

A Message from Mrs Kee

Our assembly focus this week was all about persevering in the face of challenge. The children listened to a story about a child who had to take a long journey to help his family. He came across many difficulties on the way, but his inner voice told him "I can do it, I can do it!" The children rehearsed saying these words to themselves and we continue to encourage them to keep trying even when things are difficult or challenging. We also watched a short video clip about persevering to achieve your goals that you might want to watch together at home: [Never give up on your dreams short movie](#)

I was so excited to hear that one of our Y1 children had been so inspired by the book 'Stickman' by Julia Donaldson, that she went for a walk, collected lots of sticks and then creatively designed her very own stickman. Thank you for sharing! We have also had more children sharing their writing at home with Mrs Williams and their work has been added to the board. Keep them coming!

This week I have been talking to the children about reading. As a school, we recognise the importance of listening to pupils in order to inform our decisions. The children were able to talk about their reading books and library books, their favourite stories, their enjoyment of story time in class and their experiences of home reading. They also came up with some great suggestions for improving reading further at VWA, including raising money to buy more books. Reading is so important. In the DfE document [The Reading Framework](#), they identify that "Fluency of reading is also a key indicator for future success in further education, higher education and employment." I support this view and, when I started at Violet Way, I immediately recognised that the library needed a complete revamp. After trying to source funding, the PTA have happily agreed to support the project. The room has now been painted (thanks Mr Bill!) and the order has been placed for shelving. Watch this space! Many thanks to the PTA for your support. Have a lovely weekend, *Mrs Kee*





Attendance

Whole School (this week)	92.86%
Reception	93.40%
Year 1	92.25%
Year 2	92.69%

Merit Award Winners



Congratulations to **Busy Bees**

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.





Covid Update

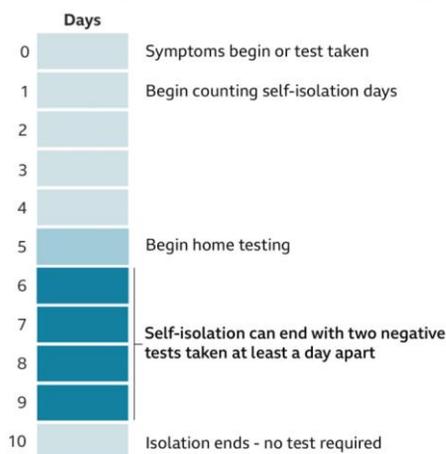
We have had a few cases of Covid in school and have asked any close contacts to LFD test daily, in line with Government guidance. As a result of us sending letters to parents requesting that they carry out LFD tests with children in close contact with a confirmed case, we have had a few more confirmed cases. Mrs Kee continues to communicate regularly with the Local Authority, who have informed us that this is to be expected because there will be children that do not present with symptoms. We currently have a few positive cases in some classes across the school and we continue to monitor the situation daily. There has not, at this point, been a spike in cases and the Local Authority have confirmed that we need to continue with our current measures, which includes:

- good hygiene practices, reviewed with children regularly
- ventilation (keeping windows open slightly to allow air flow)
- good cleaning routines
- systems in place for informing close contacts
- staff continue to LFD twice per week and daily if identified as a close contact
- anyone with symptoms to isolate straight away and get tested
- parental events postponed currently
- educational visitors asked to wear masks
- risk assessment in place

Following advice from the Local Authority, we will not have whole school assemblies in the hall. Children will have their Monday and Friday assemblies in year groups. Mrs Kee continues to regularly review the situation and will keep parents informed.

From Monday 17th January, self-isolation rules are changing again. The diagram opposite explains how it works. You begin isolation the day after symptoms or a positive test. You have to isolate for at least five full days. You can LFD test on day five and day 6 (24 hours apart) and if both tests are negative, you can finish isolating immediately. If the tests are positive days or when you have two negative tests 24 hours apart.

How five-day isolation rule works in England



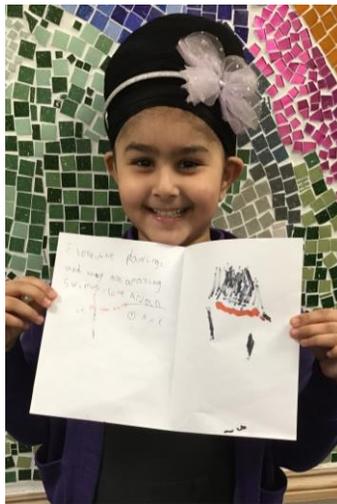
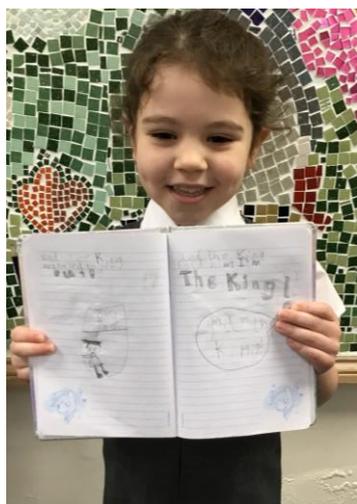
Source: NHS





Wonderful Writing!

We have had some more wonderful writing from home shared with Mrs Williams this week, including home-made story books and cards. Thank you for sharing! We have had lots of girls sharing their writing with us and we hope they continue to do so, but the challenge now is for the boys – come on show us what you've got! Remember there are lots of different reasons for writing. You could write a comic strip, make a list of favourite toys, create a crazy recipe...the list goes on! We can't wait to see some writing from home from our brilliant boys next week!



Reading – Pupil Voice

This week Mrs Kee has been asking some children from each class about their experiences of reading at home and at school. We have talked about their favourite books, story time and when they read at home. Mrs Kee also asked the children how we can make reading better at Violet Way – they came up with some excellent suggestions. Thank you to our pupils for inputting into school decision making – well done!

Home time collection

Just a reminder to all parents to let us know if someone different is going to collect your child. Please contact the office by phone or email before the end of the day.

If, for any reason, you need to collect your child earlier, for example for an appointment, please ensure that you inform the school office.





Local Music Competition

CALLING ALL MUSICAL INSTRUMENTALISTS

Brizlincote Parish Council invites you to take part in an Instrumentalist Competition. This competition is open for individual pupils. There will be 3 sections:-

- 5 years age to 10 years
- 11 years age to 16 years
- 17 years age and above

You can play any instrument and the piece you play will be your own choice. Your choice of music must last no more than 10 minutes.

Date: Saturday 5th March 2022, commencing at 12 noon

Venue: St.Peter's Church Stapenhill Burton upon Trent

If you choose to have an accompanist; you must supply your own. Download an application form from the

Brizlincote Parish Council website. **Expression of interest deadline is 18th January 2022**

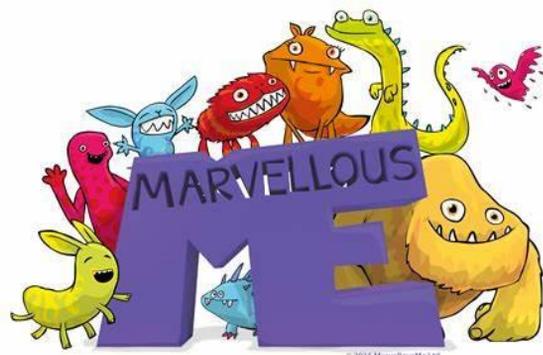
email: clerk@brizlincote-pc.org.uk



Parent Communication

Many thanks to parents for continuing to communicate effectively with school. We hope that our school communication with home is effective too. Through Marvellous Me, parents can email their child's class teacher directly as well as emailing the school office. We are always happy to receive communication from parents via email. We appreciate that parents lead very busy lives and may need to send emails during the evening

or night. This is absolutely fine but please be mindful that, for staff well-being, they are only expected to respond to parent communication during working hours. Teachers will always respond to emails from parents, but they may not be able to do so straight away.



We thank you for your understanding and continued support.





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?

Library sessions with parents – POSTPONED until w/c 31st January 2022

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

World book day – Thursday 3rd March

World book dress up assembly - Friday 4th March
(There will be a reading theme over these two days)

Food Waste Action Week – Week commencing 7th March

World Down's Syndrome day – Monday 21st March
– wear blue and yellow and donate £1.00

Mother's Day Play and Stay sessions – Friday 25th March

Year R - 9:00am

Year 1 - 10:00am

Year 2 - 11:00am

Easter Egg hunt in the Woodlands with the Easter Bunny – Thursday 7th April

