

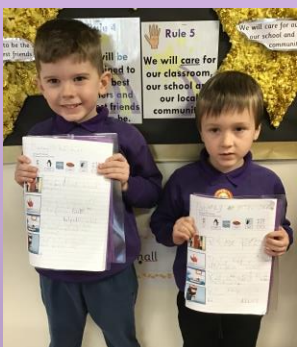
A Message from Mrs Kee

Our assembly this week was focused on our school value 'We are brave'. The children found out about Rosa Parks, a black woman who in 1955 refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white person. In 1950s America there were laws separating black and white people on public transport, in schools and in public places. Rosa Parks showed bravery, standing up for what was right and her actions, along with a bus boycott, changed American history. At Violet Way, we celebrate individuality, and the children were inspired by the bravery of Rosa Parks.

In school this week, I have had lots of children coming to show me their lovely writing. They have been able to explain how they have improved their written work, for example by using their phonic knowledge, using capital letters correctly or checking and editing their work. Well done!

Miss Cullumbine has been working with the lunchtime supervisors to develop more active lunchtimes. She has also arranged for our school council to receive some training from East Staffordshire Sports Partnership over the next few weeks to become our Violet Way Playground Leaders – they are very excited!

Next week is Children's Mental Health Week, including Safer Internet Day. The theme for Children's Mental Health Week is 'Let's Connect' and through an assembly, stories, film clips and classroom activities, we will be encouraging children to think about how they can connect with others. We will ask them to reflect on their learning over the week, thinking about how connections with family, friends, their community members and others, make them feel and how these connections can support positive mental health. I hope you all have a good weekend connecting with family and friends. See you next week, *Mrs Kee*





Attendance

Whole school (this week)	96.43%
Reception	97.43%
Year 1	95.98%
Year 2	95.88%



Congratulations to

Badgers

for being the class

with the highest attendance this week.

Well done!

Make sure

your child attends school every

day so that they get

the most from their education.

Home Achievements



Children across the school shared their achievements from home, including for swimming, Beavers, martial arts, Brownies and football.

Merit Awards

Here are our lovely Merit Award winners from this week! Well done for demonstrating our values, following our rules and showing star learner qualities.

Reception



Year 1



Year 2



We had 7 children chosen to sit on the stage as role models in our Merit assembly – well done!





Perfect Pavlovas - Badgers

Over the last few weeks, we have shared some photographs of our lovely Reception children making pavlovas for Australia Day. Badgers did not want to miss out! Here are some great images of them enjoying making, and eating, their creations!





Children's Wellbeing Week 2023

Each year, we take part in Children's Mental Health Week to shine a spotlight on the importance of children and young people's mental health and raise awareness. This year, it runs from **6th-12th February**. The theme this year is 'Let's Connect' and is about making meaningful connections for all. People thrive in communities, and this connection is vital for our wellbeing. When we have healthy connections – to family, friends and others – this can support our mental health and our sense of wellbeing. For Children's Mental Health Week 2023, we're encouraging our pupils to connect with others in healthy, rewarding and meaningful ways. You can click on the link to watch a short clip to learn more about the theme [Let's Connect](#)

At Violet Way we have planned a range of activities under the theme of 'Let's Connect'. The overview can also be viewed on our school website [Violet Way Academy - Children's Mental Health Week](#)

Monday	Tuesday	Wellbeing Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<p>In assembly, the children shall be watching a short animation of 'Lucy's Blue Day' which is based on the story by Chris Duke.</p> <p>Lucy is a very special little girl with magical hair. It changes colour with her emotions. If she is feeling happy, it is purple. If she is jealous, it will turn green. This charming story is the tale of when Lucy wakes up and her hair is blue, and she doesn't understand why. She soon learns that it is OK not to be OK.</p> <p>The story will be used as inspiration for discussing themes such as loneliness, friendship and how we ask and offer help to others.</p> <p>The children will consider the people in their own lives that they can talk to when they are feeling 'blue'.</p>	<p>Safer Internet Day – 'Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online'</p> <p>Class assembly – Safer Internet Day</p> <p>One lesson during this day (or during their computer lesson this week) will be focused on the Safer Internet Day theme.</p>	<p>Reception and Year 1 – Class connections activity. Children will decorate a hand shape to represent themselves and these will be displayed hand in hand in class. Children will be encouraged to think about how they connect with others in the class (same eye colour, like the same TV character, like the same food, play together, are friends, work together). They will also consider how they are different and recognise that, despite our differences, we are all connected.</p> <p>Year 2 – Hula hoop Connections activity</p> <p>Children will form a circle holding hands and pass a hula hoop around the circle, without breaking the connection. They will share something that connects them i.e. we go to the same school, we live in the same street. The children will create 'circles of connections' where they identify the important connections in their lives.</p>	<p>Children will listen to this story in class 'The Invisible String'.</p> <p>Our important people activity – After listening to the story, the children will think about who they are connected to through their own 'invisible string' (family, friends, pets).</p>	<p>Active Sports – Assembly</p> <p>The assembly will focus on keeping our bodies and minds fit and healthy through access to sporting activities. Children will think about connections they have through sports, for example in school sports, after school clubs or clubs outside of school.</p> <p>Children will listen to the story 'Room on the Broom' and discuss some questions together:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why did the witch let the animals on her broom? • Why do you think the animals helped the witch find her missing things? • How did working together make it easier for the animals to save the witch? • What does it feel like when you connect or work with others to do something good? • What can we do to make sure we include each other when we are feeling lonely?
<p>'Walk and Talk' - The whole school shall be using the school grounds to partake in 'walk and talk' time during Children's Mental Health Week. Not only is walking great for our physical health, being outdoors and connecting with others is great for us mentally, too. This will be completed on a day and time that suits each individual class.</p>				





Safer Internet Day

From cyberbullying to social networking to digital identity, each year Safer Internet Day aims to raise awareness of emerging online issues and current concerns. The theme of Safer Internet Day 2023 is 'Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online'.



Asking young people what they enjoy most about the internet can help make talking about what they do online a part of normal family life, say safety experts. And by building it into everyday conversations, families can build trust and understanding so that if young people encounter a bad experience online they can talk about it with their parents or carers without fearing the consequences. Watch this short clip to help you start a conversation: [Safer Internet Day 2023 - film for parents and carers - YouTube](#)

Safer Internet Day is part of our Children's Mental Health Week at Violet Way next week. There will be a class assembly on Tuesday around the theme of talking about online activity. One lesson on Tuesday (or during children's computer lesson this week) will be focused on the Safer Internet Day theme.

Free Webinar for Parents

To mark the 'Safer internet' day in February this year, East Midlands Police's cyber team are inviting parents to join their online webinar about internet safety. This webinar will go over some of the issues that parents may be concerned about, including social media safety, online gaming and discussing your child's online activities with them.

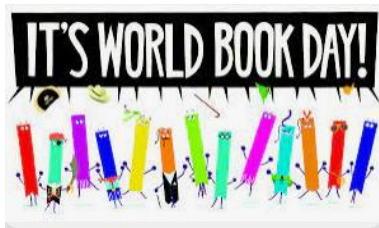
John Hammond, Cyber Protect Officer in the East Midlands said: "After the success of last years webinar for Safer Internet Day, we have decided to run a similar one this year to help parents on how they can better protect their children online. Parents can sign up for the free webinar here: [Take part in Safer Internet Day 2023 \(emsou.police.uk\)](#)

We have a Safer Internet Day page on our website: [Violet Way Academy - Safer Internet Day 2023](#) Parents can find more information about Online Safety on our school website. Just click on this link: [Violet Way Academy - Online Safety](#)





World Book Day Celebrations



To celebrate World Book day, we are planning a whole school book week linked to Fairy Tales the first week back after half term - 27th February 2023. Children will be reading a range of Fairy tales throughout the week and will turn themselves into their very own Fairy tale character which they will complete writing about to be displayed in school.

World Book Day 2nd March - Children and staff can come to school dressed in pyjamas we will start the day with toast, milk and story time.

The book fair will be in the hall and open from the end of school on **Monday 27th February throughout parents evening till 6.30pm**. It will also be open on **Wednesday 2nd March and Thursday 3rd March from 8.40am until the start of school and Wednesday from 3pm till 3.30pm**

We hope many of you will come and visit!

Fun Competition!

There will be a selection of Fairy Tale book characters for children to choose from in each class and the child who has chosen the winning book character will win a book prize! Parents can pay £1.00 via Parent Pay to enter their child into the competition. We hope lots of children will be able to take part – please remember to pay £1.00 for your child on Parent Pay. This will take place in Library sessions over the next three weeks of this half term with winners from each class being announce in World Book Week.

Guess the book character!

£1 entry





Parent Meetings

Parents will have been sent information from their child's class teacher about parents meeting days and times. Parent meetings are on Monday 27th and Tuesday 28th February. Parents can request appointment times via the Forms link shared by class teachers on Marvellous Me.

During the meeting, you will be able to view some of your child's work in books and teachers will provide you with target sheets, helping you to understand your child's next steps in their learning.

Please note that there is a limited amount of time for parent meetings. Teachers will need to try and stick to the timings as much as possible to keep on track. If following the meeting, you feel need to speak further with your child's class teacher, please arrange a separate appointment.



PARENT MEETING

Happy, Healthy Playtimes

Playground Resources

We want all our children to enjoy breaktime and lunchtime at school. We provide different resources, such as hoops, ropes, music, catchy cups, balls and an indoor area for playing board games. Please **DO NOT** allow children to bring in toys, games or cards to school. These often cause upset as children fall out with each other about them. They can also get lost, causing upset to children.

Snacks

Please ensure that only healthy snacks are sent into school. Chocolate and crisps should NOT be brought into school for snacks – these should be saved for home. In school, suitable snacks are pieces of fruit, vegetable sticks, bread sticks, crackers, malt loaf, cereal bars (NO nuts or sugary/chocolate bars), string cheese, yogurt tube, rice cakes.





‘We care’ in our community

It is always so lovely to hear about children demonstrating our values within their own lives and within the local community. We had a child in Year 2 in the newsletter recently who had donated her hair to a charity that makes wigs for children suffering hair loss. This week, a child in Reception has been litter picking in his neighbourhood, helping to keep our community tidy. Thank you for demonstrating our value ‘We care’. Well done!



After school clubs – Spring Term 2

Burton Albion club registers will stay the same after half term, however all our other clubs will be refreshed. So, Miss Evans will be sending out Microsoft Forms links soon for you to be able to sign your child up, places are given on a first come first served basis. See more details below:

Drama Club – Mondays after school until 4:30pm. For Spring 2, this club will be offered to Y1 & Y2 children. The Microsoft Form to sign up will be released on **Tuesday 7th February at 4pm.**

Street Dance – Thursdays after school until 4:15pm. For Spring 2, this club will be offered to Y2 children first. The Microsoft Form to sign up will be released on **Wednesday 8th February at 4pm.**



Gymnastics Club – Tuesdays after school until 4pm. For Spring 2, this club will be offered to Y1 children first. The Microsoft Form to sign up will be released on **Thursday 9th February at 4pm.**





Cleaner Vacancies - VWA

We are currently recruiting for 2 cleaners to join our lovely team at Violet Way! Some details of the vacancies we have are as follows;

Vacancy 1

10 hours per week (2 hours per day)

Plus additional hours to be worked in the school holidays

Hours of work can be 5:15am-7:15am or 4:15pm-6:15pm

Vacancy 2

5 hours per week (1 hour per day)

Plus additional hours to be worked in the school holidays

Hours of work can be 6:15am-7:15am or 5:15pm-6:15pm



Please either pop into the office or contact Miss Evans at office@violetway.org for an application form or if you have any queries.

More information can be found here <https://www.wmjobs.co.uk/job/150967/cleaner-x2-violet-way-academy/>

YR PTA Disco

Last term, we hosted a disco for our Y1 children and it was a hit!

This Spring term, we are going to be hosting a disco on **Thursday 9th March** from 5pm-6pm for our Reception children!

It will cost **£2.50** for entry and this is now payable on ParentPay. All proceeds of this disco will go to our fantastic PTA. Parents do not need to stay for this event, please drop off at 5pm and collect children again at 6pm. We hope to see lots of children there!





Forest School and Library Dates

Parent Library Mornings Spring Term

Year R Tuesday Sessions Spring Term:

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

Year 2 Wednesday Sessions Spring Term:

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

Year 1 Thursday Sessions Spring Term:

Dragonflies	12/1	2/2	2/3	23/3
Ladybirds	19/1	9/2	9/3	30/3
Busy Bees	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 8th 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 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

Children's Mental Health Week 6th – 12th February

Safer Internet Day: Tuesday 7th February 2023

Cake shop Friday 17th February

Book Fair in school w/c 27th February

Parents' Evenings – 27th and 28th February

World book day (wear pyjamas) - Thursday 2nd March

Reception - Animal Workshop Wednesday 8th March

YR PTA school disco 5pm-6pm Thursday 9th March

Y1 - Animal Workshop Monday 13th March

Comic relief (wear red) Friday 17th March

Cake shop Friday 17th March

Mothers Day Play and Stay Monday 20th March (YR 9am-10am Y1 10am-11am Y2 11am-12pm)

World Down Syndrome day 21st March – wear odd socks (celebrate individuality)

PTA Chocolate Easter Bingo Thursday 23rd March

Autism Awareness week 27th March

Tempest Class photos Wednesday 29th March

Easter Egg hunt in the woodlands Friday 31st March

Cake shop Friday 31st March

