

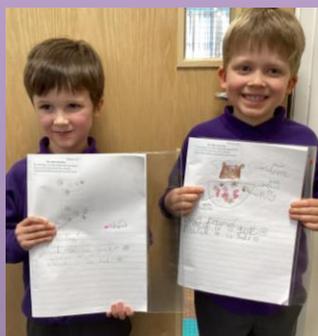
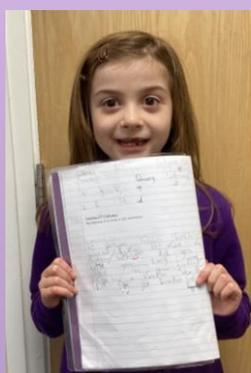
 We care
  We are brave
  We celebrate individuality
  We leave no one behind

A Message from Mrs Kee

Our assembly on Monday was about Food Waste Action Week (18th – 24th March). The children discovered some key facts about the impact of food waste. For example, did you know that every day the equivalent of 20 million slices of bread are thrown away in UK homes? This could have fed breakfast to 10 million people! The children were challenged to find out more about preventing food waste, such as only buying what you need and freezing left over food. We also talked about eating what is on their plate. Thanks to the children that researched and brought in a list of foods that can be safely frozen!



I have really enjoyed seeing some lovely work from children this week in maths, writing and art. The children talked about the strategies they used in maths and, in Year 2, the children were very excited about something that happened this week – more in the Newsletter! We were visited by our Curriculum-Link Governor who was delighted to look at some children’s sketch books with them, listening to them talk about their learning in art. Remember to think about food waste – encourage your child to eat what is on their plate! If yours are anything like mine, there will probably at least be the odd broccoli stem left though! *Mrs Kee*





Attendance

Whole school (this week)	96% 
Reception	95.57%
Year 1	95.39%
Year 2 	97.15%



Congratulations to **Kestrels (98.281%)**

for being the class with the highest attendance this week! Well done for your fantastic attendance this week.

Home Achievements



Lunchtime Awards



Merit Awards

Congratulations! These children have been awarded certificates for following our Golden Rules and demonstrating our school values.

Reception



Year 1



Year 2



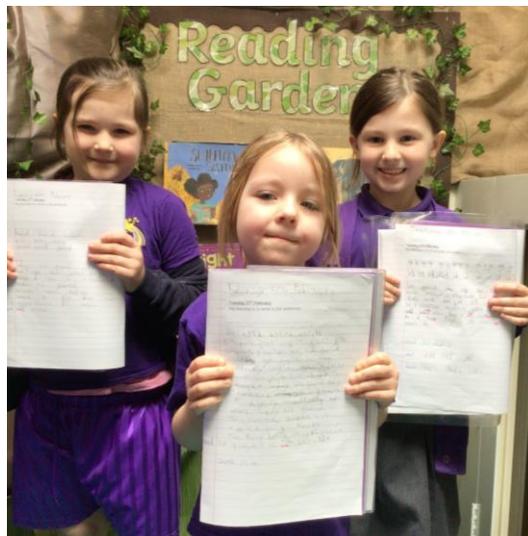
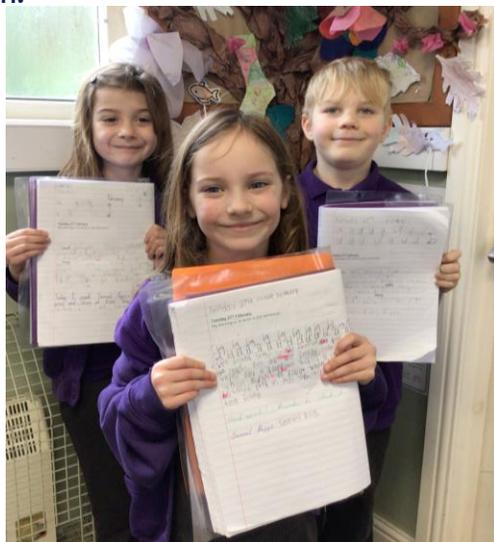


Lovely Learning in Year 2



The children in Year 2 have started learning about the Great Fire of London this week and are enjoying the learning unit so far.

On Tuesday, the Year 2 staff had a message saying that something had been found which was buried at the side of the playground. The children were extremely excited about this and went to investigate during their English lesson. Much to their amazement, they discovered an old diary, a red wine bottle and some very smelly cheese hidden in a box! After looking at the sources further, the children were delighted to find out that the items actually belonged to the famous diarist, Samuel Pepys! Back in class, the children wrote all about this and carried on reading Pepys' diary to learn more about the devastating fire which happened back in 1666 in London.





Love Food, Hate Waste

After learning about the impact of food waste in assembly, Mrs Kee challenged the children to find out and write a list of foods that can be frozen. Several children rose to the challenge! Did you know that all of these foods can be frozen - sausages, chops and most other raw meat, most fruit and vegetables (although you'll usually need to cook or blend them after freezing), leftovers such as rice, bread, milk (it will separate but is fine once defrosted), batch cooked meals (eg lasagne)?

Cake Shop

Cake shop is back on **Friday 15th March**.

We hope that lots of you can pop in for a hot drink and a cake. Please remember that they are only able to accept cash at the cake shop!



Edurio Parent Survey – Message from Mrs Kee

As a school, we pride ourselves on developing good relationships with our parents, families and our community. We have a wide range of communication channels and often verbally receive lots of positive praise from parents as well as parents sharing ideas for development.

We would really appreciate it if parents could take 15 minutes to complete the Edurio survey, which is now open. It is important for us to receive information from parents via the survey which will help us to celebrate and share successes and also identify areas for development or further improvement. As a Headteacher, I often receive verbal comments from parents about how happy they are with their child's experiences in school, the relationships staff take time to develop with their child and how their child talks positively about their learning. However, it would be lovely to have these comments shared in writing through the survey and these can be shared and celebrated with staff. In addition, we are open to suggestions and ideas from parents too.

Please click on the link to complete the survey: edurio.com/poll/gQa86Z

The survey closes on 15th March. Thank you for your continued support, Mrs Kee

Violet Way Academy Vacancies

Cleaning Supervisor

Adverts are available to view on [Wmjjobs](https://www.wmjjobs.com). The application pack and full details will also be available on the Trust website [Fierte Multi-Academy Trust- Vacancies](https://www.fierte.org)

([fierte.org](https://www.fierte.org)) Applicants should submit a completed application to hr@fierte.org





Curriculum-Link Governor Visit

On Thursday this week, we were visited by our Curriculum-Link Governor, Lucy Wileman. The focus of the visit was for her to gain a broader understanding of our whole curriculum through discussion with Mrs Kee and then a more in-depth delve into Art, with Mrs Draycott, the Art leader.



We are always happy to welcome Governors into school and appreciate the time they take out of their busy lives to offer support and challenge to leaders. During the visit, Lucy also met with children in Year 1 and Year 2, looking at books and listening to them talk about their learning in art so far this year. The children brought their art sketch books along with them to show their learning journey in art, from technique development to application.

Following the visit, Lucy commented:

Thank you both for your welcome and the time you have both spent with me today, talking through the curriculum and focussing on Art as a subject. I found it invaluable, bringing all the paperwork and meetings around the subject to life! It gave me a depth of understanding and appreciation around the curriculum that can only be found through these visits.

Mrs Draycott....your passion clearly shone through. You spoke so articulately and passionately about the school and children alongside the subject matter, it's clear how well Art is integrated into other subjects and from the book-look with the children it was evident the children brought forward other knowledge they'd gained from their recent project around castles.

The warmth and mutual respect between the children and teachers was evident and wonderful to witness. The children's behaviour was exemplary, they talked articulately around their work and confidently discussed what they enjoyed about the subject and the work that they were proud of. The children are a credit to both the staff at Violet Way and their families, please extend my thanks to the children I met today as without them, alongside the team, I wouldn't be able to proudly be a governor at Violet Way Academy.





Easter Egg Decorating



Thank you to these lovely children in Reception who helped the PTA to decorate a large egg for Rosliston Forestry Centre. There will be lots of eggs decorated by children in local school and displayed at the centre.

If you do visit, look out for our Violet Way egg!

Easter Bingo

Wednesday 20th March is the date for this year's Easter Bingo! Doors will open at 4.30pm, ready for 5pm start. Tickets will be available to purchase on ParentPay from Wednesday 6th March so make sure that you're quick before we sellout! Tickets will cost £1 per child and £2 per adult.

There will also be a non-school uniform day on the same day as the bingo itself when a chocolate Easter egg is brought into school as a donation. These will then be used as prizes in the evening. Any eggs can be brought into school from Tuesday 19th March though.

Thank you to the PTA for organising this and we look forward to seeing you there!





Gymnastics Competition

Some children that attend our after-school gymnastics club participated in a local gymnastics competition. They did really well and we are very proud of them – well done!





World Book Day – NEXT WEEK – 7th March!

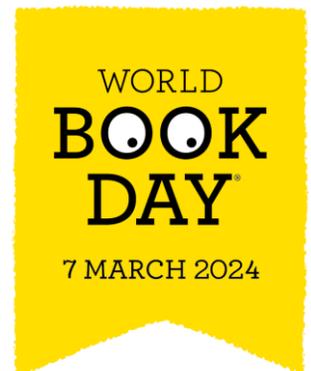
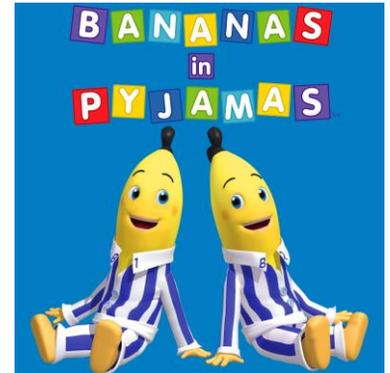
World Book Day is on **Thursday 7th March**. *Children can come to school dressed in their pyjamas or onesies for a special book-focused day!*

They will be starting the day with a 'bedtime story' in class and a little snack. During the day, the teaching staff will be swapping classrooms to read stories to other classes in school. On Wednesday and Thursday that week, the children's English lessons will be focused on performance poetry, and they will perform their class poem in assembly on Friday.

Also, until the end of the term there will be a special **'Guess the Book Character' competition** where you pick one book character and pay £1. This can be paid on ParentPay from today and you can choose the character with your child during the parent library sessions. Don't worry though if you cannot attend this because your child will be able to do this in class themselves. Staff will be given a copy of the ParentPay list. One child in each class will win a free book!

Parents can also access the World Book Day website [here](#) to find out more and access FREE audio books [here](#).

On Thursday, each child will receive a World Book Day token. You can use this voucher at participating booksellers to receive £1 off a book, or audiobook, over £2.99 or more, or a FREE book! There are a few titles to choose from and there is a link to these below. Make sure you don't leave it too long though as the books are in limited supply! [World Book Day free books](#)





Mother's Day Stay and Play – 11th March

Mother's Day, or Mothering Sunday, is a day to honour mothers, mother figures or special women in our lives, such as, grandmothers, stepmothers, aunts, teachers or family friends. Many people make a special effort to say thank you. They might take cards and gifts to her or just take time to look after her, doing jobs so she can relax on Mother's Day.



To honour the special women in our children's lives, we are holding a Mother's Day play and stay morning at school. Each year group have planned a range of activities for you to enjoy with your child on Monday 11th March. Each class has planned a range of activities, including decorating a biscuit!

Please see the details below for your child's year group:

Year group: Reception

Time: 9:00am – 10:00am

Logistics: Please arrive at school at the usual time, go through the green gates and wait outside your child's classroom. You will be asked to sign in. After the play and stay session, please leave via the main school entrance.

Year group: Year 1

Time: 10:00am-11:00am

Logistics: Please go to the green gates, where Mr Bill will let you in. Head straight to your child's classroom. You will be asked to sign in. After the play and stay session, please leave via the main school entrance.

Year group: Year 2

Time: 11:00am-12:00pm

Logistics: Please go to the green gates, where Mr Bill will let you in. Head straight to your child's classroom. You will be asked to sign in. After the play and stay session, please leave via the main school entrance.

Please note that we are aware that some parents and carers may have some worries about Mother's Day, dependent on family circumstances. Please talk to your child's class teacher if you have concerns.





Curriculum in Focus – PE - Gymnastics



We developed our curriculum last year working with a gymnastic specialist and it has been great to see our curriculum in action!

Comic Relief - Red Nose Day

Comic Relief day is on Friday 15th March. On this day, children can come to school wearing red clothes and parents can pay a donation to Comic Relief via Parent Pay. All of the money donated goes to the Comic Relief charity.

Here is the link to for your donations: <https://app.parentpay.com/ParentPayShop/Foc/Default.aspx?shopid=13667>

World Down Syndrome Day

World Down Syndrome Day is on Thursday 21st March. On this day, children should wear odd socks to celebrate individuality. We enjoy wearing odd socks to show that we are all different – this links closely to our school value ‘We celebrate individuality’.





Library and Forest School Dates

Parent Library Mornings – Spring Term

Parents are invited to join their child, every three weeks for a parent library session. Gates will open 5 minutes earlier (at 8:40am) for the class whose library session it is. Reception sessions are on Tuesdays (start after the October half term). Year 2 sessions are on Wednesdays and Year 1 sessions are on Thursdays. Please see dates below for your child's parent library session.

Reception - Tuesdays

Foxes	16/1	6/2	5/3
Squirrels	23/1	20/2	12/3
Badgers	30/1	27/2	19/3

Year 1 - Thursdays

Dragonflies	18/1	8/2	7/3
Ladybirds	25/1	22/2	14/3
Busy Bees	1/2	29/2	21/3

Year 2 – Wednesdays

Kestrels	17/1	7/2	6/3
Owls	24/1	21/2	13/3
Woodpeckers	31/1	28/2	20/3

Forest School Sessions – Spring Term

Week 1:

Monday – Dragonflies

Tuesday – Owls

Wednesday - Badgers

Thursday – Kestrels

Friday – Foxes

These class will have Forest School Afternoons on the days above during the following weeks:

15/1 29/1 19/2 4/3 18/3

Week 2:

Monday – Ladybirds

Tuesday – Woodpeckers

Thursday – Squirrels

Friday – Busy Bees

These class will have Forest School Afternoons on the days above during the following weeks:

8/1 22/1 5/2 26/2 11/3





Dates for your diary

Staffordshire Term Dates 2023-2024

Autumn Term 2023

Inset day: Monday 4 September

Term starts: Tuesday 5 September

Half term Holiday: Monday 30 October - Friday 3 November

Term ends: Friday 22 December

Holiday: Monday 25 December - Friday 5 January

Spring Term 2024

Term Starts: Monday 8 January

Half term Holiday: Monday 12 February – Friday 16 February

Term Ends: Friday 22 March

Holiday: Monday 25 March – Friday 5 April

Easter Sunday: Sunday 31 March

Summer Term 2024

Term Starts: Monday 8 April

May Day: Monday 6 May

Half term Holiday: Monday 27 May – Friday 31 May

Term Ends: Friday 19th July

Holiday: Monday 22nd July – Friday 30 August

Please also make a note of our planned INSET days

for next academic year at Violet Way:

Violet Way Inset Days

Monday 4th September 2023

Friday 20th October 2023

Monday 8th January 2024

Friday 21st June 2024

Monday 22nd July (disaggregated)



What's Coming Up?

Toddler Morning – Every Tuesday morning 9:00am-10:30am, £2 per family

Reception & Year 1 Animal Experiences – Tuesday 5th March

World Book Day- Thursday 7th March - *Further information is above.*

Mother's Day Stay and Play sessions - Monday 11th March - see times below:

Reception – 9:00-10:00am

Year 1 10:00-11:00am

Year 2 – 11:00am-12:pm

Red Nose Day- Friday 15th March

Easter Bingo & Non-School Uniform Day – Wednesday 20th March – Bingo from 5 – 7pm – doors will open at 4.30pm. *Further information is above.*

World Down Syndrome Day – 21st March – Wear odd socks to celebrate individuality.

Easter Egg Hunt – Thursday 21st March

End of Term - Friday 22nd March

Summer Term starts – 8th April

Class Photographs – Wednesday 10th April

Year 2 Twycross Zoo Trip – Wednesday 17th April

Reception Disco – 5 – 6pm – *More details to follow!*

Year 2 Laches Wood Trip – Wednesday 8th May

Parent Forest School Sessions - w/c 13th May and 20th May. *More details to follow!*

Year 1 Victorian Day – Friday 10th May

Reception Conkers Trip – Thursday 16th May

