uk</a>
<b>LLPS</b>	<a href="mailto:lnorcross@acorn.derbyshire.sch.uk">lnorcross@acorn.derbyshire.sch.uk</a> <a href="mailto:jlovet@acorn.derbyshire.sch.uk">jlovet@acorn.derbyshire.sch.uk</a>
<b>MMPS</b>	<a href="mailto:lthomas@acorn.derbyshire.sch.uk">lthomas@acorn.derbyshire.sch.uk</a> <a href="mailto:nsheen@acorn.derbyshire.sch.uk">nsheen@acorn.derbyshire.sch.uk</a>

## Attendance

### Attendance

As always, attendance continues to be a focus for schools. At both of our schools we have reviewed our target for overall attendance to 97%. Our attendance for the year so far is shown below.

	<b>LLPS</b>	<b>MMPS</b>
<b>Autumn</b>	96.39%	98.21%
<b>Spring</b>	95.44%	94.5%
<b>Summer 1</b>	95.98%	98.12%
<b>Total</b>	95.97%	97.15%

### Individual Absence

As part of our aim to support our children to improve attendance we are introducing a new system.

In school, over the last few weeks, we have begun to monitor individual attendance closely. This has included a focus on children whose attendance is below 95%.

After the half term holiday, we will inform parents if their child's attendance has fallen below 95% this will allow us to work with you to improve attendance.

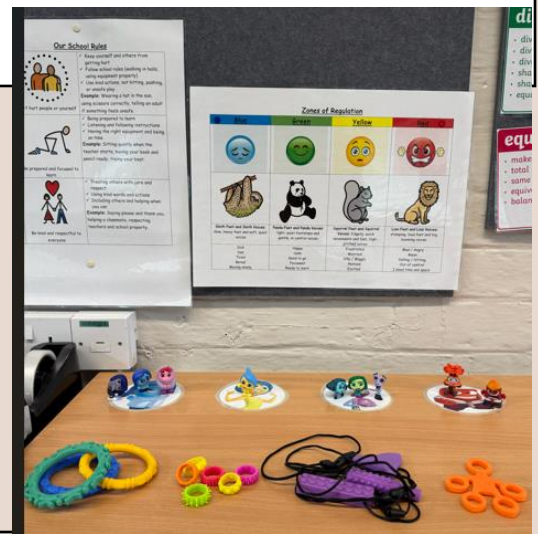


# Regulation Stations



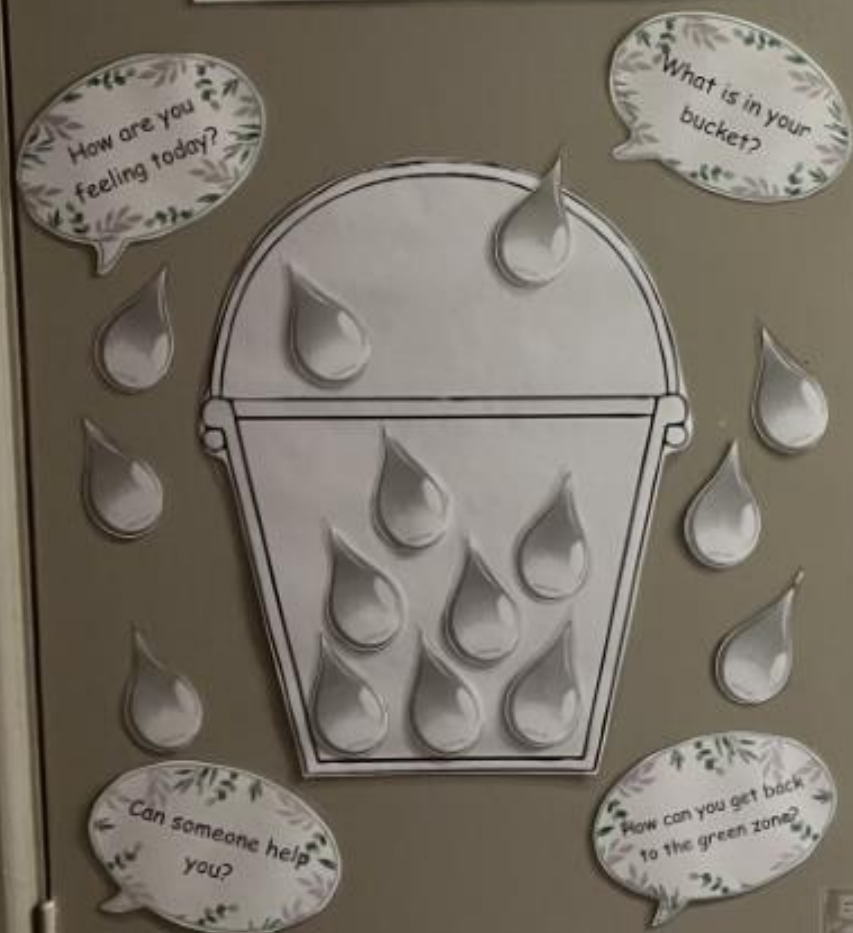
As part of our work to develop a relational approach to behaviour we have introduced regulation stations in each classroom.

The regulation stations include different emotions, stories and regulation resources. All children have access to these spaces. In school we are increasingly talking about how children are feeling.



## Stress Bucket

# Stress Bucket



Another part of our work to support the new behaviour policy was thinking about our stress and / or anxiety.

In collective worship and assembly Mrs Bosley introduced the idea of our 'Stress Buckets'. We talked about, -

- The different things that can cause us stress. For example, feeling rushed in the morning getting ready for school, completing work in school you find tricky.
- How everybody's bucket is different. Our buckets are different sizes and have different things in them. What makes you stressed or anxious will be different to your friend.
- How we can empty our bucket. For example, this might be talking to someone, breathing calmly, going for a walk.

## Warmer Weather

As the weather is due finally going to warm up, please find on this page and the next information on keeping children safe in the heat.



## Beat the heat

### Plan ahead



Check the weather forecast and the news



Plan ahead to avoid the heat



Schedule activities to cooler times of the day

### Keep yourself cool



Drink plenty of fluids and avoid excess alcohol



Wear sunscreen, a hat, and sunglasses



Cool your skin with water and slow down

### Find somewhere cool



Close blinds and curtains during the day



Go indoors or outdoors, whichever feels cooler



Avoid closed spaces like stationary cars

### Be safe



Be on the lookout for signs of heat related illness



Look after yourself and check in with others



Stay safe when swimming



Get help. Call NHS 111 or in an emergency 999

For more information go to: [gov.uk/ukhsa/beat-the-heat](https://gov.uk/ukhsa/beat-the-heat)

# Keeping children safe in the warm weather

Babies and young children can become ill during very hot weather. Their health can be seriously affected by:

- dehydration
- heat exhaustion and heatstroke
- sunburn

## Babies and toddlers

- Babies less than 6 months old should be kept out of direct sunlight
- Older babies should also be kept out of the sun as much as possible, particularly in the summer and between 11am and 3pm, when the sun is at its strongest.
- If you go out when it's hot, attach a parasol or sunshade to your baby's pushchair to keep them out of direct sunlight
- Apply a sunscreen with a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 30 to your baby's skin. Make sure the product also protects against both UVA and UVB rays
- Make sure your child wears a sunhat with a wide brim or a long flap at the back to protect their head and neck from the sun.

## Keeping cool

- Playing in a paddling pool is a good way of keeping babies and children cool. Keep the pool in the shade during very hot weather and supervise children carefully at all times.
- Run them a cool bath before bedtime
- Keep your child's bedroom cool during the day by closing blinds or curtains
- Keep nightwear and bedclothes to a minimum
- A nursery thermometer will help you monitor the temperature of your baby's room. Your baby will sleep most comfortably when their room is between 16C and 20C.



## Avoid dehydration

Like adults, babies and young children need to drink plenty of fluids to avoid becoming dehydrated.

### 0 to 6 months

- Fully breastfed babies do not need any water until they've started eating solid foods. During hot weather they may want to breastfeed more than usual
- If you're bottle feeding, as well as their usual milk feeds, you can give your baby a little cooled boiled water

### From around 6 months

Once you have started to introduce solid foods, you should offer your baby sips of water from a cup or beaker with meals. Remember that breastmilk or infant formula should be their main drinks during the first year. In hot weather, you may need to offer some additional water outside of mealtimes.

### From 12 months

- Water, breast milk or whole cows' milk should be your baby's main drinks. In hot weather, you can try giving them frozen lollies made from plain water or from very diluted fruit juice to help keep them hydrated
- For older children, give them plenty of fruit and salad to help keep their fluid levels up



[www.derbyshire.gov.uk/staycool](http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/staycool)

# Warmer Weather

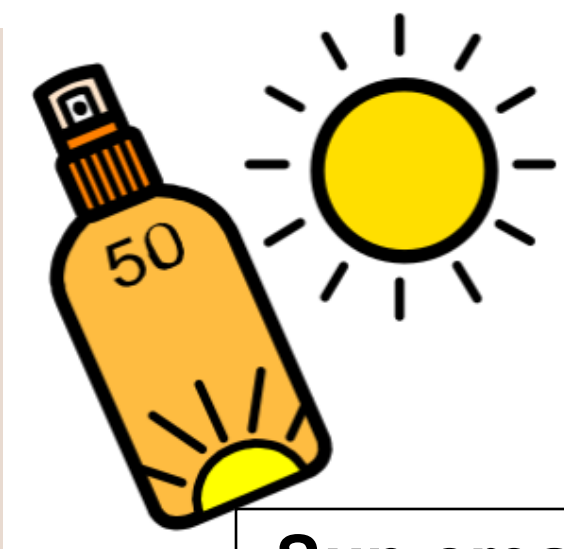
I am hopeful that the warm weather will continue after half term. Please make sure children have what they need for warmer weather, thank you.



**Water bottle**



**Sun hats**



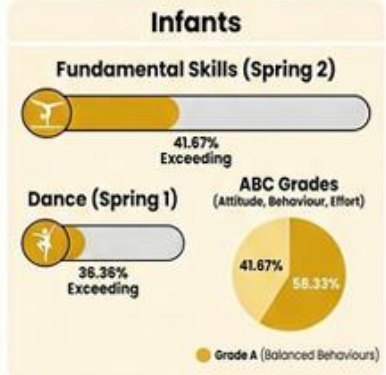
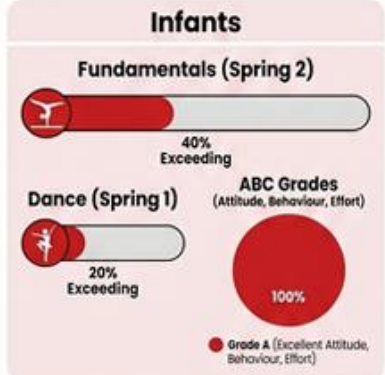
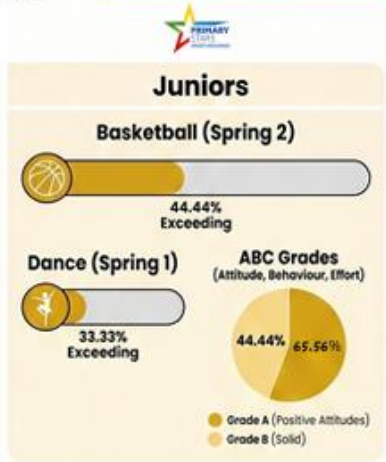
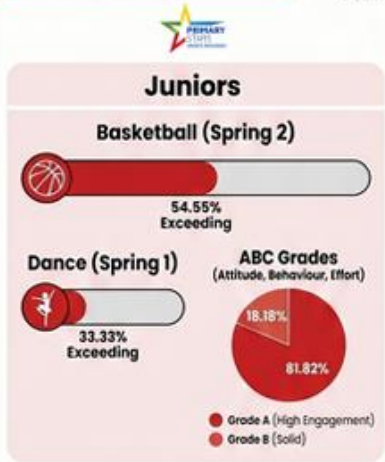
**Sun cream**

# Primary Stars PE

Primary Stars have worked with our schools for several years, delivering PE lessons in both schools on a weekly basis.

This image highlights the achievements of our children and the progress they are making in PE.

It is brilliant to see this, well done to all children.



**Community & Skills: KiddiActiv**

**Weekly Gym'n'Activ Sessions**

Dedicated fundamental physical skills programme for younger learners.

**Thursday Mornings: 9:15 – 10:15 am.**  
Consistent development and engagement for infant cohort.

**SNAP STREAK**  
**97**

# SNAPCHAT

**AGE RESTRICTION**  
**13+**

With over 800 million active monthly users and billions of 'Snaps' sent each month, Snapchat is a popular messaging app among children and young people. It allows users to share fun, spontaneous pictures and videos with friends and family while using playful filters. One of Snapchat's unique features is that pictures, videos and messages are only viewable for a short period of time.

**WHAT ARE THE RISKS?**

## ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Snapchat's use of artificial intelligence (AI) includes features like the 'My AI' chatbot and AI-powered filters, offering interactive experiences that can be fun but also pose risks. These tools may share unfiltered or inaccurate responses, promote unrealistic beauty standards, and collect personal data. Advanced filters and deepfake-style lenses can distort reality, potentially leading to manipulation, impersonation, or inappropriate content.

## SCREEN ADDICTION

Snapchat boosts user engagement and daily use with features like streaks (daily Snapchat exchanges between you and a friend). When a streak's been going for a few days, users will see a 📧 emoji. The number alongside it shows the number of days, but if users miss a day and break the streak, the only way to restore it is to pay. This encourages daily use habits, and frequent notifications can keep users returning to the app even more often.

## SEXTORTION

Because Snapchat's disappearing messages feature may foster a sense of safety, users may become targets of sextortion. For example, a predator may pressure someone into sending nude images, then somehow capture these images to threaten and intimidate the victim. This might involve claiming they will share the images with friends or family unless money is paid.

## SNAPCHAT+

Snapchat+ is the platform's premium subscription service, offering early access to new and exclusive features. In June 2025, Snapchat introduced a new tier called Lens+, giving subscribers access to hundreds of lenses and AR experiences for playing, creating, and sharing snaps. These paid features may encourage young users to spend money to access exclusive content, increasing the risk of overspending or feeling pressured to make in-app purchases.

## ACCESSIBILITY

Snapchat is now accessible from a web browser, meaning children can use it on a laptop or tablet without downloading the app. This can make activity harder to monitor, reduce the effectiveness of parental controls, and increase the risk of unsupervised communication or exposure to inappropriate content.

## INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

Some content on Snapchat isn't suitable for children. The hashtags used to group content are determined by the poster, so even an innocent search term could still yield age-inappropriate results. The app's disappearing messages feature also makes it easy for young people to share explicit images on impulse – so sexting continues to be a risk associated with Snapchat.

## Advice for Parents & Educators

### ACCESS THE SNAPCHAT FAMILY SAFETY HUB

Created with guidance from Common Sense Media, Snapchat has developed a Family Safety Hub that explains how the app works and how to use its in-app protections for teens. It's recommended that you review this guidance before allowing a child to download Snapchat. Remember, the app is only intended for children aged 13 and over.

### ENCOURAGE OPEN DISCUSSIONS

Snapchat's risks can be easier to handle if you nurture an open dialogue. Talk about scams and blackmail before letting children sign up. If they're lured into a scam, encourage them to tell you immediately. Talk openly and non-judgmentally about sexting, emphasizing its inherent risks. Furthermore, explain how popular 'challenges' on the platform can have harmful consequences.

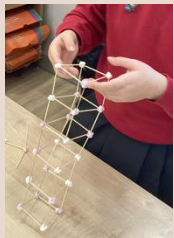
# ONLINE SAFETY

Please read this useful guide to keeping children safe on Snapchat.

# What have we been learning in the Garden Class?



It has been a busy half term in Garden Class. In Maths, we have covered the units of Money and Fractions. In Literacy, we have innovated the story of 'Little Charlie and the Lighthouse Keeper'. Mrs Sheen was very impressed with the children's stories!



As well as creating insects in our whole school Art project, Garden Class have been looking at the topic of Sculpture. We have created sculptures out of bread, cardboard, spoons and elastic bands and marshmallows and cocktail sticks. We have looked at the difference between realistic and abstract sculptures and worked on small and large scale with this.

In Science, we have been looking at 'Habitats around the World'. The children have explored different habitats and looking at which animals live there and why. They have even created their own habitats from junk modelling and explored what creatures live in the microhabitat of the soil in the school grounds.



In Geography, we have explored the country of Kenya. Children have really enjoyed learning about this and it has been brought to life even more by photos from a family member's recent trip to Kenya and a retell from a child within class who has actually experienced going on a Safari! Wow!



In Computing, children have loved exploring the Beebots. They have been designing their own maps and navigating the Beebots around the maps to avoid obstacles. Well done!

## What have we been learning in the Meadow Class?

In English we have been transported through the doors of possibilities.

Children looked at suspense and how the character may feel seeing this door...

Children completed artwork that was displayed in the village hall based on nature. Their pieces are fantastic – hopefully, you got to go and see them.

In science children have all looked at electricity. They have made traffic lights and understand circuits.

They also understand the importance of how to stay safe.

Year 6 completed their SATs – We are very proud of how they handled themselves. The breakfast went down a treat!

In Geography we learnt about climate change and carbon footprints. The children have looked at their footprints and how to make little changes to make them smaller.



## Friends of Marston Montgomery

Firstly, we would like to say a big thank you to the support that you have provided to FOMM and the attendance at the activities.

We are currently saving the money raised to enhance the school outdoor areas with growing and planting resources that the children can take responsibility for.

We would like to say that FOMM was not just about raising money for the school, we also wanted to provide something extra and fun for the children at Marston to attend together.

Dates for your diary:

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 3:30pm – 5pm – Gardening Club with a cost of £5 per child.

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June 3:30pm – 5:15pm – Movie Night with a cost of £5 per child.

We were also hoping to provide a School Summer Fayre in July, however, we need parent volunteers to help with this e.g. to run stalls, help to set up, pack away. Without volunteers we cannot go ahead with this event. This would take place immediately after school and would not run for longer than 1 hour.

If you would like your child to join in with any of the events or would like to volunteer to help FOMM with the Summer Fayre then please email: [mcharlesworth@acorn.derbyshire.sch.uk](mailto:mcharlesworth@acorn.derbyshire.sch.uk)

Kind Regards Mrs Charlesworth and Mrs Sheen



## Summer 2 2026 Events

<b>25/05/2026 – 29/05/2026</b>		<b>School closed for half term</b>	
<b>01/06/2026</b>	School reopens	8:55am	
<b>01/06/2026</b>	QGS to visit Yr 6		Staff QEGS will meet with Year 6 and Mrs Thomas
<b>04/06/2026</b>	Brownlee Triathlon		Meadow Class to attend a triathlon event at Moorways
<b>09/06/2026</b>	Garden Class school trip to National tramway museum	9.00am – 15.30pm	
<b>10/06/2026</b>	Open the Book	9.00 – 9.30am	
<b>18/06/2026</b>	Father's Day Breakfast	9:00am to 9:45am	Dads, Grandads, Uncles etc are welcome to join us for breakfast and games
<b>25/06/2026</b>	FOMM – Movie Night	15.30pm – 17.15pm	Please remember to book your place
<b>03/07/2026</b>	INSET Day		<b>School closed</b>
<b>06/07/2026</b>	INSET Day		<b>School closed</b>
<b>07/07/2026</b>	Transition morning	Reception	New Reception in school
<b>08/07/2026</b>	Transition morning	Reception	New Reception in school, parents and children stay for lunch
<b>08 to 10/07/2026</b>	Meadow Class Residential		
<b>09/07/2026</b>	Transition morning	Reception	New reception in school, children stay for lunch
<b>14/07/2026</b>	Recycle Lorry visit	9.30am – 12.30pm	Meadow Class will learn all about the importance of recycling
<b>17/07/2026</b>	Sports Day	9:00am to 11:00am	Sports Day will be in the morning. Children will need taking to Marston and we will transport them back to Long Lane for the end of the day.
<b>17/07/2026</b>	End of year reports		Reports will be sent home today
<b>21/07/2026</b>	Joint School Day - DT		All children at Marston Montgomery
<b>23/07/2026</b>	Leavers Assembly	9.00 – 10.00am	
<b>24/07/2026</b>		<b>School closed for summer holidays</b>	

# Summer 2 2026 Events

<b>25/05/2026 – 29/05/2026</b>		<b>School closed for half term</b>	
<b>05/06/2026</b>	Primary Stars – lunchtime club and PE	12.30 pm	Children will need to have their PE kits in school on these days.
<b>12/06/2026</b>			
<b>19/06/2026</b>			
<b>26/06/2026</b>			
<b>10/07/2026</b>			
<b>17/07/2026</b>			
<b>24/07/2026</b>		<b>School closed for summer holidays</b>	

## Summer 2 2026 Events - Dates to share

Please share details of these events with friends and family who have pre-school children, thank you.

Everyone is welcome – the more the merrier!

<b>Long Lane – Events in Summer 2 2026</b>			
<b>05/06/2026</b>	Little Monkeys –	1:30pm to	Pre-school children and a family member / carer are welcome to come and join the Garden Class for these fun weekly sessions
<b>19/06/2026</b>	Outdoor session	3:15pm	
<b>12/06/2026</b>	Little Monkeys –	1:30pm to	
<b>26/06/2026</b>	Indoor session	3:15pm	
<b>10/07/2026</b>			

<b>Marston Montgomery – Events in Summer 2 2026</b>			
<b>01/06/2026 to 23/07/2026</b>			
<b>04/06/2026</b>	KiddiActiv	9:15am to 10:15am	These excellent session are led by Primary Stars staff and are located in the Village Hall behind the school.
<b>11/06/2026</b>			
<b>18/06/2026</b>			
<b>25/06/2026</b>			
<b>02/07/2026</b>			
<b>09/07/2026</b>			
<b>16/07/2026</b>			
<b>04/06/2026</b>	Marston Tots – Outdoor session	1:30pm to 3:15pm	Pre-school children and a family member / carer are welcome to come and join the Garden Class for these fun weekly sessions
<b>18/06/2026</b>			
<b>02/07/2026</b>			
<b>16/07/2026</b>			
<b>11/06/2026</b>	Marston Tots – Indoor session	1:30pm to 3:15pm	
<b>25/06/2026</b>			
<b>09/07/2026</b>			