



A Message from Mrs Kee

I am delighted to be the newly appointed Headteacher at Violet Way Academy. Fortunately, I was able to visit the school fairly regularly in the summer term and this meant many of the children were already familiar with me. I am in the privileged position to be leading a team of extremely committed staff who, like me, have the children's best interest at the forefront of everything they do. Working collaboratively with staff, pupils, parents and Governors, I intend to build upon the academy's current success and foster further improvement.

Thank you for your warm welcome this week, it has been lovely to meet you and your children. At Violet Way, we focus on developing positive relationships with each of our families. I will be on the gate in the mornings to greet children and their parents, so please feel free to come and speak to me. To make an appointment, please contact the school office.

The children in Y1 and Y2 have settled in well over the last two days. They have impressed me with their excellent manners and conduct around school. Our Reception pupils have had a successful two days of transition. The EYFS team have really valued getting to know the Reception children and their parents through our key person meetings and play and stay session and it has been a pleasure for me to meet such a lovely, happy group of pupils soon to begin their school journey at Violet Way. We welcome you all and look forward to you starting school on Monday.

We will continue to provide a digital weekly newsletter to parents. I hope you have a lovely weekend. I look forward to seeing you all on Monday.

Mrs Kee





Vision and Values

A clear vision and values helps all pupils, staff, parents and governors understand where the school is heading, keeping everyone focused on the academy's core purpose. At Violet Way our vision aligns with Fierté Trust's vision: 'Inspiring All to Excellence'

Our Academy Vision:

At Violet Way Academy we want all of our pupils to '**Reach for the Stars**'. This means setting aspirational goals, persevering in the face of challenge and striving for excellence in all that they do.

Our Academy Values:

We care



We are brave



We celebrate individuality



We leave no one behind



Our values are the thread that drive excellence and create the culture in which we can all excel. We expect all members of our school community to work collaboratively with high aspirations and expectations of everyone, consistent with our values. We will be teaching children about our vision and values and supporting them to develop the character traits they need to be confident and successful, flourishing as individuals ready for the next stage of their education. We display our Vision and Values poster around school, talk to the children about what they are and what they mean to us, helping them to identify when they are behaving in line with our values. All of our assemblies have a value and character traits linked to the content we cover. [Visit our website for further information.](#)

Violet Way Academy Five Golden Rules



We will listen to and show respect to ALL in school.



We will have kind hands, kind feet and kind words to all.



We will walk sensibly and quietly around school showing politeness to others.



We will be determined to be the best learners and the best friends we can be.



We will care for our classroom, our school and our local community.

All children will be taught our five **Golden Rules**, which are linked to our school vision, values and associated character traits. Our curriculum will promote good learning behaviours and children will receive positive praise and rewards linked to our school values and our five golden rules.

We excited for parents to download the Marvellous Me app so that we can start sharing the 'learning postcards' and 'badges'



your child will be earning through MarvellousMe in school. 70% of parents have already signed up – Thank you! It is easy to get started, just download the app and use the parent code we provided you with to access your child's account. Can't find the code? Speak to your child's class teacher. The app will allow you to find out how your child is getting on in school and be a platform for sharing messages with parents. Our intention is to be able to move to one main communication app.





COVID-19 Update for parents

Following the Government's implementation of 'Step 4' there has been a move away from the stringent restrictions on everyone's day-to-day lives, towards advising people on how to protect themselves and others.

At Violet Way Academy, we are following the Schools' Covid Operational Guidance, which has been informed by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and Public Health England (PHE). The Government has advised that, as COVID-19 becomes a virus that we learn to live with, there is now an imperative to reduce the disruption to children and young people's education - particularly given that the direct clinical risks to children are extremely low, and every adult has been offered a first vaccine and the opportunity for two doses by mid-September.

Our priority is to deliver face-to-face, high-quality education to all pupils. The evidence is clear that being out of education causes significant harm to educational attainment, life chances, mental and physical health.

We have completed a comprehensive Covid risk assessment and an outbreak management plan (in the event of a localised outbreak) and continue to ensure staff and pupils follow good hygiene routines, washing their hands regularly with soap and water and/or hand sanitiser.



The NHS states that the main symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

- a high temperature**
- a new, continuous cough**
- a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste**



If your child has any of these symptoms, they will need to self-isolate and get a PCR test - please keep school informed. Track and trace are responsible for all contact tracing and advising next steps. You should follow public health advice. The self-isolation rules have changed. If someone you live with has had symptoms, or you are a close contact of someone with symptoms, you do not need to self-isolate if any of the following apply:

- ✓ you're fully vaccinated – this means 14 days have passed since your final dose of a COVID-19 vaccine given by the NHS
- ✓ you're under 18 years, 6 months old
- ✓ you're taking part or have taken part in a COVID-19 vaccine trial
- ✓ you're not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

If any children must self-isolate, they will be provided with remote learning, if they are well enough.





PE Lessons

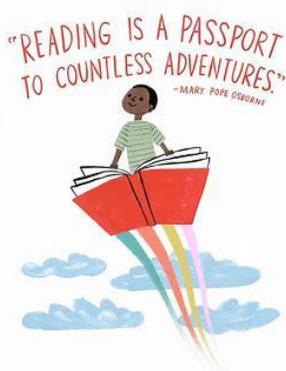
PE lessons are scheduled to start next week. Children need to bring their PE into school and leave it in school. They will get changed in school for their PE lessons.

Each class in Year 1 has a term of swimming lessons at Green Bank Leisure Centre. The first class to go swimming will be **Dragonflies**. Lessons will be on Tuesdays. Mr Bill will drive the children to the leisure centre in the mini-bus. The first lesson for Dragonflies will be on Tuesday 14th September. Mrs Williams has posted some information and Miss Evans will be sending a letter out soon.



Library

At Violet Way, we are currently re-designing the library to make it a more inviting space for children to sit down and enjoy reading a good book. We are awaiting the designs and are excited to see how they turn out. We intend to use the library for class story times and library sessions with parents.



Coffee and Cake Afternoon

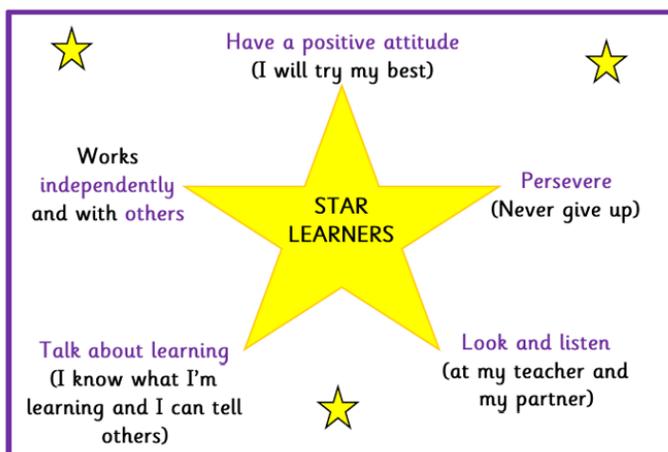
The kitchen team will be organising a half-termly bake sale, where parents can come along in the afternoon, buy some coffee or tea and a cake and give yourself some 'me-time'! Mrs Kee will be attending these afternoons so you can come along to talk with her about what is working well at school and what could be improved further, or just to have a chat about the weather!

The dates and times of our coffee and cake afternoons will be shared in next week's newsletter and added to the website calendar soon.

Star Learner

Teachers will be continuing to recognise 'Star Learners' in lessons. The teachers will be talking to the children about what it means to be a star learner and how this aligns to our school values.

As well as receiving recognition in school, parents will be notified via Marvellous Me when their child receives special awards so that we can all celebrate their achievements together.





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

Monday 20th June

What's Coming Up?

Curriculum Morning (Reading focus) – Year 1 and Year 2 – Thursday 16th September

Harvest Assemblies – YR, Y1, Y2 – Thursday 14th October (please send in non-perishable food donations for the food bank into school from Monday 11th October)

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

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

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

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

Mrs Williams has created some information sheets for each year group for the Autumn term which the children will be bringing home today.

