

**We are
determined
to be the
best
learners we
can be!**



A Message from Mrs Kee

We started the week with an assembly about this half term's 'Jigsaw' PSHE unit 'Being me in my world'. We identified how we can use our words and actions and what we say to be kind to someone else. This theme links perfectly well with our school value 'We care'. Over the half term, the children will learn that our choices have an impact on others. They will develop an understanding of rewards and consequences and find out how to deal with worries.

Our Reception children have had their first full week in school, which finished with a whole year group Merit Assembly today. They walked into the hall quietly, listened beautifully, showing the Merit Award winners how proud they were of them by putting their 'thumbs up'. The best part was learning our 'Well done' song, which they really enjoyed! Fantastic!



I have seen so much great work this week. The children are taking pride in their written work. In fact, I have seen so many children that I have had to add an extra page of photographs to the newsletter this week as I couldn't fit them all on the first page!

Children across the school had their first 'Rock it!' Music lesson this week with our new music teacher, Miss Fox. They really enjoyed singing together and are looking forward to playing keyboards next week.

The bank holiday weekend allows us time for reflection and to hold those dear to us close. I hope you are able to spend it with family and friends. See you Tuesday, *Mrs Kee*





Attendance

Whole school (this week)	95.64%
Reception	99.44%
Year 1	94.94%
Year 2	92.50%



Congratulations to

Squirrels

for being the class

with the highest attendance this week!

Well done for your fantastic

attendance this week.

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

Home Achievements



Some great achievements
this week, including dance,
sports, reading and
gymnastics – well done!

Merit Award Winners

Merit certificates are awarded to children who exemplify our school values, follow our school rules and demonstrate our star learner qualities. Check out our award winners this week!

Reception



Year 1



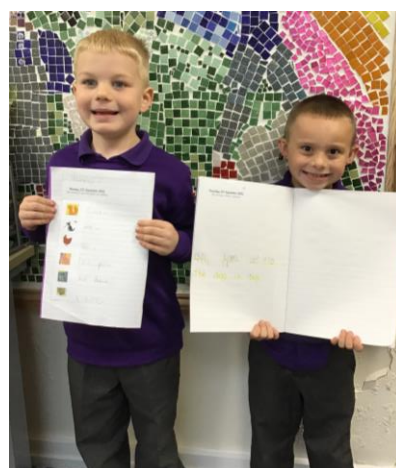
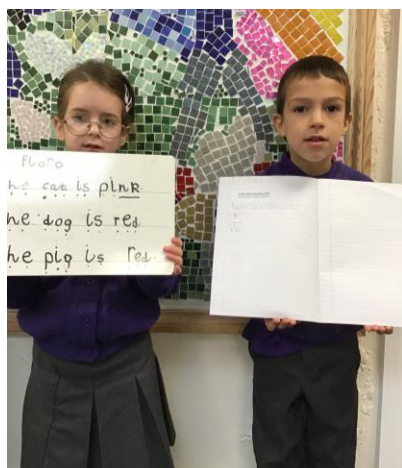
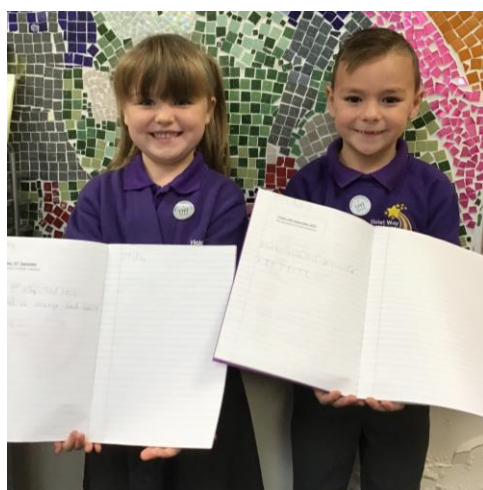
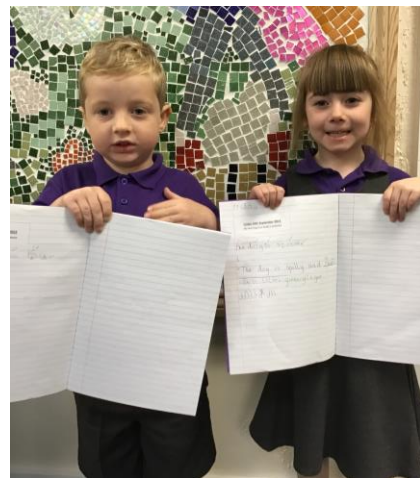
Year 2





Wonderful work!

Thank you to all the children who came to share their good work with me this week. I have been so impressed with the care and pride taken. I have also noticed some excellent editing. Children have listened and responded to feedback from their teacher and corrected their work, showing perseverance and determination to be the best learners they can be!





We named our big library bear!

Children across the school put their ideas down for names for our big library bear. All the names were put into a jar and the winning name was drawn this morning in our merit assembly. The new name for our big library bear is 'Elsa'. Elsa is now happy to be back in the library with all of her other reading buddies! Children can take a reading buddy from the shelf to sit and read to when they use the library.



We are trying to teach the children how to use the library properly, which includes putting books back on the correct shelves, neatly. If you are able to join us for our parent library mornings, please support your child to find where they need to return their book. All the shelves are labelled to support them.



The main section includes chapter books, picture books, poems and rhymes, traditional tales early readers and board books. The corner section contains non-fiction books and are organised by subject (history, geography, science, the arts, religions).

Many thanks again to the PTA and all of our parents for their support in raising funds for our library and making our dream possible!





Thank you, B&Q!

A big thank you to B&Q for donating plants and flowers for Y1 pupils to explore and investigate as part of their science learning. The children were focusing on the different parts of a plant and the donated flowers helped them to practically find and identify the flower, petals, leaves, stem and roots.

Thank you also to Miss Smith for liaising with B&Q staff to arrange the donation.



Queen Elizabeth II

The death of Queen Elizabeth and the closure of schools on the day of her funeral have meant many teachers and families have had to talk about death for the first time with young children. The loss of the queen brings the first encounter with death for some children. For others it may bring back memories of losses they have experienced previously. The queen was all the more familiar to school children because just three months ago, we celebrated her Platinum Jubilee with parties and performances and dressing up to represent every decade of her reign. The charity 'Winston's Wish' offers this advice: Use clear, age-appropriate language when explaining what death means, and give children reassurance. "(Children) may or may not have attended a funeral before, but could be asking you about watching the queen's funeral. It could be a good opportunity to introduce the concept of funerals to a child," the charity said. If children do watch the funeral it suggests preparing them in advance for what they will see, talking about emotions and being mindful of the child's reactions and needs.

Safe drop off and collection and Reception

All parents have been provided with a letter about safe drop off and collection and the policy is also available on our school website. Please ensure that you read and follow the information in the letter and/or policy to keep our children safe.

On Tuesday, Reception pupils will be walking around to their classrooms on their own at drop off. Reception parents have received a letter about this. Please note that we will be opening the gates at 8:40am for Reception pupils only next week. Y1 and Y2 will be able to come onto the school site at 8:45am as usual. Parents of children in Year 1 and Year 2 should drop off children at the green gate.





PARENT SURVEY (July 2022 – results)

Results of Parent Voice Survey (July 2022) – Including Report comments, Parent Survey and Cost of Living

Thank you for participating in the staff survey if you were able to. We have recorded the results below. As part of the survey, we gave parents an opportunity to comment on their child's annual report (anonymised comments below):

We are so proud of our daughter! If I look backwards and currently situation... I can see a massive progress with everything, that is thanks to the wonderful teachers and staff. Thank you

Thank you so much for my child's lovely report. I couldn't hold back the tears reading how well he is doing and what a lovely little boy he is becoming.

We are really pleased to see how our child has come on in this last year and the progress she has made, we have struggled with getting her to do the work whilst at home, but we are so proud that she has shown her own determination at school. It was such a lovely report.

Everything is good.

Lovely report, we feel well informed on her progress over the year and in line with expectations laid over the parents evenings.

Very detailed. Excellent to read.

The report was brilliant and it felt very personalised. It was great to see each section broken down to establish what he has achieved. It was refreshing to see a detailed headteachers comment too, rather than a generic line, it felt like everybody had developed a good relationship with my child and knew him personally by the comments made.

My child has loved his first year at school and we have been so pleased with everything the school has done to help his learning.

The comments about my child were lovely to read. The staff have made such a difference in her confidence and have helped her achieve so many goals this year.

A fantastic, thorough report. Personal and positive.

Very good report and happy that my child's confidence is coming along.

I am glad for the success and development of my child in our school.

I am happy with the report, she definitely improved a lot.

We're really happy with our child's report. There's a lot of detail as to how well he is doing in all areas and there were some lovely teacher comments. We couldn't have asked for a better report. Thank you.





The following parent survey questions were asked – the results are recorded as pie charts and with the corresponding numbers. There were 38 responses in total.

Violet Way Academy has a happy and welcoming atmosphere.

Strongly Agree	31
Agree	7
Disagree	0
Strongly disagree	0
Don't know	0



My child enjoys school and is happy at Violet Way Academy.

Strongly Agree	29
Agree	8
Disagree	1
Strongly disagree	0
Don't know	0



My child feels safe at school.

Strongly Agree	28
Agree	9
Disagree	1
Strongly disagree	0
Don't know	0



**The school makes sure its pupils are well behaved.**

Strongly agree	18
Agree	18
Disagree	1
Strongly Disagree	0
Don't know	1

**When I have raised concerns, they have been dealt with properly.**

Strongly agree	22
Agree	11
Disagree	1
Strongly Disagree	0
Don't know	4

**The school makes me aware of what my child will learn during the year.**

Strongly agree	19
Agree	18
Disagree	0
Strongly Disagree	0
Don't know	1

**The school provides an interesting range of curriculum and enrichment activities.**

Strongly Agree	25
Agree	13
Disagree	0
Strongly Disagree	0
Don't know	0





For parents with a child with SEND, they were asked: My child has SEND and the school gives them the support they need to succeed.

Strongly agree	1
Agree	3
Disagree	0
Strongly disagree	0
Don't know	1



My child does well at Violet Way Academy.

Strongly agree	24
Agree	13
Disagree	0
Strongly Disagree	0
Don't know	1



The school lets me know how my child is doing.

Strongly agree	21
Agree	16
Disagree	1
Strongly Disagree	0
Don't know	0



My child can take part in clubs and activities at Violet Way Academy.

Strongly agree	21
Agree	12
Disagree	3
Strongly Disagree	0
Don't know	2





The school supports my child's wider personal development.

Strongly Agree	18
Agree	15
Disagree	1
Strongly Disagree	0
Don't know	4



I would recommend this school to another parent.

Yes	37
No	1



The following questions were asked as part of a review of our curriculum enrichment and parental engagement opportunities.

We offer a range of parental engagement opportunities throughout the year including regular and one off events such as: parent library mornings, play and stays for Mothers' Day and Gentlemen's Day, Parent forest school sessions, May day, Christmas nativities, Rockit Music performances. Do you think this is...
Just the right amount of parental engagement opportunities / Too many different opportunities for parental engagement / Not enough opportunity for parental engagement?

Just the right amount of parent...	34
Too many different opportunitie...	3
Not enough opportunity for par...	1





We are aware that the cost of living is rising. In terms of school, is there anything we can do to support? For example, are you happy with the number of trips per year group, dress up days etc or would you prefer us to reduce these where possible? NB: Comments below have been copied exactly, with any names removed to keep anonymity.

What you said		Our response
Happy with current curriculum enrichment plan	Unhappy and/or suggestions to improve the curriculum enrichment plan	
Happy with everything	Happy to have dress up days if not too restricted and make use of what we have.	<p>Main Concern – Cost</p> <p>We understand that curriculum enrichment activities can be costly for parents and we try to ensure that we take this into consideration when planning. During last academic year (2021-2022) we had the Queen's Jubilee and we combined this with our annual Multi-Academy Trust, Fierté Festival. However, we do recognise that this meant parents had to sort additional costumes they would not usually need to.</p> <p>Following suggestions from parents, we have created a whole school curriculum enrichment overview for this academic year to help parents plan ahead. This will include trips, visitors and dress up days.</p> <p>We have also tried to ensure that dress up days are kept to a minimum and costumes can be easily sourced, for example, odd socks days, dress in red for Comic Relief and pyjamas for World Book day.</p> <p>There is a Victorian day in Y1. We do this rather than going on a school trip. We have resources in school to enable us to run a Victorian school day, for example, slates to write on. Although the cost of trips is then reduced, we appreciate that sourcing costumes may be difficult. However, we did send communication to parents about the clothes we have in school that can be borrowed and simple outfits like, a shirt with school shorts and long socks. By providing the overview, we hope parents will have time to think about and plan dress up days. We can always support and offer ideas for costumes using clothes you will most likely already have at home.</p>
We can manage our daughter activities and everything she needs. Thank you	We are happy with this, the children love dressing up. Maybe you could offer spare dress up items in school if some can't afford this? And also if we are told in advance this helps. I think School trips are important as it gets the children out of school and the children work in teams etc	
I'm happy. I am in favor of increasing the number of trips or dress up days	Reduce dress up day because costumes are too expensive.	
Happy with the current number - they are what they children remember about being at infant school & create a great sense of excitement.	Reduce dress up days and advise parents they can get uniform from stores like asda to save money.	
We are happy the balance for these fun opportunities are just right. They are excellent for the children to express themselves.	I think dress up days are hard for some parents as they can't always afford different outfits. You say try to make something out of nothing but it ain't always possible. Maybe if you could ask for donations of like victorian days. We don't want to buy an outfit just for that one day, you can then say if you can't get an outfit in time or you can't afford one, just give us a message and we can then provide one for that day.	
We have been happy with everything and would love it all to carry on. My child has absolutely loved his first year	Please may we Have a rule the dress up days are to use what you have and not buy new. This is enviro friendly and better for the pockets too.	
Happy with everything to stay same, would be a shame for them to have to miss out because of cost of living, sad times	Not an issue for us currently but I can imagine dress up days being an issue for some with the regularity and one off nature of the costumes	
I am happy with everything at Violet Way	For us personally, it's not the cost but the dress up days make my son stressed because he's always worried about if his costume will be right and what the other kids think, and whether there costumes might be better than his. They cause a lot of upset in our house!	
I am happy with them	Dress up days can become a little expensive however we do try to improvise where possible	
Im happy with the way it's been so far	I'm happy with the amount, however I can understand some families might not be so I'd rather the amount of dress up days be reduced than school trips.	





What you said		Our response
Happy with current curriculum enrichment plan	Unhappy and/or suggestions to improve the curriculum enrichment plan	
Happy	More notice allows parents to find any items required cheaper rather than having to get whatever they can at the last minute.	<p>Main concern – Notice</p> <p>We have taken on board parent feedback and have created a curriculum enrichment overview to provide parents with an overview of all the planned activities over the whole academic year.</p> <p>Dates, once confirmed, will be added to the 'Dates for your Diary' section of our weekly Newsletter.</p>
Happy	A full list of proposed days and activities could be provided at the start of the year even if exact dates and costs are unknown, helping parents budget. Happy with everything to stay same, would be a shame for them to have to miss out because of cost of living, sad times	
Yes I'm happy	More notice on trips and allowing more option in the payment method	
I'm ok with this	Not just plan ahead internally, share it with parents	
Just enough.	Dress up days are fine as long as there is enough notice. Different payment options for snack might be useful especially when they go back in September after buying new uniform, maybe weekly or fortnightly options.	
Happy with all arrangements	Fancy dress is lovely for the kids but sometimes a nightmare for parents. More notice to purchase /source costumes would be appreciated.	<p>This year we have tried to keep dress up days to a minimum and linked to raising awareness, such as charity days (Comic Relief, Children in Need) or awareness weeks (anti-bullying, mental health awareness).</p> <p>Last year we offered Burton Albion football, fun and fitness, miniathletics and intervention for excellence after school as well as singing and dancing clubs at lunchtimes. We are currently reviewing our after school and lunchtime club offer and will keep you posted.</p>
We are happy with everything	Dress up days can be frustrating, and I feel add little to the kids learning. It's an unnecessary expense I think. The Trips have been good this year..... Maybe not for wingham though. It would be good to encourage wider free learning opportunities like libraries to families, or offer some subsidised or cheaper after school clubs. These can be expensive!	
Am OK with that	I feel like as a full time working single parent it is so hard to accommodate all of the parental engagement activities, as this has a direct impact on annual leave I have to take, or unpaid leave at work. I know we are not obliged to attend all events but there is also that fear of letting our children down if we don't. So whilst not directly impacting finances in terms of dress up outfits etc, more indirectly in terms of having unpaid leave from work to attend events as I have very limited support with childcare.	
Happy	Overall though I think it is great and I only wish I could attend all without no issues 😊	<p>We do appreciate that working parents may find it more difficult to attend events during school hours. We have tried to plan in events that are over the whole academic year at drop off (parent library mornings) in the hope that this might be easier for parents to arrange) as well as other parental engagement sessions throughout the year. We hope as many parents can attend as possible but understand that parents cannot always come to everything and we do have discussions with the children about this to help them understand.</p>
Would like to increase		





Curriculum Enrichment 2022-2023

Following constructive comments from parents completing our parent survey, we have produced an overview of curriculum enrichment activities across the year for all year groups. We have included it below but will also add it to the website and share the link via Marvellous Me next week with all parents. We hope that parents find this overview useful as it contains information about planned trips, parent engagement sessions, dress up days.

Overview of Curriculum Enrichment 2022-2023

NB: Please be aware that this is for information only and may be subject to change

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
EYFS Trips / Visitors		Walk to post office Visit from grandparents, dental nurse, PCSO and Nurse	Trip to Wing Wah	Animal experience in schools	Trip to Conkers	
EYFS Parental Engagement Sessions	Harvest Assembly 13 th October	Nativity Performance – 7 th December		Mother's Day Play and Stay 20 th March 9am-10am	May Day Parent event – 27 th April	Father's Day Play and Stay – 16 th June Sport day 13 th July
EYFS Curriculum days	Transition Meetings and Play and Stay sessions	Parent stay and play – oral hygiene				Seaside – dress up day
Year 1 Trips / Visitors	Packington Farm trip	Tamworth Castle	Explorer question time	Chick-hatching in school Animal experience in schools	Walk to Burton including library visit Grandparents sharing about changes to Burton	
Curriculum days		Castle Curriculum day (not dress up)	Explorer day (not dress up)			Victorian curriculum day – dress up day
Year 1 Parental Engagement Sessions	Harvest Assembly 13 th October	Christmas sing along with parents 14 th December		Mother's Day Play and Stay 20 th March 10am-11am	May Day Parent event – 27 th April	Father's Day Play and Stay – 16 th June Sports day 12 th July
Year 2 Trips / Visitors	Grandparent interviews	Planetarium in school (space dome)	African Drumming session (Rock it!)	Zoom meeting with school in London	Twycross Zoo trip	Kingswood residential 5 th -7 th July
Year 2 Parental Engagement Sessions	Harvest Assembly 13 th October	Christmas Carols at St Peter's Church 12 th December		Mother's Day Play and Stay 20 th March 11am-12pm	May Day Parent event – 27 th April	Father's Day Play and Stay – 16 th June Sports day 12 th July Brewhouse dress rehearsal 19 th July and show 20 th July Y2 graduation
Whole school events	Parents' evenings 17 th October (3:30-7pm) and 18 th October (3:30-5pm) Walk to school month - October	Anti-bullying week 8 th December - Christmas dinner day Pantomime in school - Friday 16 th December	Children's mental health week – 6-12 th February Safer Internet day 7 th February	World Book day 2 nd March Autism Awareness week 27 th March Easter Egg hunt in the woodlands – 29 th March	Mental Health Awareness week w/c 8 th May Parent Forest School Sessions – join your child on their Forest school day on w/c 15 th May / 22 nd May	
Parent Library Mornings – every class has a parent library morning every three weeks – join your child in our lovely school library for ten minutes at drop off.						
Dress up days Dress up days – we usually request a £1 donation to charity where applicable. There may be additional		Odd socks day – wear odd socks on 14 th November Children in Need – spots or yellow clothes 18 th November 2022 Wear your Christmas jumper on Christmas dinner day – 8 th December		Wear pyjamas on World Book Day 2 nd March Comic relief 18 th March – Wear red World Down Syndrome day 21 st March – wear odd socks (celebrate individuality)		

PTA Update

Thank you

Our PTA is changing. Due to new commitments, the Chair, Vice Chair and Treasurer are stepping down. Our secretary and social media lead will remain in post. Jenny Clarke will be supporting the handover. There will be more details in the newsletter next week. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the PTA for their support. Through covid restrictions they have raised money in a range of ways, including being creative with technology. They have washed uniform, wrapped Christmas presents, raised money for the library and subsidised school trips. They have all been a very positive force for good for our school and I cannot thank them enough.





Forest School and Library Dates

Forest School Days Autumn Term

Week 1:

Monday – Badgers

Tuesday – Foxes

Thursday – Squirrels

Friday – Busy Bees

These class will have Forest School Afternoons on the days above during the following weeks: 12/9 26/9 10/10 31/10 14/11 28/11

Week 2:

Monday – Dragonflies

Tuesday – Woodpeckers

Wednesday - Ladybirds

Thursday – Kestrels

Friday – Owls

These class will have Forest School Afternoons on the days above during the following weeks: 19/9 3/10 17/10 7/1 21/11 5/12

Parent Library Mornings Autumn Term

Reception - Tuesday Mornings

Foxes: 1/11 22/11

Squirrels: 8/11 29/11

Badgers: 15/11 6/12

Year 2 - Wednesday Mornings:

Kestrels: 14/9 5/10 2/11 23/11

Owls: 21/9 12/10 9/11 30/11

Woodpeckers: 28/9 19/10 16/11 7/12

Year 1 - Thursday Mornings:

Dragonflies: 15/9 6/10 3/11 24/11

Ladybirds: 22/9 13/10 10/11 1/12

Busy Bees: 29/9 20/10 17/11 8/12





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

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 5th September

Friday 21st October

Tuesday 3rd January

Monday 17th April

Monday 19th June

What's Coming Up?

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

Harvest Assemblies – Thursday 13th October

Kestrels- 9.10am

Owls – 9.30am

Woodpeckers – 9.50am

Dragonflies – 10.10am

Busy Bees – 10.30am

Ladybirds- 10.50am

Squirrels – 1.40am

Foxes – 2.00pm

Badgers – 2.20pm

Harvest Food Sale in Hall at 2.50pm onwards

Anti-Bullying Week Theme: Reach Out – week commencing Monday 14th November

Odd Socks day – Monday 14th November – Children wear odd socks to school to celebrate individuality and uniqueness. Let's be kin to each other and respect each other's individuality

Speak Out Stay Safe (NSPCC) – YR, Y1, Y2 –

YR – Christmas Nativity – December Date TBC

Y1 – Christmas Songs – December Date TBC

Y2 Christmas Carol Concert – December Date TBC

