

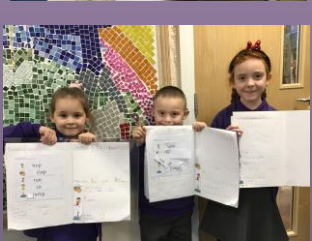
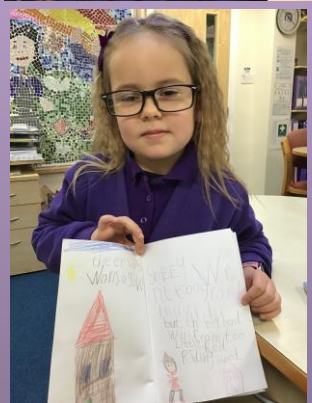
A Message from Mrs Kee

At Violet Way this week, we took part in Children's Mental Health Week. The focus was about making connections. Over the week, the children engaged in a range of planned activities to help them learn about healthy connections – to family, friends and others – and how this can support our mental health and our sense of wellbeing. To find out what they have been up to you can view the overview for the week [here](#). There are also lots of photographs in the newsletter this week!

This week was also a time for children to learn about online safety, including talking about their experiences of life online. Many games that children play involve talking to others online and, although this can be a great experience and opportunity for children to socialise, it can also lead to unkind words and behaviours online. We teach children what respectful online behaviours look like and what to do if someone is being unkind to them online. To find out more, parents can visit our online safety page on the website [Violet Way Academy - Online Safety](#) and there is also a [Violet Way Academy - Safer Internet Day 2023](#) page with a presentation for parents and other resources.

Our school council pupils started their 'Playground Leader' training this week and the trainer was very impressed with their contributions and positive attitude!

As well as all the wonderful learning about staying physically and mentally healthy, I have been delighted to see lovely learning in books and in PE. I have seen some great YR, Y1 and Y2 writing and have spoken to some Y2 children about their maths learning. The children told me that 'maths is fun' and the 'teacher shows us what we need to do and we learn together'. In PE, I was impressed with how groups of children worked together to form short dance sequences to music. I hope you can take time to reflect on what is good for your own wellbeing. Have a lovely weekend, *Mrs Kee*





Attendance

Whole school (this week)	95.77%
Reception	93.11%
Year 1	97.47%
Year 2	96.78%



Congratulations to
Owls

for being the class
with the highest attendance this week.

Well done!

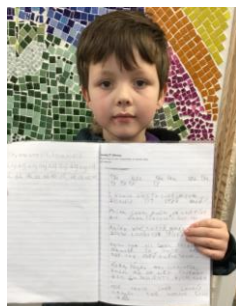
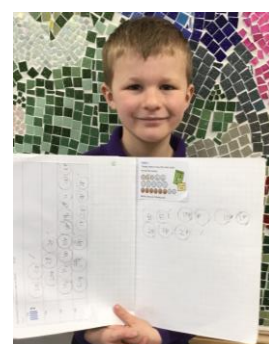
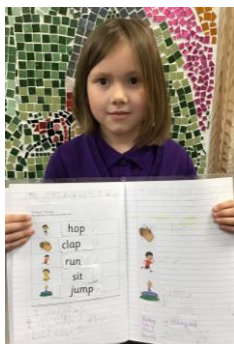
Make sure
your child attends school every
day so that they get
the most from their education.

Active Assembly!

As part of Children's Mental Health week, we had a different assembly on Friday delivered by 'Active Sports'. Physical health can contribute positively to our mental wellbeing. Children learned about a range of different sports to keep active and healthy.



Lovely learning!



Home Achievements



Thank you for sharing
your achievements.
Great job!





Children's Mental Health Week 2023

We started our Children's Mental Health Week with an assembly watching a short animation of [Lucy's Blue Day](#) which is based on the story by Chris Duke. 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. We used the story as inspiration for discussing themes such as loneliness, friendship and how we make connections with others and how that makes us feel. The children thought about people in their own lives that they can talk to when they are feeling 'blue'. Over the week, the children engaged in a range of activities to promote positive mental health and making meaningful connections.



'Walk and talk' around our school grounds. Walking is great for our physical health, and being outdoors and connecting with others is great for us mentally, too.



Y1 and Reception decorated hand shapes to represent themselves and talked about how we are all connected in different ways. Children in Y2 created 'circles of connections'.





Children's Mental Health Week– 'Let's Connect'



For Children's Mental Health Week the children in Reception and Year 1 decorated a hand shape to represent themselves. They were encouraged to think about how they connect with others in their class. All children watched [The Invisible String](#). Click on the link to watch the story at home together.





Children's Mental Health Week– 'Let's Connect'

Children's Mental Health Week was also an opportunity for children to reflect on what is good for their wellbeing. Children across the school enjoyed participating in a range of activities, including walking, colouring and moving to our 'Active Blasts'. Thanks to our fabulous staff team for making it a successful week.





Playground Leader Training

Our school council pupils have been so excited to receive their playground training this week. Today, a trainer from East Staffordshire Sports Partnership, came into school to deliver their first training session. This will be followed up with another session next week.

As part of our 'wellbeing' priority in our Academy Improvement Plan, we aim to further develop pupils' understanding of how to keep physically and mentally healthy and maintain an active lifestyle through the provision of active playtimes and lunchtimes and extra-curricular activities. The school council have been focusing their efforts on playtimes and lunchtimes, finding out what children in their class like to do and taking suggestions to how we can improve further. The children wanted to become more actively involved and are looking forward to putting their training into practice after the half term holiday.





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/>

Inclusion Parent Coffee and Cake morning!

Friday 17th February 9am-10am

Following our successful parent inclusion coffee mornings in the Autumn Term we will be hosting another event on

Friday 17th February from 9am-10am.



All parents are invited to come to our inclusion coffee morning where there will be a focus on mental health and wellbeing. We will be looking at themes such as calming techniques and the range of support available.





PTA Easter Bingo – 23rd March!

Our PTA will be hosting their annual Easter Bingo event on **Thursday 23rd March** this year! Entry will be from **4:30pm** with eyes down at **5pm** and there will be 6 games of Bingo to play!.

This event is ticketed and there are a limited number of tickets available. Tickets will be available to buy via ParentPay on **Monday 27th February at 4pm**. An adult ticket will cost **£2** and a child ticket will cost **£1** - we are limiting tickets at 2 adults and 4 children per family.

There will be refreshments, a raffle, face painting and a few other stalls running at the event too so make sure you arrive with enough time to have a look around & bring some cash with you! 50p coins and £1 coins would be great!

We will also be having a **non-uniform day** to support this event on **Thursday 23rd March**, in exchange for chocolate donations for the Bingo please!



YR PTA Disco

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

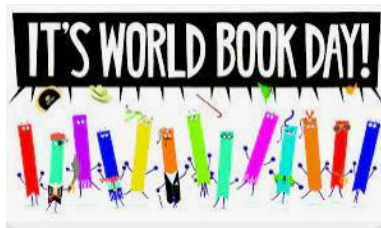
This Spring term, we are going to be hosting a disco on **Thursday 9th March** from 5pm-6pm for our **Reception children!**

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. All we ask is when you drop off, you take their coat with you and bring it back when you come to collect. Ticket price includes a drink and a small packet of sweets. We hope to see lots of Reception children there!





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





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

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)

Non-uniform day in exchange for a chocolate donation for Bingo! Thursday 23rd March

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

