

A Message from Mrs Kee

What an excellent start to the week we had on Monday at St. Peter's Church for our Christmas Carol Concert. The children in Year 1 and Year 2 behaved impeccably and performed so beautifully. Thank you to the parents that were able to help with the walk to the church, your support is much appreciated. We also received messages of thanks from parents and have passed these on to the staff during our briefing this week. Unfortunately, with all the excitement, I forgot to take my iPad to get some pictures! Thankfully, I have managed to capture lots of other lovely moments from this week for the newsletter.

This week I have seen some fabulous work from pupils around school and I have also been hearing about children's kindness on the playground. One girl told me today about the kindness she had received from one of her peers, "I was on my own and she came up to me and asked if I wanted to play." I hope everyone spreads a little kindness this Christmas.

Congratulations to Squirrels, Ladybirds and Kestrels classes, who were the classes with the best attendance this term in their year groups and received their certificate in assembly today. Busy Bees managed to knock Kestrels off the top spot and are the class with the highest attendance this week. Well done! They will get to look after our attendance bunny, Violet, the first week back after the holiday.

The Newsletter this week is quite a long one! There are lots of lovely photographs of events from this week as well as some important information pages and some key dates for the Spring Term.

It has been a wonderful first term at Violet Way. I would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Have a restful holiday, see you all in January, *Mrs Kee*





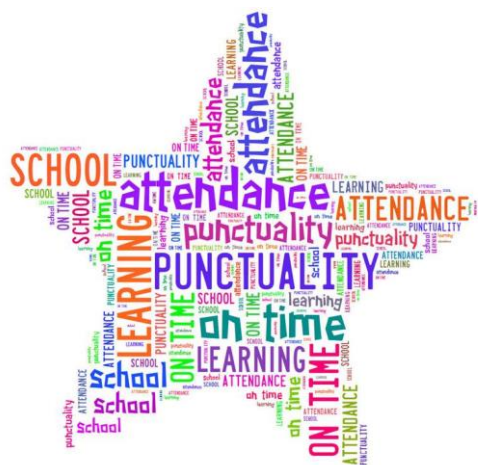
Attendance

Whole School (this week)	91.43%
Reception	86.31%
Year 1	93.86%
Year 2	94.15%

Congratulations to
Busy Bees

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

**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!





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What did Santa say when he went to the theatre?

“Oh, I love a good Pantho ho ho ho!”

Oh no he didn't!

Oh yes he did!





Congratulations!

Year group attendance winners!

The classes with the highest attendance this term were Squirrels, Ladybirds and Kestrels – Well done!



Marvellous Me Thumbs Up points



Children across the school have worked really hard to earn Thumbs Up points on Marvellous Me this half term. They have received Marvellous Me badges, prizes from the class prize box and prizes from the Headteacher Prize box.

A few children reached the top target and earned a special treat – Hot chocolate and treats with the Headteacher. Well done!





Covid-19 Update

Information about daily Lateral Flow Device (LFD) testing was shared this week with all parents. From Tuesday 14 December, people who are fully vaccinated and identified as a contact of someone with COVID-19 – whether Omicron or not – should take an NHS rapid lateral flow test every day for 7 days to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

Daily rapid testing applies to all contacts who are:

- fully vaccinated adults – people who have had 2 jabs
- all children aged 5 to 18 years and 6 months, regardless of their vaccination status
- people who can prove they are unable to be vaccinated for clinical reasons
- people taking part, or have taken part, in an approved clinical trial for a COVID-19 vaccine

Under 5s are exempt from self-isolation and do not need to take part in daily rapid lateral flow testing. Please see the Government website for further information: [Daily rapid testing for COVID-19 contacts launches this week - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/daily-rapid-testing-for-covid-19-contacts-launches-this-week) We will continue to monitor the situation and keep you informed of any changes.

Smoking

At Violet Way Academy, we value the health and welfare of all within our community as a key priority. We believe that a healthy and safe environment is important in terms of physical well-being and is also a vital factor in promoting positive emotional health. It is important to us, that our policy and approach to smoking and the use of e-cigarettes (vaping) should reflect changing social attitudes, and actively reflect and support our goals for effective and lasting drugs education.

Our no-smoking policy clearly applies to the school building and site, but we are also aware of children walking to school that may be passing through smoke each day on the way to school if parents are smoking outside the school gates and the entrance to the school site. We are concerned about the health issues that second-hand smoke might cause. While second-hand smoke - which is when you breathe in smoke from cigarettes, but don't smoke directly - is not nearly as dangerous as smoking itself, it can still be damaging to breathe in, in a similar way to pollution. Also, if parents and carers aren't smoking outside school gates, it sets a positive example to our children and young people. By stopping smoking near school gates, it helps to make smoking invisible to children and reduces their chance of trying it for themselves. We hope all parents will support us with this aim.





Reminders for the New Year

VIOLET WAY UNIFORM

We believe it is important for children to wear school uniform because it looks smart, wears well and fosters a sense of belonging and pride. Our school uniform consists of:

- ✓ Violet Way polo shirt
- ✓ Violet Way cardigan or jumper
- ✓ Grey skirt, shorts, trousers
- ✓ Grey dress or violet check summer dress
- ✓ Black shoes



ALL children's clothing and footwear **MUST** be clearly labelled with your child's name.

Our PE uniform consists of:

- ✓ Violet Way polo shirt and shorts
- ✓ Black pumps

All PE should be kept in a drawstring bag clearly labelled with your child's name.

All children should have a pair of wellies, labelled with their name, to keep in school for Forest School. On your child's Forest School day, they need to wear their school uniform top and jumper or cardigan with long trousers, leggings or joggers.

Jewellery should not be worn, other than small stud earrings (if children have pierced ears) and a watch. Children should not wear nail varnish to school.

SNACKS

Please ensure that only healthy snacks are sent into school. Chocolate and crisps should NOT be brought into school for snacks – these should be saved for home. In school, suitable snacks are pieces of fruit, vegetable sticks, bread sticks, crackers, malt loaf, cereal bars (NO nuts or sugary/chocolate bars), string cheese, yogurt tube, rice cakes.

SPRING TERM

We have a Trust INSET day on Tuesday 4th January. Children return to school in the New Year on Wednesday 5th January.





Attendance

Parents received their child's attendance summary for the term this week. Please be aware that the sessions are am/pm so 10 sessions would be equal to 5 days absence. We have to use Government coding and, although children have to isolate if they have Covid, this is recorded as absence using the Government coding system. Covid does impact on attendance and so we all need to ensure that children are attending school everyday when they are well. There is a strong negative link between absence and attainment so good attendance is really important. Thank you to parents that have ensured that children continue to complete their learning remote where necessary. Currently as a school our overall attendance for the term is 91.43%. which is actually better than the current national average. Thank you to parents for working with us as a school to follow guidance and keep Covid rates as low as possible.

Swimming in Year 1

Ladybirds will be going swimming this term (a letter will be sent out to the Ladybirds class in the first week back with the details). The swimming lessons will be on Tuesdays and the first lesson will be on Tuesday 11th January.

Library Mornings

We will need to monitor the Covid situation and the guidance and rules determined by the Government in January. If it is still possible for us to continue with our library sessions, the following dates have been set for the Spring Term:

Year 2 Monday Sessions Spring Term:

Kestrels	10/1	31/1	28/2	21/3
Owls	17/1	7/2	7/3	28/3
Woodpeckers	24/1	14/2	14/3	4/4

Year R Tuesday Sessions Spring Term:

Foxes	11/1	1/2	1/3	22/3
Squirrels	18/1	8/2	8/3	29/3
Badgers	25/1	15/2	15/3	5/4

Year 1 Thursday Sessions Spring Term:

Dragonflies	13/1	3/2	3/3	24/3
Busy Bees	20/1	10/2	10/3	31/3
Ladybirds	27/1	17/2	17/3	7/4





Forest Schools Spring Term

In the Spring Term classes will have their Forest school sessions on the following days on the following weeks:

Week Beginning: 10th January, 24th January, 7th February, 28th February, 14th March, 28th March

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Foxes	Owls	Woodpeckers	Dragonflies	Busy Bees

Week Beginning: 17th January, 31st January, 14th February, 7th March, 21st March, 4th April

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Badgers	Kestrels	Ladybirds	Squirrels	-

Please make sure children have wellies in school that fit and bring coats or waterproofs, hats, scarf and gloves to wear. The children can come to school dressed in suitable outdoor trousers but they must wear their normal Violet Way polo shirt and jumper on top.

We would like to invite parents to attend Forest Schools sessions during the second half of the Spring Term. Parents can join the sessions from 2pm on these days and will take part in the Forest School sessions alongside their child.

Dates for these parent sessions are:

Monday 7th March	Tuesday 8th March	Wednesday 9th March	Thursday 10th March
Badgers	Kestrels	Ladybirds	Squirrels

Monday 14th March	Tuesday 15th March	Wednesday 16th March	Thursday 17th March	Friday 18th March
Foxes	Owls	Woodpeckers	Dragonflies	Busy Bees





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?

End of Term – Friday 17th December

INSET – Tuesday 4th January

Children return for Spring Term - Wednesday 5th January

Reception visits to Wing Wah – Week commencing 31st January

Children's Mental Health Week – Week commencing 7th February

Safer Internet day - Tuesday 8th February

Parent online safety workshop – Tuesday 8th February at 2:15pm

Parent Meetings – Monday 28th February, Tuesday 1st March

World book day – Thursday 3rd March

World book dress up assembly - Friday 4th March

Parent Forest School Sessions from 2pm on the following days:

Badgers – Monday 7th March

Kestrels – Tuesday 8th March

Ladybirds – Wednesday 9th March

Squirrels – Thursday 10th March

Foxes – Monday 14th March

Owls – Tuesday 15th March

Woodpeckers – Wednesday 16th March

Dragonflies – Thursday 17th March

Busy Bees – Friday 18th March

