

A Message from Mrs Kee

Well done to all our Reception pupils for walking around to their classes without their parents this week - It was lovely to see so many smiling faces every morning! We are all individuals and some of us take a little longer to adapt to change so we will continue to support our Reception pupils next week as they further develop their independence. The gates will be open at the usual time of 8:45am for all pupils so we do ask that all parents are mindful of our youngest pupils.



Our Year 1 pupils visited the farm this week and their conduct and behaviour was highly praised by staff. The children thoroughly enjoyed finding out interesting facts about the farm animals, planting and making dens. There are some lovely photographs in the newsletter this week. Whilst on the trip, the children displayed our school values 'We care' for the environment and each other.

I have seen some lovely Year 2 writing based on the book 'The Lion Inside' this week as I have been walking around the classroom. I plan to capture some pictures next week and I will share in the newsletter – keep up the good work! I am sure some of the Year 2 children would like to share the story with their parents at home, just [click here](#).



Last week I shared our Curriculum Enrichment Overview – I have added the parent meeting dates on as I missed these off – sorry! The updated document is available to view on our website as an attachment on our curriculum page. Please [click here](#) to access the page.

I am looking forward to seeing you all next week. Enjoy a restful weekend,
Mrs Kee





Attendance

Whole school (this week)	95.30%
Reception	96.07%
Year 1	93.96%
Year 2	95.88%

Congratulations to **Foxes**

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.



Merit Award Winners

Merit certificates are awarded to children who exemplify our school values, follow our school rules and demonstrate our star learner qualities. The rest of the school show they are proud by putting their thumbs up and singing our 'Well done' assembly song – Well done!

Reception



Year 1



Year 2



Home Achievements



Wonderful achievements in swimming, karate, dance and football this week – well done! One child also shared with me their creation in memory of the Queen.





Year 1 Fun on the Farm





Roll up, roll up - Read all about it!

Initial feedback from parents regarding the introduction of our new reading record system (Reading Rockets) has been positive, including that children have been more motivated and taking ownership of their reading at home because they are more involved in the record keeping.

Why is reading (and reading at home) so important?

Nothing is more important in education than ensuring that every child can read well. Pupils who can read are overwhelmingly more likely to succeed at school, achieve good qualifications, and subsequently enjoy a fulfilling and rewarding career. Those who cannot, will find themselves at constant disadvantage. (Nick Gibb MP).

"...parents who engage their children in books prepare them to become committed and enthusiastic readers: they can transform their attitudes to reading" (The reading framework: Teaching the foundations of literacy January 2022 – DfE)

Children can now colour in a section of their reading rocket every time they read at home (and parents sign). Children should read at home at least three times per week. Once they reach 20 sections complete, they receive a sticker and a Marvellous Me award.

We want to ensure that children are reading regularly at home and at school have created our 'Reading promises' (please see the next page). It is really important that this is followed by teachers, parents and children so that the children become good readers.

From Monday 26th September all children's reading files, with their reading rocket record book and their home reading book, need to be brought into school every day. Please make sure your child has a suitable bag to bring their reading file to school and that the it is put back into their school bag after reading with your child at home.

We will be holding a Year 1 and 2 Parent Reading Meeting on Wednesday 5th October at 9am and 5pm for about 30 minutes to give you further information about how children learn to read at Violet Way and ways that you can support your child reading at home. We hope that many of you can attend this.





Our Reading Promises

The teachers:

- We will teach daily phonics lessons to all children.
- We will teach decoding, fluency and comprehension skills.
- We will listen to children read regularly aloud and promote a love of reading.
- We will read a daily class text.
- We will provide a weekly phonic related or book banded weekly home reading book.
- We will hold meetings and workshops for parents to support with reading at home.



We leave no one behind

The parents:

- I will listen to my child at least three times per week.
- I will sign my child's reading rocket when they read.
- I will ensure my child's reading rocket and book is brought into school daily in their book bag.
- I will support and encourage my child to complete any reading home learning: Phonics or Reading comprehension.
- I will read regularly to my child, for example, library books and books they enjoy listening to.



We care

The children:

- I will bring my reading rocket book and home reading book to school every day in my book bag.
- I will read my home reading book at least three times per week at home.
- I will colour in one of my reading rocket numbers each time I read.
- I will look after my home reading book.
- I will complete any Phonics or Reading comprehension home learning



Reach for the Stars!

★ Once I complete 20 reads and colour in all my Reading rocket, I will get a Marvellous Me Award ★

What happens if I do not bring my reading file in daily, read and colour in my read rockets and have them signed at least three times per week?

Child reads to parent at least three times per week. Parent sign their child's reading rocket diary

Child's reading improves overtime, they become more confidence, enjoy 1-1 time reading to parent, grandparent or sibling. Child receives recognition and praise in school.

Child does not read regularly at home

Confidence may slip and they will not have the same opportunity to rehearse and apply the phonics knowledge they have learnt at school. We know home lives can be busy. If we notice a child is not reading regularly, we will help by:
Step 1: Teacher providing a reminder.
Step 2: Marvellous Me message sent home.
Step 3: Phone call home.





Top Tips to Support Reading at Home

1 Concentrate on reading quality (it isn't all about reading lots!)



Don't worry too much about the 'what' and 'how' of reading each day. Books are great—but leaflets, comics, recipes and instructions on a webpage can all be great too. Following a recipe to make some cupcakes is valuable reading. Be on the lookout for reading, wherever it is!

2 Ask your child lots of questions



All reading matters. Shared reading is about 'reading with', not just 'reading to' (even for older children). So, ask lots of 'Wh' questions, such as Who? What? When? Where? Why? Try them when talking about books: for example, 'what do you think Harry is feeling?'

3 Ask your child to make predictions about what they have read



If it is a book, look at the front cover—or the last chapter—and talk about what might happen next. Look for clues in the book and be a reading detective! For example, 'can you see the bear on the front cover? Where do you think he will go?'

4 Ask your child to summarise what they have read



When you've finished reading, talk about what happened. Acting out the things that happened in the story or describing the big idea of a chapter is really fun and maximises learning. For example, 'can you remember all the things that happened on the bear hunt?'

5 Ask your child to write about what they have read



Write, or draw pictures, from anything you've read! Big writing and pictures are even more fun. For example, use an old roll of wallpaper to make a treasure map with clues from the stories you've read together.

6 Read and discuss reading with friends or family



Make books a part of the family. Encourage your child to share them with a relative or friend, over a video call. Laugh about them when you are making meals together. For example, 'I hope the tiger doesn't come to tea today!'

7 Maintain the motivation to read



Talk about the joy of reading whenever you can. Your child is on an amazing journey to becoming a reader. Put them in the driving seat and have fun on the way! For example, 'choose your favourite story for bedtime tonight.'

Kingswood Residential

A letter will be sent via Marvellous Me next week about our end of Year 2 Residential visit to Kingswood. For any parents wanting some more information or to ask any questions Year 2 parents can stay for an extra 5-10 minutes after the Reading Meetings on Wednesday 5th October and Mrs Williams will share information about this residential and be able to answer any questions.





SEND Parent Coffee Morning

The Inclusion team will be hosting termly parent coffee mornings/afternoons to help support parents who have any worries or concerns about their child and provide information on how to support them at home.

Autism Outreach Team

The first coffee morning will be held on Friday 7th October 9:00am – 10:00am in our Acorn Room and will be led by the Autism Outreach Team. The team will be sharing information and ideas on how to support children who may have some challenges related to behaviour, communication, sensory needs or difficulty coping with changes or separation. If you have concerns about your child in any of these areas and would like more information, then please come along. This will be an open session for any parents who have concerns about how to support their child, not just those with a diagnosis.



Parents with younger siblings, who do not have any childcare at this time, are welcome to bring them along. If you have any questions please contact Marie Dawson or Shirley-Anne Magill via the school office: office@violetway.org

Cake Shop

Our Cake Shop will be starting up again this term. They will be 2:30pm-3:15pm and we plan to have at least two cake shops each term.

Parents can come along in the afternoon between 2:30pm-3:15pm, 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 have a chat about the weather! If you need to speak to Mrs Kee at anytime, please speak to her on the school gate before or after school or contact the school office to arrange an appointment.





PTA - We need you!

What is the Parent Teacher Association (PTA)?

At Violet Way Academy, we have a very proactive and successful PTA. They run many events throughout the year and raise significant sums of money for the school, for the benefit of all current and future pupils. Last year they raised a total of £2600! Thank you! We really appreciate the hard work of all the PTA members - not only for the fundraising that they do but for the enjoyable events that they put on for our pupils and families.

The Violet Way PTA is a group of parents, carers, and staff who create fundraising opportunities and initiatives to benefit all children at the school. We aim to enable the children, their families and the school community at large to get involved and enhance their experiences, extending the warm and friendly family focus of our school. We believe that if we each do a little, we can make a BIG difference together!

Here are some examples of the types of events and activities the PTA have organised:

- ✓ Quiz Nights
- ✓ Bingo
- ✓ School Fairs
- ✓ Gardening Days
- ✓ Family Picnics
- ✓ Cakes Sales
- ✓ Raffles
- ✓ Pre-loved uniform sales
- ✓ and much more...



The PTA are looking to recruit more PTA members after some members have stepped down. Stacey Gaynor (social media lead) and Kelly Scarratt (Secretary) are current members of Violet Way PTA and we have three new volunteers who have signed up through the PTA Facebook Page (Violet Way PTA).

We need you! Please email our office manager, Miss Evans, if you are interested in supporting us by 30th September office@violetway.org We will then be able to set the first PTA meeting date.





Happy, Healthy Lunchtimes!



Social skills



Happy faces



Good manners



Happy faces



Clean plates



Healthy eating



Teamwork



Fun!



Critical thinking





Marvellous Me

Using MarvellousMe

Tap for more

Tap to download any attachment.

If the note contains a home task with a due-date, you will see this under the message. Tap to add the due-date to your device's calendar. Mark the task as 'Done'.

Remember to tap Hi5 every time you receive a message to thank the teacher for keeping you informed and let them know you've seen the good news.

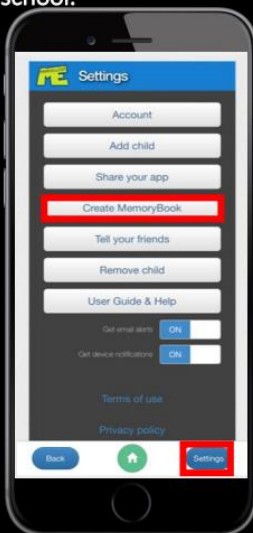
Tap for full screen.

Tap to share.

We have 98% of parents signed up to Marvellous Me. Marvellous Me is our main form of communication to keep you posted about your child's learning in school. It is used to share messages, badges and thumbs up points. Let's get to 100% - if you are not signed up and need help, just ask Miss Evans, who will be happy to help you get started.

MemoryBook

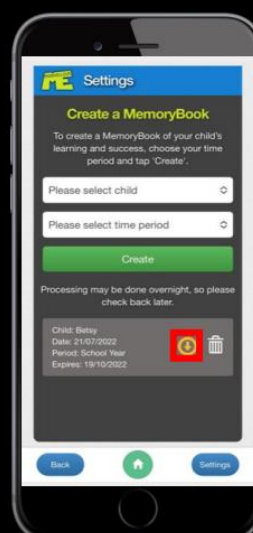
These are free downloadable PDFs of your child's MarvellousMe history. They're wonderful keepsakes and can be created for any time period e.g. for the School Year, or for 'All Time' when your child leaves the school.



Tap 'Settings', then 'Create MemoryBook'.



Select the child and the time period you want to report the MemoryBook for. Tap 'Create'.



Download the PDF to your device. You can save, print or forward it.

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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

Parent Reading Meeting (Y1 and Y2) – 5th October at 9:00am and 5:00pm (followed by Kingswood meeting for Y2 parents)

Autism Outreach Coffee Morning – Friday 7th October 9:00am

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

Cake Shop - Friday 14th October 2:30pm

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 kind to each other and respect each other's individuality

Cake Shop – Friday 25th November 2:30pm

YR – Christmas Nativity – Wednesday 7th December

Y1 – Christmas Songs – Wednesday 14th December

Y2 Christmas Carol Concert – Monday 12th December at St Peter's Church

