

## A Message from Mrs Kee

I hope all members of our school community managed to have a good rest over the Christmas period. Happy New Year to you all. Although often enjoyable, I recognise that the holiday can be a difficult and stressful time! Please do not hesitate to get in touch at any time of the year if you need support. We are here to help and support our school community and if we don't have the answer, we can signpost you to other services that can help.

The children have been excited to come back to school and have quickly settled back into their routines. It was lovely to hear about a child in Year 2 who had her hair cut, donating it to the Princess Trust who make wigs with real hair for children experiencing the devastating effects of hair loss. What a selfless act of kindness, demonstrating our school value 'We care'.



In the assembly today, I was delighted to see the children looking so smart in their uniforms. We talked about how proud we are of being part of the Violet Way family. The PSHE focus this half term is 'Dreams and Goals', which links to our value 'We are brave' because it is about persevering in the face of challenge to reach our goals and achieve. As part of their class assembly, the children watched a short, poignant video about a girl persevering in the face of challenge. You might want to watch it at home together: [Never give up on your dreams short movie- on youtube - YouTube](#) Perhaps you could take a few moments this weekend to talk to your child about time where you persevered to achieve a goal and encourage them to consider their own dreams and goals.

I look forward to seeing you all next week, *Mrs Kee*





## Attendance

Whole school (this week)	97.67%
Reception	95.51%
Year 1	99.05%
Year 2	98.48%

We are in the green this week – well done!

Congratulations to **Dragonflies and Ladybirds** for being the classes with the highest attendance this week, both with **100%** attendance! Well done!

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

## Home Achievements

We had a gymnastics award and karate award this week – well done!



## Merit Awards

Congratulations to our Merit Award winners!  
**Reception**



**Year 1**



**Year 2**





## Lovely Learning



Just a few pictures from our first couple of days back in school.





## Children's Eye Health

We know that, during lockdown, as a result of Covid, many non-urgent services were reduced, closed or it was difficult to get appointments. If you haven't done so already, it would be worth booking your child in for an eye test at the optician. In school, we will always inform parents if their child appears to be struggling to read from the Interactive Whiteboard, or is experiencing headaches or other signs, which could indicate they can't see clearly. It is important to seek advice from your GP or visit an optician if you have any concerns about your child's sight. Children often don't complain about their sight, but they may show signs of not being able to see clearly, such as:

- Sitting close to the TV
- Holding objects very close to their face
- Blinking a lot
- Rubbing their eyes

Children should have regular eye checks at the opticians, even if your child is not showing any of these signs.

**The following information is shared from the [Staffordshire Connects Website](#)**

Although serious vision problems during childhood are rare, routine eye checks are offered to newborn babies and young children to identify any problems early on.

**Free** NHS sight tests are available at opticians for children under 16 and for young people under 19 in full-time education.

Go to an optician if you have any concerns about your child's eyes or vision. The earlier a problem is picked up the better.

### **When will my child's eyes be checked?**

Children's eyes are checked a number of times throughout the first year, weeks and years of their lives. Parents are also asked if they have any concerns about their children's eyesight as part of their child's health and development review around 1 year and between 2-2 and half years. It is important that children around 4-5 years old are examined for Vision Screening. This can be done by an eye test at any high street optometrist.

### **Where can I find more information?**

Visit the NHS website for more information on eye tests for children and what tests may be carried out.





## Contact Details

### IMPORTANT NOTICE

It is imperative that parents/carers are contactable during the school day. If there was ever an emergency situation involving your child, we need be able to get in touch with you ASAP. Please ensure that the school office has up-to-date contact details for emergency contacts for your child. If your contact numbers have changed, please inform school straight away.

We also need to be informed of any changes to addresses following house moves.



If, for any reason, someone different needs to collect your child, please ensure that you call the school to inform us before the end of the day so that we can let the class teacher know.

## Rocket Readers

It has been great to see so many children bringing their completed reading rockets to show Mrs Kee and Mrs Williams. We have had some children earning a bookmark, after completing three rockets – well done!



## PTA Update

A big thank you to our lovely PTA for all their hard work before we broke up for the Christmas break! We had a few different fundraisers including, a Y1 disco, a Christmas Raffle and Letters from Santa! All these events help us to raise more funds for our PTA and we look forward to sharing with you how much in total we raised in the lead up to Christmas.

We can now confirm that our PTA Chair is Stacey Gaynor and our Vice-Chair is Michelle Jamieson. Our Secretary is Kelly Scarratt and our Events Co-Ordinator is Jess Standing. Plus, Katie Connell and Christina Cotterill are also PTA members. You can visit the PTA page on our website by clicking [here](#). Miss Evans is meeting with the PTA in a couple of weeks to discuss the fundraising events that we have planned for the Spring term, including a YR disco and our annual Easter Bingo!





## Mental health and Wellbeing

*“Mental health is a state of wellbeing in which every individual realises their own potential and can cope with the normal stresses of life, work proactively and fruitfully , and is able to contribute to their community” (World Health Organisation).*

Our curriculum, including PSHE and enrichment activities, support children’s mental health and wellbeing and we also want to provide support to our whole school community.

Parents can access a wealth of information online to support their own health and wellbeing and that of their children. However, sometimes there is so much out there it is difficult to know what to access. We are planning some wellbeing parent coffee mornings for this term and hope many of you will be able to attend. Below are just a few links that you may find useful:

### [Combined Wellbeing](#)

[Every Mind Matters - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

[Better Health - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

[Explore mental health](#)

[5 steps to mental wellbeing - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

[Place2Be: Parenting Smart: Articles](#)

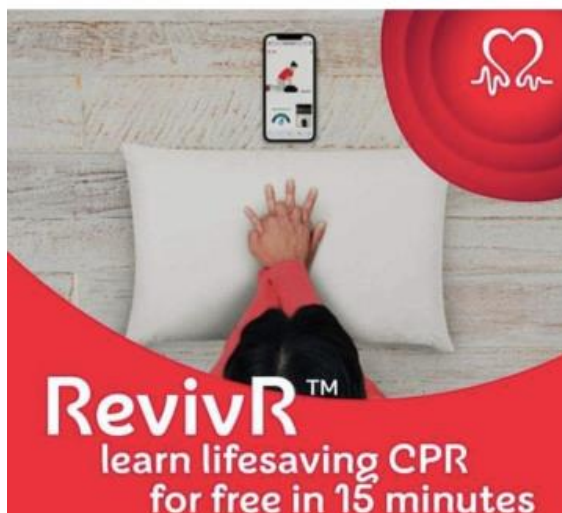
[Mental wellbeing - Mind](#)

CPR TRAINING - YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN YOU MIGHT NEED TO USE THIS!!!

Please take advantage of this free 15 minute

CPR training by using this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/bd zx559e>



## CPR training

Thank you to Mrs Taylor for sharing this information about CPR training offered by the Heart Foundation. The training is called ‘RevivR’.

Click on the link below for further information:

<https://tinyurl.com/bd zx559e>

### Learn the steps of CPR

RevivR is the 15-minute mobile training that shows you when and how to do CPR to save someone’s life. All you need to practise is a cushion.





# Forest School and Library Dates

## Parent Library Mornings Spring Term

### Year R Tuesday Sessions Spring Term:

<b>Foxes</b>	10/1	31/1	28/2	21/3
<b>Squirrels</b>	17/1	7/2	7/3	28/3
<b>Badgers</b>	24/1	14/2	14/3	-

### Year 2 Wednesday Sessions Spring Term:

<b>Kestrels</b>	11/1	1/2	1/3	22/3
<b>Owls</b>	18/1	8/2	8/3	29/3
<b>Woodpeckers</b>	25/1	15/2	15/3	-

### Year 1 Thursday Sessions Spring Term:

<b>Dragonflies</b>	12/1	2/2	2/3	23/3
<b>Ladybirds</b>	19/1	9/2	9/3	30/3
<b>Busy Bees</b>	26/1	16/2	16/3	-

## Forest School Days Spring Term

### Week 1

**Monday – Badgers**

**Tuesday – Foxes**

**Thursday – Squirrels**

**Friday – Busy Bees**

These classes will have Forest School afternoons on the days above during the following weeks: 9/1 23/1  
6/2 27/2 13/3 27/3

### Week 2

**Monday – Dragonflies**

**Tuesday – Woodpeckers**

**Wednesday - Ladybirds**

**Thursday – Kestrels**

**Friday – Owls**

These classes will have Forest School afternoons on the days above during the following weeks: 16/1 30/1  
13/2 6/3 20/3





# Dates for your diary

## Staffordshire Term Dates 2022-23

### Autumn Term 2022

**Inset day:** Monday 5 September

**Term Starts:** Tuesday 6 September

**Half Term:** Monday 24 October – Friday 28 October

**Term ends:** Friday 16 December

**Holiday:** Monday 19 December – Monday 2 January

### Spring Term 2023

**Inset day:** Tuesday 3 January

**Term Starts:** Wednesday 4 January

**Half Term:** Monday 20 February – Friday 24 February

**Term ends:** Friday 31 March

**Holiday:** Monday 3 April – Friday 14 April

**Easter Sunday:** Sunday 9 April

### Summer Term 2023

**Inset day:** Monday 17 April

**Term starts:** Tuesday 18 April

**May Day:** Monday 1 May

**EXTRA BANK HOLIDAY:** Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May  
(King's Coronation)

**Half Term:** Monday 29 May – Friday 2 June

**Term ends:** Tuesday 25 July

**Holiday:** Wednesday 26 July – Friday 1 September

### **Violet Way Inset Days**

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> June

## What's Coming Up?

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

**Reception Chinese restaurant trip** - 18<sup>th</sup> January / 20<sup>th</sup> January / 25<sup>th</sup> January

**Children's Mental Health Week** 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> February

**Safer Internet Day:** Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2023

**Parents' Evenings** – 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> February

**World book day (wear pyjamas)** - 2<sup>nd</sup> March

**Reception - Animal Workshop** - 8<sup>th</sup> March

**Comic relief (wear red)** 17<sup>th</sup> March

**Mothers Day Play and Stay** 20<sup>th</sup> March (YR 9am-10am  
Y1 10am-11am Y2 11am-12pm)

**World Down Syndrome day** 21<sup>st</sup> March – wear odd socks (celebrate individuality)

**PTA Easter Chocolate Bingo** 23<sup>rd</sup> March

**Autism Awareness week** 27<sup>th</sup> March

**Easter Egg hunt in the woodlands** – 29<sup>th</sup> March

