



SJS NEWS



FRIDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER 2026

Dear SJS Families,

I hope you had a wonderful summer and managed to spend quality time with family and friends. I squeezed in a short break to Norfolk, followed by The Hunger Games theatre production in London (highly recommend!), and, of course, a trip to watch Notts County play in Luton. As many of you know, taking my lot anywhere requires a quick fixture check first! Thankfully Norwich were away!

Sending children back to school is always a mixed bag of emotions. There can be excitement, nerves, sadness at the end of the holidays and, if we're being completely honest, perhaps a little relief too! For some families, this week marks the very first time stepping through the gates of Sawley Junior School. If that's you, a huge welcome. We are delighted to have you with us, and please rest assured that your children are in safe hands.

For others, this week marks a significant milestone... the beginning of the final year of primary school. Our Year 6 pupils have already impressed us with the maturity and enthusiasm they've shown, and we're committed to making this a year full of opportunities, memories and experiences before they head off on their next adventure.

There is so much to look forward to this year. We have more educational visits planned than ever before, alongside all the favourites that make school life so special: film nights, discos, school performances and community events. We also have something very exciting planned for the summer term. I won't give too much away just yet, but if I were to drop a few clues, there might be... paint... running... charity... Watch this space!

As always, our staff have worked incredibly hard behind the scenes to prepare for the year ahead. Classrooms are ready, resources are prepared and plans are in place, all with one aim: to help every child at Sawley Junior School Aspire, Achieve and Thrive.

Here's to a fantastic year of learning, laughter, friendships, challenges and successes. Whether your child is taking their first steps into junior school or preparing for their final year before secondary school, we are excited to be part of their journey. Let's make 2026-27 our best year yet.

Mrs Sisson
Headteacher



UPCOMING DATES

SUBJECT TO CHANGE

September

14th & 15th British Values workshops
16th Barn & Eagle House Captain/ Vice Captain elections
17th Individual and sibling photos
17th Tawny House Captain/ Vice Captain elections
17th Friesland Open Evening
18th Snowy House Captain/ Vice Captain elections
25th Jeans for Genes Day
29th Parent Reading Workshop
30th Year 3 Stone Age workshop

October

1st Year 3&4 Film Night
5th School Council trip to Houses of Parliament
8th School visit to Church for Harvest Festival
8th Year 6 Parent Residential Meeting
14th & 15th
16th Y5 trip to Hampton Court
Parent's Evening
23rd Last day of term

November

2nd INSET DAY
3rd School reopens
11th- 13th November
13th Children in Need
16th Odd Sock Day

December

4th Non- school uniform day

AMBASSADOR ROLES

We were really proud to launce our Ambassador roles last year. The aim of these roles has always to give children the opportunity to 'try new things', to 'work well together' and ultimately give them the opportunity to give back to the school community. The skills they learn are valuable tools to take in to their next phase of life and beyond.

To become an ambassador, we take the process very seriously. All of the jobs carry responsibility and trust therefore we ask all children to formally apply for the role, outlining why they think they should be given the opportunity. This year we have added more roles to chose from



Miss White spoke to the children on Wednesday this week about the roles and how to apply. The deadline for applications will be MONDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER with shortlisting happening that week and interviews the following week. Please do encourage your child to be brave and have a go. If they aren't successful this time round they might well be next term.



BRITISH VALUES WORKSHOPS MONDAY 16TH & TUESDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER

As we do at the beginning of every new school year at Sawley, we are starting off with two exciting off-timetable days focused on exploring the five key British Values: democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect and tolerance. Each year group is working on one value in depth through a mixture of creative classroom activities and inspiring drama-based workshops led by Altru Drama. These sessions encourage children to think about fairness, respect, empathy and how our choices affect others, while also giving them the chance to share their own opinions and ideas. The children are engaging brilliantly, producing thoughtful work that will be shared in a special display. It is a wonderful start to the year, setting a positive tone for working well together and aiming high in all that we do.

CHILDREN'S COMMISSIONER



A message from the Children's Commissioner...

As children and young people return to school for the new academic year, I am writing to ask for your support in making sure pupils at your school have the opportunity to take part in my national survey, The Big Future.

The survey can be completed here: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/TheBigFuture/>

I have already heard from hundreds of thousands of children and young people across England, and the majority of schools have now taken part.

It is crucial that children at your school have the chance to add their voices too, so that their experiences, views and aspirations are represented when I present the findings of the survey to Government.

SCHOOL PRIORITIES 2026-2027

At Sawley Junior School, we are always looking for ways to improve the experiences and outcomes of our pupils. This year, our key priorities are:

- ★ Building strong foundations in reading, writing and mathematics so that all children develop the knowledge and skills they need to succeed.
- ★ Developing confident readers who can think deeply about what they read, explain their ideas and support their answers with evidence from the text.
- ★ Helping children become independent writers who can edit, improve and take pride in their work.
- ★ Ensuring every child receives the support and challenge they need so that they can achieve their full potential and feel included in all aspects of school life.
- ★ Promoting positive behaviour and relationships by maintaining a calm, safe and respectful environment where everyone can learn and thrive.
- ★ Improving attendance by working closely with families to ensure every child benefits from every possible day of learning.

MOBILE PHONE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

In line with Department for Education guidance and our commitment to safeguarding and pupil wellbeing, smart watches should not be worn in school under any circumstances.

Mobile phones should only be brought onto the school site where there is a genuine medical or safety reason. We recognise that some pupils, particularly in Years 5 and 6, may walk to and from school independently and may therefore require a mobile phone for safety purposes. If you have older children, you will likely have had the same message from their school also.

Where a mobile phone has been authorised, it must be switched off and handed to the class teacher on arrival before being collected at the end of the school day. Phones should not be switched on at any time whilst on school grounds.

As pupils in Years 3 and 4 are collected by an adult at the end of the school day, there is no need for them to bring a mobile phone to school unless there are exceptional circumstances which have been discussed and agreed with the school.

Should you wish for your child to bring their mobile, please contact the school office for the form you need to complete **in advance**. Thank you for your support in helping us maintain a safe, distraction-free environment where children can focus on learning, friendships and enjoying their time at school.

Please refer to our Mobile Phone Policy for full details by clicking on the image below.



Sawley Junior School



Pupil Use of
Mobile Technology Policy

Author	Mr. [Name]
Approved by	Mr. [Name]
Reviewed by	Mr. [Name]
Version	1.0

JEANS 4 GENES DAY 2026

On Friday 25th September, we will be supporting Jeans for Genes Day by inviting children and staff to come to school wearing their favourite jeans (or denim item) in exchange for a voluntary donation.

Jeans for Genes raises money to support children and families affected by genetic conditions, helping to fund vital research, care and support services. By taking part, our school community can help make a real difference while enjoying a fun, relaxed day together.

We suggest a donation of £1, although any amount is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your support and generosity.

Wear your denim and help us make a difference!



NUT FREE SCHOOL

WE ARE A NUT FREE SCHOOL

We currently have several pupils, as well as a member of staff, with severe nut allergies. For some individuals, even small amounts of nuts or contact with nut products can cause a serious allergic reaction.

We therefore ask all families to help us remain a nut-free school by taking extra care when preparing packed lunches and snacks.

Please check ingredients carefully and avoid sending any products containing nuts. Items such as Nutella, peanut butter sandwiches, nut-based snack bars and other products containing nuts are the most common things that accidentally find their way into lunchboxes.



Before packing your child's lunch, please take a moment to consider whether the contents could put another member of our school community at risk. Thank you for your understanding and support in helping us keep everyone safe.



JULIA UNITED

You might remember that, just before the summer holidays, we shared the sad news that Julia Gillard, who worked at Shardlow Primary School, had passed away.

To honour Julia's memory and raise money for Maggie's, ONE Academy Trust's Jake Richardson completed an incredible 80-mile walk from Manchester United's stadium to Shardlow Primary School. A huge thank you to everyone who supported the cause through donations, encouragement and fundraising.

Together, we have raised thousands of pounds for Maggie's and are incredibly grateful for the kindness and generosity shown by our school community.

 Last chance to buy raffle tickets!

[Buy raffle tickets](#)

Please include your name and email address when purchasing so we can send your raffle numbers.

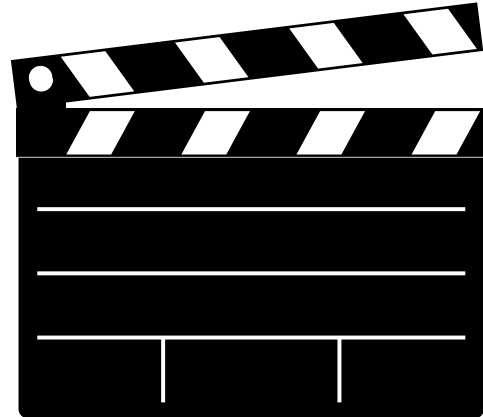
 There's still time to donate and help us reach our £6,000 fundraising target.

[Donate to United Road for Julia](#)

Thank you for helping to support such a wonderful cause in memory of Julia.

RESPECT FOR ALL BE HAPPY; BE SAFE WORKING WELL TOGETHER

TRY MY BEST; AIM HIGH EXPERIENCE DIFFERENT THINGS WANTING TO LEARN



A free online wellbeing session for parent carers



You're Doing Better Than You Think

Wednesday 16 September 2026

12.00pm - 1.30pm

Online

Do you ever...

- Focus on what you haven't managed to do?
- Feel guilty that you could be doing more?
- Forget to acknowledge everything you do each day?

You're not alone.

This supportive session will explore:

Self-compassion and why it matters
Challenging self-critical thoughts
Recognising your strengths and achievements
Understanding the resilience you show every day as a parent carer
Practical ways to be kinder to yourself

To find out more and book your place please visit
<https://derbyshireparentforums.co.uk/>

Understanding Child-to-Parent Abuse



A Free Online Session for Parent Carers

Date: Tuesday 15 September 2026

Time: 10am - 11am

Venue: Online

Derbyshire Parent Carer Voice is delighted to be working with PEGS, a specialist organisation that supports families affected by Child to Parent Abuse (CPA).

The Session Includes

- Understanding Child to Parent Abuse (CPA)
- How CPA can impact families
- Information about support available to families
- Learning more about PEGS and their services
- 15-minute Q&A session

For more information and to book your place please visit <https://derbyshireparentforums.co.uk/>

Understanding PDA Free Online Sessions for Parent Carers



Delivered by the PDA Society

Do you support a child or young person with a PDA (Pathological Demand Avoidance) profile? Join us for one of our informative and supportive online sessions to learn more about PDA and discover practical strategies to support your child.

Session 1

Understanding and Supporting Younger Children with PDA **Thursday 17 September 2026**
10.00am - 11.00am

Session 2

Understanding and Supporting Teenagers with PDA **Thursday 24 September 2026**, 10.00am - 11.00am

The Sessions Will Cover:

Understanding the PDA profile
Why everyday demands can trigger anxiety
Practical PDA-informed approaches and strategies
Further information and sources of support
Opportunity for questions and discussion

For more information and to book your place please visit <https://derbyshireparentforums.co.uk/>

Parent Carer Support Drop-In Sessions

Advice, information, support and a friendly welcome – all in one place

Upcoming Sessions

Date: Friday 18 September 2026

Time: 10.00am – 2.00pm

Venue: Chesterfield Football Club, The HUB, East stand, S418NZ.

Date: Friday 6 November 2026

Time: 10.00am – 2.00pm

Venue: Melandra Castle Rd, Gamesley, Glossop SK13 6UQ (Sports Hall)

Following the wonderful feedback, we received from parent carers attending our recent drop-in sessions, Derbyshire Parent Carer Voice is delighted to be bringing these events back for the new academic year.

These sessions provide a welcoming and informal space where parent carers of children and young people with SEND can access support, ask questions, gather information, and connect with both professionals and other parent carers.

Many parent carers told us how valuable it was to speak directly with services in a relaxed, non-judgemental environment, with one parent sharing:

"It was so helpful having everyone in one place. I left with information, reassurance and a clearer idea of where to go next."

Whether you're seeking advice about education, emotional wellbeing, neurodiversity, SEND processes, mental health support, or simply want a friendly chat over a cup of tea, we'd love to welcome you.

Support Available

Our aim is to bring together a range of services so that parent carers can access information, guidance and support all in one place.

At our sessions, you may have the opportunity to speak with representatives from:

- Derbyshire Educational Psychology Service
- Gary Saul Head of SEND for Derbyshire County Council
- Derbyshire Information, Advice and Support Service (DIASS)
- Neuro Hubs
- Compass Changing Lives
- CAMHS
- Inclusion Support Advisory Service (ISAS) Teachers
- Derbyshire Parent Carer Voice Trustees and Representatives

No appointments are needed to attend the drop-in itself—simply come along whenever suits you between 10am and 2pm.



Bookable Educational Psychology Conversations

We're delighted that Derbyshire Educational Psychology Service will once again be offering bookable 30-minute conversations for parent carers.

These one-off conversations provide an opportunity to:

- Talk through your experiences in a supportive, non-judgemental environment.
- Explore different ways of understanding a situation.
- Consider possible next steps together.
- Discuss concerns and questions with an experienced Educational Psychologist.

With your consent, an Educational Psychologist may also discuss your young person's situation with their linked school or setting where appropriate.

All conversations are confidential and nothing will be shared without your explicit consent.

Why Parent Carers Tell Us They Attend

To access several services in one place

To get answers to questions about SEND support

To understand what services are available and how to access them

To talk things through with professionals in a relaxed environment

To meet other parent carers who understand

To enjoy a cuppa and a friendly chat

Come Along for a Chat

Even if you'd just like to stop by, meet other parent carers and chat with Forum Trustees and Representatives, you'll be very warmly welcomed.

There's no pressure, no expectations and no judgement—just a friendly space where you can take things at your own pace.

Autumn 2026 Term Dates for Parents

(Subject to change)

September 2026		
Date	Event	Details
4 th	INSET DAY	
7 th	School reopens	
9 th	Year 4 Anglo Saxon workshop	
14 th & 15 th	British Values workshops	
16 th	Barn & Eagle House Captain/ Vice Captain elections	
17 th	Individual and sibling photos	Please can all children wear uniform- teachers will give details of PE for this week
17 th	Tawny House Captain/ Vice Captain elections	Year 6's wishing to stand, please prepare a speech detailing what you could bring to the role.
17 th	Friesland Open Evening	
18 th	Snowy House Captain/ Vice Captain elections	Year 6's wishing to stand, please prepare a speech detailing what you could bring to the role.
25 th	Jeans for Genes Day	Children to wear jeans but must wear school uniform on top. £1 cash donation welcomed
29 th	Parent Reading Workshop	3:30- 4:15pm in the school hall
30 th	Year 3 Stone Age workshop	Details of payment & booking to be send out via Arbor

October 2026		
1 st	Year 3&4 Film Night	Please see Arbor for booking details nearer the time
5 th	School Council trip to Houses of Parliament	Newly elected School Council
6 th	Year 5&6 Film Night	Please see Arbor for booking details nearer the time
8 th	School visit to Church for Harvest Festival	Children only- parent helpers welcome
8 th	Year 6 Parent Residential Meeting	3:20-4:15pm
14 th & 15 th	Parent's Evening	Booking details will be sent out via Arbor
16 th	Y5 Hampton Court trip	Please see details on Arbor
23 rd	Last day of term	
November 2026		
2 nd	INSET DAY	



3 rd	School reopens	
11 th - 13 th	Year 6 residential	
13 th	Children in Need	Non- school uniform day £1 donation welcomed
16 th	 Odd Socks Day	Children to wear odd socks (for Anti- Bullying week)

December 2026		
4 th	Non- school uniform day	Children wear non-school uniform in exchange for a donation to the Christmas Fayre tombola
8 th	Sawley Church visit (Christmas)	Children only- parent helpers welcome
10 th	Christmas Jumper Day	Donations to Save the Children
16 th	Book Bus Visit & Christmas Fayre	
18 th	Break up for Christmas!	

