Ripley Nursery School and Ripley Nursery School Childcare
Sandham Lane
Ripley
Derbyshire
DE5 3HE
01773 745014
Email: kerry.hartwell@ripley-nur.derbyshire.sch.uk
Website: www.ripley-nur.derbyshire.sch.uk
Headteacher: Nicola Brown
Childcare Manager: Charly Manley

Autumn Term Newsletter 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,



Welcome back to all our families—both new and returning! We are so excited to begin another term with you and your children. The coming months promise rich experiences, meaningful connections, and plenty of opportunities to learn and grow together.

Core Beliefs and Guiding Principles

A reminder of our nursery's core beliefs and guiding principles:

- Core Beliefs – these are at the centre of everything we do:
  - Nurturing Relationships
  - Inclusion
  - Communication
  - Creativity
  - Nature
- Guiding Principles – these help us to live our Core Beliefs by guiding curriculum, pedagogy and interactions everyday:
  - I am safe and loved (valued, understood, respected)
  - I have autonomy and agency (make choices, take risks, lead my own learning through hands on real experiences and advocate for myself)
  - I belong and can be my true self (inclusive, accepted, celebrated)
  - I am capable and creative (empowered, independent, problem solvers, resilient, process centred experiences, self-expression, deep level learning)
  - I engage in nature and care for my environment (mental health, physical health, climate and sustainability)

Watch This Space

Parental involvement is a key priority on our School Improvement Plan for 2025–2026. We will be seeking to work in partnership with you and your child in a variety of different ways.

We would like to thank our Little Ladybird and Busy Butterflies families for being so patient at drop off and collection, allowing us to safely welcome parents and carers into setting each day. We hope you are enjoying the opportunity to further nurture relationships with your child's key worker. We certainly are!

Parent Information Sessions - Thursday 19th November, 4:45pm – 5:45pm.

This session will also explore the theory behind our approach to teaching and learning in our unique nursery environment. This session has been scheduled in response to the most popular time voted for in our recent parent/carer poll. To reserve your place, please contact the office or email kerry.hartwell@ripley-nur.derbyshire.sch.uk

Spotlight Sessions

We will be inviting parents into nursery school during their child's spotlight month to come and join us in play. Your child's key worker will be in touch with more details soon. We are really looking forward to welcoming you into nursery more often.

Christmas Music Sessions

Monday 15th December will be a musical extravaganza with Ines, our amazing musician. She will join us for the day and invite you in for a magical musical experience. More details will follow soon.

Forest School Day

Currently held on Tuesdays after half term, children spend most of the session outside developing a variety of Forest School skills and dispositions, including accessing:

- The Woodwork station – developing safe use of tools and fine motor control which eventually leads to early writing
- The Meadow space – exploration of the natural environment and access to swings and hammocks to support sensory development
- The Potion Station – exploring, combining and creating with malleable materials, supporting early science skills
- Chicken Care – caring for our chickens, developing skills of empathy and compassion
- Allotment care – planting and harvesting on our allotment, developing an understanding of life cycles and the source of the food we eat
- Preparing and Cooking snack – using our allotment produce to create healthy, comforting snacks we can share outdoors
- The Cosy Book Cafe – developing imaginative skills to support language and communication development
- The Art shed – following unique creative interests using a variety of media and materials on a large scale
- The Clay Station – enjoying sensory exploration and developing fine manipulative skills using hands and tools to create

Children also have access to our daily outside continuous provision, including the large sand pit, water pump station, mud kitchen, gravel pit, large building area, climbing, sliding, swinging and hanging equipment, wheeled vehicles and music station.

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Mud Kitchen

Children have been making great use of our new outdoor mud kitchen, which was purchased with grant funding from Ripley Town Council. Nursery was able to match the funding, allowing us to invest in a high-quality mud kitchen set. It has quickly become a popular feature in our outdoor area, with children enjoying the opportunity for hands-on, creative play.







Fundraising Focus

We would like to prioritise our outdoor offer during this school year. Any fundraising opportunities we have will be raising money towards replenishing our outdoor insulated and waterproof clothing to ensure we have enough available for every child to use. If any parents or carers work for a bank that would be interested in match funding for this, we would be extremely grateful.

Parent Governor Opportunity

Our Clerk to Governors will be in touch with more information about the role of governor if you have expressed an interest.

Safeguarding Reminder

Safeguarding is a huge priority for our nursery. Please let a member of staff know if your child has an injury at home. You will be asked to complete an existing injury form; this is a legal requirement under our statutory safeguarding duties.

Accident Analysis and Risky Play

Please remember to bring your child's own wellies to keep at nursery; this will support your child to access our outdoor learning safely.

Risky play is an important element of early learning, it is how children develop resilience, problem-solving skills and build high levels of self-esteem. Adults are supporting children to explore, problem solve and risk assess when using the slide and climbing equipment. Research shows that enabling children to **climb up** the slide safely is an important opportunity that supports a child's holistic development.

Why Do Children Climb Up the Slide?

- Vestibular System (sensory) – Helps with balance, posture, and spatial awareness; stimulated by climbing and movement; supports coordination and self-regulation
- Proprioceptive System (sensory) – Tells the body where it is in space; developed through running, climbing, and balancing; essential for motor skills and body control
- Risk-Taking – Encourages children to test boundaries in a safe environment, building decision-making and resilience

- Understanding Gravity – Climbing teaches gravity and effort—going up is harder than going down, and that's a lesson in physics!
- Determination – Climbing a slide requires persistence. Children learn to try, fail, and try again.
- Problem-Solving – Navigating shared play spaces fosters negotiation and conflict resolution skills.
- Trust & Confidence – Allowing children to take risks shows them you trust their abilities—boosting self-esteem and independence.

Top Tips for the Adults:

Support children's natural curiosity and development by allowing supervised climbing when safe. Use these moments to guide learning, build trust, encourage exploration and support safe decision-making. Model conflict resolution and negotiation skills in collaboration with children, using the language of 'safe' and 'not safe' when decision-making.

As always, if you have any questions or queries, please contact the office on 01773 745014 or email kerry.hartwell@ripley-nur.derbyshire.sch.uk.

Nicola Brown

Headteacher of Ripley Nursery School & Ripley Nursery Childcare.

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