

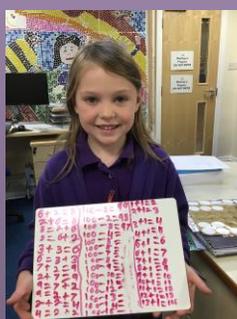
A Message from Mrs Kee

A warm welcome back after the holiday to all our families. I hope you had a lovely half term holiday. Apologies that I was unable to be on the gate on the first morning and Friday this week. Unfortunately, I had to attend the hospital for appointments that could not be arranged out of school time.

The first week back after the half term holiday has been busy and I have enjoyed visiting all the classes across school to observe the learning in action. This week I have had the pleasure of watching children in Reception during their PE lesson and was impressed with how well they were moving around the hall, developing their jumping and hopping skills. The children in Year 1 were using their phonic knowledge to write words with 'Set 2' sounds. One child showed me the word queen and excitedly told me how she had remembered to write the 'ee' sound! In Year 2, I was fortunate enough to teach two PE lessons this week with a focus on learning the correct technique when jumping and hopping forward and diagonally over cones. The children watched each other closely, identifying when good technique, such as bending the knees, was used.

This week, we have sent out a letter about parking and our new 'Parking Buddies' will be making their debut appearance next week! Walking is great exercise and good for our well-being. Please walk to school as many days as you can and, if you have to drive, please park away from the school and then walk the rest of the way.

For those families celebrating Diwali and Bonfire night this week, I hope you have a wonderful time. Remember to wrap up warm and stay safe. This week's newsletter includes some information about Diwali and Bonfire night, with some weblinks for you to click on to find out more. See you next week, *Mrs Kee*





Attendance

Whole School (this week)	94.85%
Reception	96.36%
Year 1	94.75%
Year 2	93.45%



Congratulations to **Kestrels**

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

Make sure your child attends school every day so that they get the most from their education.



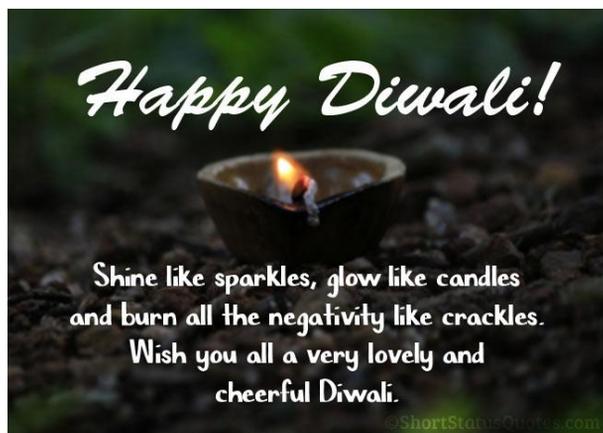
Merit Awards

Congratulations to our Merit Award winners this week!





Happy Diwali



You can find out more about Diwali, by clicking [here](#).

The word Diwali means 'rows of lighted lamps'. Diwali is known as the 'festival of lights' because houses, shops and public places are decorated with small oil lamps called 'diyas'. This year, Diwali was on Thursday 4 November.

For any of our families that celebrated Diwali yesterday or are looking forward to celebrating this weekend, we hope you have a lovely time and wish you a very Happy Diwali.

Remember, Remember 5th November

What is Bonfire Night?

On 5 November, people across the UK celebrate Bonfire Night with fireworks, bonfires, sparklers and toffee apples. It's the anniversary of a failed attempt to blow up the Houses of Parliament, which was called the Gunpowder Plot. When we light bonfires to remember this event, traditionally there would be a dummy man on the top. It is called the 'Guy' and represents a man who was part of the plot, called Guy Fawkes.

If you are celebrating, we hope you have a wonderful time. Wrap up warm and stay safe. You can find out some top tips for staying safe on bonfire night by clicking on the link below.

[Top tips for staying safe on Bonfire Night](#)





Flu immunisations

The Flu Immunisation Team will soon be coming to Violet Way for our whole school children's nasal spray flu immunisations on Wednesday 1st December. In advance of this, they require parents to fill out a consent form. Unfortunately, we have been informed that the link and code they have provided us with are not working. Miss Evans is contacting them to get a link that works and will share that with you as soon as possible. The deadline for completing the form will be **9:00am on 29th November 2021**.

This vaccination is delivered by a nasal spray and recommended to help protect your child against flu. Vaccinating your child will also help protect more vulnerable family and friends by preventing the spread of flu. With COVID-19 still in circulation, it is important to reduce the number of those becoming ill with flu this winter to help protect them, the NHS and social care. This vaccination is free and is a quick and simple spray up the nose. Even if your child had it last year, it is recommended to have the flu vaccine again this year. For further information please click on the following links:

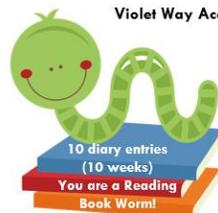
- www.mpft.nhs.uk/services/school-age-immunisation
- www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/child-flu-vaccine/

Reading Rewards

Reading at home enables children to practice their phonics, blending the sounds together to read each word, develop fluency, expression and comprehension and just enjoy reading for the pleasure it brings. Often parents can worry that their child has read their home reading book and should read another, but research shows that re-reading the same books over and over again supports the development of children's reading fluency. For further information please visit the [Home Reading section of our school website](#).

At Violet Way, we have a reading reward system in place, linked to the number of times children read at home. Parents complete the reading log / reading diary for their child on Marvellous Me and there are prizes for three stages (see opposite).

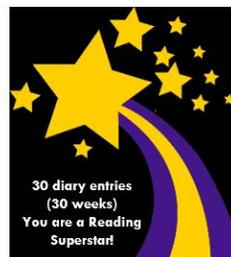
Violet Way Academy Reading Rewards



Congratulations!
You have earned a bookmark – to save the place when you are reading.



Congratulations!
You have earned a special pencil – for writing your own stories!



Congratulations!
You have earned a book – which one will you choose?

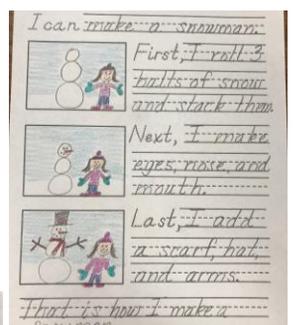
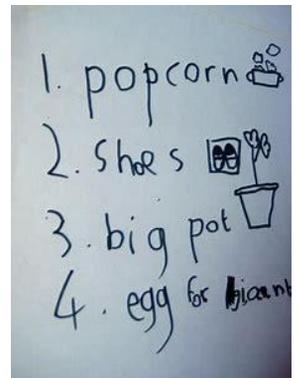




Celebrating Writing at Home

We encourage children to read regularly at home and we rewards are linked to the number of reading log entries that children have (parents complete through our Marvellous Me app). One part of Mrs Williams' role is leading writing across the school, and she would like to introduce our celebration of writing display. We want to encourage the children to write at home and share this with us, celebrating their writing achievements. If your child does some amazing writing at home, you could send it into school with your child to share with Mrs Williams or take a photo of your child with the writing itself and email in to Mrs Williams k.williams@violetway.org Photos and work will be displayed on a display board in the hall so that we can celebrate their wonderful writing with everyone. Below are some ideas of writing your child might enjoy doing at home:

- ✓ Use your phonic knowledge to write the correct letter formation or words
- ✓ Write your name
- ✓ Write a shopping list or a list to Santa
- ✓ Write a birthday card, Diwali card, Christmas card, Eid card to someone
- ✓ Write labels for a picture
- ✓ Draw a picture and write a sentence next to it
- ✓ Write a postcard
- ✓ Write some fun facts about something you have been learning
- ✓ Write a letter
- ✓ Write an email
- ✓ Write instructions how to make something
- ✓ Write a recipe
- ✓ Write a story
- ✓ Writing doesn't have to be on paper it can be outside in sand, with chalk, water, flour, foam or playdoh to write and make letters too!





Dates for your diary

Staffordshire Term Dates 2021-22

Autumn Term 2021

Inset day: Wednesday 1 September

Term Starts: Thursday 2 September

Half Term: Monday 25 October – Friday 29 October

Term ends: Friday 17 December

Holiday: Monday 20 December – Monday 3 January

Spring Term 2022

Inset day: Tuesday 4 January

Term Starts: Wednesday 5 January

Half Term: Monday 21 February – Friday 25 February

Term ends: Thursday 7 April

Inset day: Friday 8 April

Holiday: Monday 11 April – Friday 22 April

Easter Sunday: Sunday 17 April

Summer Term 2022

Term starts: Monday 25 April

May Day: Monday 2 May

Half Term: Monday 30 May – Friday 3 June

Term ends: Wednesday 20 July

Holiday: Thursday 21 July – Friday 2 September

Violet Way Inset Days

Wednesday 1st September

Friday 22nd October

Tuesday 4th January

Friday 8th April

Monday 6th June (School closed for Queen's Jubilee)

Monday 20th June

What's Coming Up?

Reception 2022 Admissions – school tours – 4:00pm on Monday 8th November, Tuesday 9th November, Wednesday 16th November

Anti-Bullying Week Theme: One Kind Word – week commencing Monday 15th November

Odd Socks day celebrating individuality and uniqueness – Monday 15th November

Children in Need - Friday 19th November – Wear yellow or spots or both! Pay £1.00 by Parent pay, which will be donated to Children in Need

Speak Out Stay Safe (NSPCC) – YR, Y1, Y2 – week commencing 22nd November

Flu immunisations – Wednesday 1st December

Reception Christmas performances (x3) Times TBC – Tuesday 7th December

Year 1 Christmas performances (x3) Times TBC – Wednesday 8th December

Christmas Jumper Day and Christmas Dinner Day (plus a very special visitor!) - Thursday 9th December– Wear your Christmas jumper (or a red, green, or sparkly jumper for example). Pay £1.00 to support Save the Children

Christmas Carol Concert - at St Peter's Church – week commencing 13th December

