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June 2026

Summer Term Newsletter



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have all been enjoying the beautiful weather over the half term break. I really hope it continues for the rest of the summer!

With this in mind, can I please remind parents and carers, to ensure you apply sun cream to your child **before** they attend their nursery session. Staff will reapply after lunch for those children who access full day sessions.

OUR CORE VALUES
Our Nursery Core Values sit at the heart of Ripley Nursery School and enable us to work together to support your child to become a successful life-long learner.

Nurturing Relationships
Emphasises emotional bonds and trust among children, educators, and families to foster a supportive safe environment.
Communication
Focuses on active listening and open dialogue to support children's expression and understanding.
Inclusion
Ensures acceptance and celebration of every child regardless of background or ability.
Creativity
Focuses on process centred learning, with an emphasis on building resilience and perseverance to problem pose and problem solve.
Nature
Encourages imaginative play and connection with nature to promote well-being, physical strength, compassion and sustainability

For more information on how we live our Core Values and Guiding Principles everyday please see our website

https://www.ripley-nur.derbyshire.sch.uk/school-ethos-and-aims/

Nursery Update for Parents and Carers
We would like to inform you that from September 2026, the nursery will be moving to one set start and finish time for all children.
The morning start time will be 8:15am
The end-of-day finish time will be 3:15pm
Part-day sessions will still be available, and families who use these will continue to be accommodated within the new structure.

We will be sharing more detailed information over the coming months to help everyone prepare for the change.

Parent Questionnaires
Thank you to those families who completed our recent parent and carer questionnaire, your opinions and ideas are extremely valuable to us. We are overjoyed to hear that all our families believe their child is happy, safe and loved at Ripley nursery School, and that our parents and carers, also feel safe and supported by the nursery team.

I would like to share with you the various ways we invite you to work in partnership with us at nursery. This supports your child to reach their full learning potential and to ensure both you and your child, feel safe, secure with a strong sense of belonging at Ripley Nursery School.

- Home visit and Nursery visit before your child starts at nursery
- Transition information parents sessions led by head teacher before your child starts nursery (Tuesday 21st July, 8:45–9:45am and Monday 7th September, 5:00–6:00pm)
- Meeting with your child's key worker in their spotlight month and opportunity to join your child for an hour in their nursery session (at a time convenient to you)
- Parent information sessions led by head teacher
- Termly Parent drop in sessions (Nibble and Natter) for informal support, advice and connection building (next one 25th June 2.30-3.30pm)
- Access to Learning Journals Platform where observations can be shared between home and nursery
- Informal chats with child's key worker – this can be in person or over the phone whenever is needed.
- Special event sessions e.g. music sessions

If there are any ways you feel this could be improved then please let me know, I am always willing to listen and learn from our families and wider community.

Jungle Jo is Coming to Nursery! – Tuesday 16th & Wednesday 17th June
We are excited to share that we have some very special visitors joining us in Nursery on Tuesday 16th and Wednesday 17th June. Jungle Jo and a few of her incredible animal friends will be coming in to meet the children and introduce themselves.



This hands-on experience will support our learning about minibeasts and give the children the chance to explore real creatures up close — with animal handling available for those feeling brave.

YOUTH MUSIC LOTTERY FUNDED Supported using public funding by ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND
Derby & Derbyshire MUSIC PARTNERSHIP
Derbyshire Music Education Hub
We're members! Tales Toolkit
forest schools

If you'd like to find out more about Jungle Jo and the work she does, you can visit her website here: http://www.junglejo.co.uk/index.php

This exciting activity has been funded by FORNS for all children. To help support the overall cost, we are kindly asking for a small donation of £2.00 per family, which will be added to ParentPay.

The Benefits of Climbing Up the Slide

I know this is a very controversial topic, but it is a decision we have researched and thought about carefully, as it has huge benefits to your child's learning and development. Introducing children to 'Risky Play' promotes self-confidence, problem-solving skills and is the most effective way of developing both perseverance and resilience, which are key indicators for life long success. The children have collaboratively created their own set of 'Safety Rules' to support climbing up the slide in a safe way, and this is always available and used by staff to support children to negotiate, make decisions and problem solve safely.
Look at all the learning opportunities this experience supports!



Parent Drop in Session

Our next Nibble and Natter session is Thursday 25th June 2.30-3.30pm at Nursery.
We are excited to invite all parents and carers to our half-termly drop-in sessions — a relaxed hour where you can pop in, enjoy a coffee and cake, and chat with staff and other parents. These sessions are completely informal. Come with a question, a worry, or simply for a friendly conversation and a chance to connect with others. Whether you stay for ten minutes or the whole hour is entirely up to you.
Just drop in — we'd love to see you there

Stay and Play Sessions – Little Badgers

Our Little Badger sessions will start again on Wednesday 3rd June 1-2pm at Peveril Court.
Please contact Charly Manley (Childcare Manager) if you would like to find out more information or attend a session.

Dennis Fundraising week

We are delighted to share that, thanks to your generosity and support throughout Dennis Week, we have raised over £250.00. This is a fantastic achievement and will make a meaningful difference. Thank you once again for your kindness and involvement.

Caterpillars

We are excited to let you know that our caterpillars have arrived. The children will be observing them closely as part of our learning about lifecycles, and we look forward to watching them transform into butterflies together.

A Warm Welcome

Liz Boam will be joining Squirrels and Rabbits team this week, please give her a big warm Ripley welcome. We are so happy to be welcoming Nicola Groom (Squirrels class teacher) back into her nursery family on a phased return at the end of the week.

Transitions to School

For those whose children will be having transition visits to school, please find below our timings for our children who do full days.

Morning transitions - arrive back to nursery for the afternoon session, 12.15pm for Owls and Hedgehogs and 12.30pm for Rabbits and Squirrels. Parents to provide lunch.

Afternoon transitions - collect from nursery at 12.15pm for Owls and Hedgehogs and 12.30pm for Rabbits and Squirrels. Lunch in school as normal.

For those who do half days you will attend your transition to your new school only. Eg: if you have a morning session in nursery but your transition is in the afternoon you will attend your transition only.

Any queries please contact reception or your class teacher.



Nicola Brown

Headteacher of Ripley Nursery School & Ripley Nursery Childcare.