

Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Brown

## Happy New Year 2024

This term we welcome Agnes and Toby and their families to our nursery. We look forward to working with them and hope they enjoy their time with us.

### Applying for a Primary School place

If your child was born between 1<sup>st</sup> September 2019 and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020, you will need to apply for their infant/primary school place by **15<sup>th</sup> January 2024**. They will be eligible to start school in September 2024. You can apply online via the Derbyshire County Council website, or by ringing Call Derbyshire on 01629 533190. If you do not apply by this date, there is no guarantee of a place being available at your catchment school. For more information or assistance, please speak to Mrs Simpson or Mrs Brown.



### Snow

On occasions it is necessary to close the school because of severe weather conditions. If this happens we will send a class dojo message and an e-mail as soon as possible so please check your phones before you set off. We will endeavour to have someone in the school office answering the phone, but this may not always be possible. The advice is, **if in doubt, please don't set out.**

### Expansion of childcare funding

The Childcare Choices website brings together all the existing childcare offers in one place, so parents can get the help that fits their family. This could be through Tax-Free Childcare, 30 Hours Childcare, or Universal Credit Childcare. Some families might be eligible to use more than one childcare scheme. From this year even more help is on the way:

- From April 2024, eligible working parents in England with children aged 2 will have access to 15 hours childcare.
- From September 2024, the 15 hours childcare offer will be expanded to eligible working parents in England with children between 9 and 23 months old.
- From September 2025, eligible working parents in England with children between 9 months up to school age will have access to 30 hours childcare.

Support is also expanding for primary-school aged children – from September 2024, parents are expected to see an expansion in the availability of childcare in their local area before and after school, between 8am and 6pm, also known as 'wraparound care'.

Don't miss out on getting the support you are entitled to. Visit the [childcarechoices.gov.uk](https://www.childcarechoices.gov.uk) website to check what offer you might be eligible for and sign up to our newsletter to get the latest updates about the childcare support expansion.

We will be writing to everyone shortly who may be entitled to two-year old funding from April: children whose date of birth falls between the first of April 2021 and the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

### Friends of Flagg

The Friends of Flagg is our parent, teacher and friends association. During the past year the Friends have raised money for our school fund which has paid for the upkeep of the guinea pig, a school trip to Crich Tramway museum, Christmas presents for the children, Living eggs, dance coaching and animal workshops. This year we want to raise money to pay for another school trip as well activities in nursery school such as forest school, animal workshops and sports coaches.

Please let me know if you are interested in supporting the Friends of Flagg, we have a what's app group set up which makes organising events easier, if you give your permission, I can add you to this and we can start planning! I will use the what's app group to plan the next meeting.

### **Upcoming events:**

- Easter egg hunt and Bunny Drive: date to be confirmed
- Strawberry Fayre Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 12-2pm



### Parent Consultations

Parent consultations will be held on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> and Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January. This is a good opportunity to discuss your child's progress with us and let us know about any concerns you may have. Please e-mail or call the school office with your preferred date and time. If you are unable to make either of these days but would like to speak to a member of staff about your child's progress, please speak to Mrs Brown. We will always accommodate you.

### Valentine's Café

We will be hosting a valentine's café on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm in nursery. Your children will serve you with cakes and biscuits they have made for a small fee which we will put towards our school fund.



### All Creatures Great and Small and the Circle of Life

Our topic this term is "All creatures Great and Small." We will be thinking about pets, farm animals, rainforest animals, dinosaurs, the environment and extinction.

After the February half-term we will be looking at life cycles. We will watch eggs hatch into chicks and caterpillars metamorphose into butterflies, we'll look at the life cycle of a plant or flower and we will also be thinking about our own life cycle. We'll look at pictures of the teachers as babies and we will also be thinking about the jobs we might like to do when we grow up. To support this, if you can spare some time to come and talk about your own job with the children that would be great. In the past we have had visits from farmers, nurses, midwives, vets, paramedics, builders and a geologist amongst others.

### INSET days

Flagg Nursery School is part of the Local Authority school system and so we have five INSET (In-service training) days like the primary schools. On these days the nursery is closed to children for staff training. This academic year the remaining INSET day is Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May. Training for staff this year includes: safeguarding, paediatric first aid, food safety, manual handling training and communication and language.

### Governor's Section

The next full Governing Body meeting will be held in school on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February. The Governors will discuss the school's SIP (School Improvement Plan) and look at the school budget to ensure that the school is providing value for money.

At the last Governing Body meeting we discussed our Charging, remissions and bad debt policy. Please be aware that if you run up a debt of more than £200 for more than a month then your child's place could be withdrawn and you will be referred to Derbyshire County Council's legal department who will then take steps to recover the debt. Here is a link to our policy page if you would like to read the policy:

<http://www.flagg.derbyshire.sch.uk/policies--documents.html>

### Dates for your diary:

Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> January	Parent consultations 8.30-5.00pm
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> January	Parent consultations 8.30am-5.00pm
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> February	Governing Body meeting 6-8pm
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> February	Valentine café 2pm
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	Break up for half term
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	Back to School
Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Easter egg hunt and singalong in nursery 2pm, all welcome
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Break up for Easter
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	Back to School
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank holiday: May day
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> May	INSET day, school closed for children
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Break up for half term
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Back to School
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> July	Break up for the summer holiday