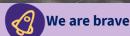


Friday 8th September 2023











We leave no one behind



## A Message from Mrs Kee

Our whole school assembly was about welcoming the children back to school this week and revisiting our vision, values, golden rules and star learner qualities. I was so pleased to see the children looking smart in their uniforms. We wear our uniform with pride to show that we are part of the Violet Way family. We also welcome back parents and families - hope you had a good holiday!



Our new Reception pupils have enjoyed their first few days at school. They have been playing, exploring and enjoying being with their peers in their new learning environment. There have been lots of new experiences for them but, with the support of a nurturing team of staff, they have managed very well. There are some photographs of their first few days in the newsletter.



Reception parents are currently walking their children around to classes in the morning to support with transition and we have been opening the gates five minutes earlier just for them. Thank you for your support with this. This will continue until next Wednesday. From Thursday, teachers will be coming to collect the children from the green gates and they will walk around with the staff. Children in Year 1 and Year 2 had a couple of days where parents could walk children round to their new class and they should now be walking around independently. Please remember any questions or information for teachers should be given to a member of staff on the gates who will pass the message on for you. Teachers are in classes ready to greet the children.

In the newsletter this week you will find information about snacks, after school clubs, a message from the Trust CEO, Parent library session dates, Forest school dates, the curriculum enrichment overview and the results of our parent survey from the summer term.

Look forward to seeing you all next week, Mrs Kee



Atten	dance
Whole school (this week)	96.56%
Reception	98.58%
Year 1	98.33%
Year 2	93.62%

Congratulations to

Badgers, Dragonflies, Foxes
for being the classes
with the highest attendance this week!

100%

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 the Summer Reading Challenge, swimming and football.

### **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! As it was Reception' first few days, they didn't have Merit Awards this week – it was just Key Stage 1.

Year 1



Year 2



We know lots of children took part in the Summer Reading Challenge – well done! We will update you on how we did as a school soon.







## Reception - First few days in school!





### Year 1 and Year 2

Year 1 and Year 2 pupils should be very proud of themselves. They have returned to school in their new year groups and settled in really well. They have walked around the school very sensibly, shown excellent manners and have set a good example for our new Reception pupils. Some photographs of our Year 1 and Year 2 pupils will be shared in the Newsletter next week.

Year 1 and Year 2 pupils will have the opportunity to sign up for after school clubs next week. Please see the information below.

### **After School Clubs – Autumn Term**

The Clubs arranged for Autumn term are as follows:

**Burton Albion Football Club** (Whole term – Year 1 and Year 2) - Fridays after school until 4:15pm – Year 1 and Year 2. The Microsoft Form to sign up will be released on **Monday 11**th **September at 4:00pm**.

**Dance and Movement Club** (Autumn 1 – Year 1) –Thursdays after school until 4:10pm. The Microsoft Form to sign up will be released on **Monday 11**<sup>th</sup> **September at 4:00pm.** 

**Gymnastics Club** (Autumn 1 – Year 2) – Tuesdays after school until 4pm. The Microsoft Form to sign up will be released on **Monday 11**th **September at 4:00pm.** 

From Autumn 2, there will be a Mulitsports after school club offered to Reception pupils. The form will be released at the end of this half term.





### **New website!**

The Trust and Academy website have been redesigned during the holiday period. The new photographs taken in the summer term look lovely! Please be aware that we are updating the website as some content was transferred over from the old website. Our website address is www.violetway.org

### **Curriculum Enrichment 2023-2024**

Each year we produce our 'Curriculum Enrichment' document which maps the enrichment activities planned across the academic year for all year groups. We have included it as an image below, but it has also been added to our new website – you can access it as a PDF at the bottom our Curriculum page – please click <a href="here">here</a>.

We hope that parents find this overview useful as it contains information about planned trips, parent engagement sessions, dress up days. Please note that some dates or events may be subject to change if there are any changes in circumstances, but we will always inform parents as far in advance as possible if this is the case. We also add dates to the 'What's Coming Up?' section of the weekly Newsletter.

	Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
EYFS Trips / Visitors		Walk to post office Robot workshop 16th Nov Visit from grandparents, dental	Trip to Wing Wah	Animal experience in schools – 29th February	Trip to Conkers — 16 <sup>th</sup> May	
		nurse, PCSO and Nurse				
EYFS Parental Engagement Sessions	Harvest Assembly 19th October	Nativity Performance – 14th Dec Reading workshops for parents		Mother's Day Play and Stay 11 <sup>th</sup> March 9am	May Day Parent event — 1" May	Father's Day Play and Stay — 14 <sup>th</sup> June 9am
	Parent reading meeting 5th Oct					Sports day 10th July 9:15am
EYFS Curriculum days	Transition Meetings and Play and Stay sessions	Parent stay and play – oral hygiene				Seaside – dress up day – 11 <sup>th</sup> July
Year 1 Trips / Visitors	Packington Farm trips: Dragonflies 19th September Busy Bees 20th September Ladybirds 22th September	Tamworth Castle trip 17th Nov	Explorer question time	Chick-hatching in school  Animal experience in school		Walk to Burton — 19th June
Curriculum days	,	Castle Curriculum Day (not dress up)	Explorer day ( <u>not</u> dress up)		Victorian curriculum day – dress up day - 26 <sup>th</sup> April	Grandparents sharing about changes in Burton
Year 1 Parental Engagement Sessions	Harvest Assembly 19th October	Christmas sing along with parents 20th December		Mother's Day Play and Stay 11th March 10am	May Day Parent event – 1" May	Father's Day Play and Stay — 14th June 10am
	Parent reading meeting 5th Oct	Reading workshops for parents				Sports day 11th July 10:45am
Year 2 Trips / Visitors		Edge Hill Christmas Performance 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec	African Drumming session (Rock it!)	Teams meeting with school in inner-city London	Twycross Zoo trip	Kingswood residential 3rd to 5 <sup>th</sup> July
Year 2 Parental	Harvest Assembly	Christmas Carol Concert at St		Mother's Day Play and Stay 11th	May Day Parent event - 1st May	Father's Day Play and Stay - 14th
Engagement Sessions	19th October	Peter's Church 18th Dec		March 11am		June 11am
	Parent reading meeting 5th Oct Kingswood parent meeting 5th	Reading workshops for parents				Sports day 11th July 9:15am
	Oct					Brewhouse rehearsal 16th July Brewhouse performances 17 July
						Y2 Graduation – 19 July
Whole school events	Parents' evenings 18th October (3:30-7pm) and 19th October	Anti-bullying week 13th-17th Nov	Children's mental health week 5 <sup>th</sup> - 11 <sup>th</sup> February	World Book Day 7th March	Parent Forest School Sessions – join your child on their Forest	Reports to parents - 12th July
	(3:30-5pm)	Odd socks day -13th Nov	Safer Internet Day 6th February	Easter Egg hunt – 22 <sup>nd</sup> March	school day on w/c 13 <sup>th</sup> May / 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Parent open evening (drop in) 15th July
	School photographs 11th Oct	Christmas dinner day - 7th Dec	Sports Enrichment Day 8th Feb		Sports Enrichment – 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	
	Sports Enrichment Day – 26th Oct  Walk to school month – October	Pantomime in school – 22 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	Parents' evenings 21# Feb (3:30- 7pm) and 22nd Feb (3:30-5pm)		Class photographs - 10 <sup>th</sup> April	
	Walk to school month - October		/pm) and 22** Feb (3:30-5pm)		Walk to school week - May	
	Parent Library Mornings — every	class has a parent library morning	every three weeks - join your child in	our lovely school library for ten min		am for parent library session class).
Dress up days		Remembrance Day – wear your		Wear pyjamas on World Book		
Dress up days – we usually request a £1		poppies with pride in November		Day 7 <sup>th</sup> March		
donation to charity where applicable. Occasionally,		Odd socks day – wear odd socks on 13th November		Comic relief - March — Wear red		
there may be additional				World Down Syndrome Day 21st		
days not planned into the schedule.		Children in Need – spots or yellow clothes on 17th Nov		March – wear odd socks (celebrate individuality)		
		Wear your Christmas jumper on Christmas dinner day – 7th Dec				
		Cirisinas difiner day - / " Dec				



### **Snack times**



All children receive a free piece of fruit at snack time. We offer additional snacks in school prepared by our kitchen team for snack time for a small charge. Parents can purchase the following snack and drink items for 30p per item on Parent Pay.

- Togst
- Pancakes
- Watermelon
- Milk
- Apple juice

If you choose to send a snack in for your child, please remember it is Trust policy not to send in any chocolate bars or biscuits covered with chocolate. Chocolate flavoured however is allowed at this contains less calories. Nuts or products containing nuts are NOT to be sent into school. We appreciate that these are a good source of protein, however we do have children with severe nut allergies, and this could be life threatening to them.

#### Ideas for snack:

- Whole or sliced fruit
- Vegetable sticks, e.g. celery, carrot, pepper, cucumber. Some vegetables are naturally baton shaped which can save you time preparing, for example, sugar snap peas and baby corn
- Bag of plain popcorn
- Scotch pancake
- Bread sticks
- Plain crackers
- Sliced pitta bread
- Mini cheese
- Malt loaf
- Rice cakes or corn cakes
- Yogurt tubes

Please do not send crisps or similar snacks, chocolate, chocolate covered biscuits or sweets into school - please keep these for a treat at home where you can monitor the number of treats.

Drinks should <u>not</u> be fizzy and energy drinks are <u>not</u> allowed. Keeping fit and eating well gives our children all the energy they require! Look for drinks that say school compliant as a guideline or fill bottles with water or well-diluted sugar free squash.



## A Message from our Trust CEO

Dear Parents and carers,

Welcome back after the summer break. I hope that you managed to rest and recuperate with your family and loved ones.

If you are a new parent of a child or children joining our Fierté Family, we welcome you and hope that you all have settled in well this first week of the academic year.

I wanted to share with you some Trust news:

The Trust and all academies have a new website which is now live. An intense amount of toil, behind the scenes, has enabled this significant piece of work to be completed in a very short space of time. We are very proud of the new site and the way that it showcases our organisation. Many thanks to all those involved. We hope as parents that you find the website very accessible and parent friendly.

Dosthill Primary's new build is complete. The sign off has been given and our children and staff can now relish being able to work and learn in a beautiful new environment. It was worth the wait!

Mr. Gareth Hancox, an experienced leader in our Trust, will be joining the Ankermoor Primary Academy team as their headteacher for the next academic year. We are delighted to welcome him to this role and wish him all the very best for the upcoming term. Our Trust Parent Forum and all Local Governing Boards are looking for committed and supportive parents to join. We would love to hear from you if you have an interest in supporting your school community further. Please contact: <a href="mailto:ceo@fierte.org">ceo@fierte.org</a>

As a Trust, we have identified that some elements of communication are impacting significantly on our staff and their work-life balance. Some issues include emails to staff late at night, over weekends or during school holidays which often have an unrealistic expectation for response times. A new <u>Parent Communication and Email protocol</u>, endorsed by the Trust Board, has been created. Please familiarise yourself with the content as this will be the new protocol for parents when communicating, commencing Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2023 and therefore, the expectation is that this is adhered to by all.

I am delighted to share that our Trust has been awarded a brand-new Free School Presumption primary school at Amington in Tamworth. The school is expected to open to pupils in September 2024, with a team already underway securing the steps required for this to open successfully. This school, our tenth, will be named Garden Village Primary Academy.

I will continue to update you each term on any new initiatives or Trust wide information. Wishing you a positive and successful start to the new academic year and beyond! Maria Hamblin (CEO)

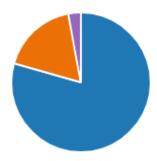


## **Annual Parent Survey Results**

The following annual parent survey questions were asked at the end of the last academic year — the results are recorded as pie charts and with the corresponding numbers. There were 34 responses in total.

### Violet Way Academy has a happy and welcoming atmosphere.

	Strongly Agree	27
	Agree	6
•	Disagree	0
•	Strongly disagree	0
	Don't know	1



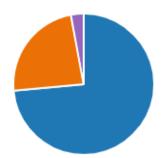
### My child enjoys school and is happy at Violet Way Academy.

	Strongly Agree	25
•	Agree	9
•	Disagree	0
•	Strongly disagree	0
	Don't know	0



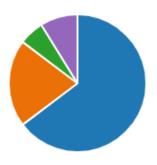
### My child feels safe at school.

<ul> <li>Strongly Agree</li> </ul>	25
Agree	8
<ul> <li>Disagree</li> </ul>	0
<ul> <li>Strongly disagree</li> </ul>	0
Don't know	1



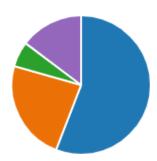


•	Strongly agree	22
	Agree	7
•	Disagree	2
•	Strongly Disagree	0
	Dan't know	2



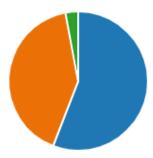
When I have raised concerns, they have been dealt with properly.

•	Strongly agree	19
	Agree	8
•	Disagree	2
•	Strongly Disagree	0
	Don't know	5



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

Stro	ongly agree	19
Agr	ree	14
Dis	agree	1
Strong	ongly Disagree	0
Do	n't know	0



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

<ul> <li>Strongly Agree</li> </ul>	24
Agree	10
<ul><li>Disagree</li></ul>	0
<ul> <li>Strongly Disagree</li> </ul>	0
Don't know	0





•	Strongly agree	2
•	Agree	1
•	Disagree	0
•	Strongly disagree	0
	Don't know	0



### My child does well at Violet Way Academy.

	Strongly agree	21
•	Agree	13
•	Disagree	0
•	Strongly Disagree	0
	Don't know	0



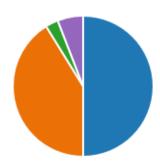
### The school lets me know how my child is doing.

	Strongly agree	18
•	Agree	13
•	Disagree	3
•	Strongly Disagree	0
	Don't know	0



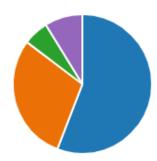
### My child can take part in clubs and activities at Violet Way Academy.

St	rongly agree	17
Ag	gree	14
Di	sagree	1
St	rongly Disagree	0
Do	on't know	2



### The school supports my child's wider personal development.

St	trongly Agree	19
A	gree	10
D	isagree	2
St	trongly Disagree	0
D	on't know	3



### I would recommend this school to another parent.





### Positive comments from parents (anonymised)

- All I can say is hardworking lovely teachers 🛇
- Curriculum and dates overview very helpful and fewer dressing up days this year appreciated.
- We are very happy with violet way, they are super at making sure the children succeed I'll definitely be putting Violet Way down as my first and only choice for my daughter attending this school as of Sept 2024.
- Violet Way is an incredibly caring, supportive environment and I am grateful that my children have had the opportunity to start their school life there. Thank you to all staff for your hard work and dedication.
- I cannot praise this school enough, From the smiles at the gates to the informative newsletters each week it's very reassuring for new parents. Thankyou for you help and support throughout our first year.
- We are pleased to see how our child has grown in confidence in the last year, with her learning and also within her group of friends.
- I feel so lucky that my child has the opportunity to attend Violet Way! Every aspect of her school life is outstanding. She loves coming to school because all staff are caring, hardworking, passionate and engaging. As a parent I too feel welcome at school, have endless opportunities to attend activities and am constantly kept up to date with what is happening. It truly is an incredible school... my only wish is that is was a Primary School so she could stay here until Y6. Thank you to all of the staff for an incredible year!
- The transparency of long term planning (e.g. curriculum overview & dates provided in September) is invaluable.
- Thank you all involved in making my child's year 1 a happy time. He loves school and is doing so well.
- Really appreciate such in depth comments from the teacher and the headteacher at the end, thank you. So
  reassuring knowing school staff see the same child we do at home. It's been difficult relocating and our child
  starting halfway through Y1 but I'm grateful for everything staff have done to help him settle.
- I'm happy with my child's learning journey she has done so well 💭
- Reading rockets are far far better than the online system we had before and has engaged the children.





Areas for development from a parental perspective				
What you said	What we did / our response			
We as parents love supporting things in school and spending time seeing our child in the school environment but it would be great to give more notice where possible on sports days times etc as working parents need time to plan.	The dates of sports days were provided at the start of the academic year in the curriculum enrichment document (published in the Newsletter) and also available on the website. The times of the events were published in the Newsletter a month prior to the sports days. We will aim to keep the times the same in future years so that we can provide this information in the curriculum enrichment document.			
Also in the newsletter the trip to Kingswood 2024 was quite confusing re dates	We are sorry that you found the information about the Kingswood 2024 trip confusing. We were trying to establish whether there was enough interest for the residential. Dates had not been set at that point, we sent a survey to parents to check if they would be interested in sending their child. The results of the survey showed that there is an interest and we have booked for this academic year. There will be a meeting for parents on 5th October.			
The only thing I wish is that on special occasions- Mother's Day, Father's Day etc is that the children make their own personal cards not just handprints. Let them do the creating.	This is an interesting one as other parents have commented previously about liking cads with handprints because they like to see how their child has grown. We will explore having a mix o both.			
The smaller groups lower down the school for reading are great, but it seems to stagnate a bit once at the top of Year 2 in a much larger group.	We are sorry to hear that your child felt this way. We are reviewing and updating the delivery of reading lessons when children complete the Read Write Inc (RWI) scheme and will ensure that we get pupil voice on this next academic year.			
Reading rockets organisation quite variable between classes, some come home on Tuesday others can take most of the week to return.	Reading rockets and new reading books should be sent home on Tuesdays. This is organised by reading group rather than class. Please let us know if there are issues and we will address it immediately.			
Brewhouse performance places a lot on parents - getting them back and forth in a family with one car and multiple children without disrupting school night bedtime routines and other children's commitments can actually be impossible without grandparents living nearby	We received lots of positive feedback from parents following the Brewhouse performance. We provide and pay for a coach to take the children in the afternoon and bring back to school (parents can choose to collect them from the Brewhouse if they wish). We understand that parents do need to then bring them back for the evening performance. We could just have one afternoon performance, however the evening is usually sold out.			
My child loves doing homework and I really don't want him to lose that enthusiasm so a very simple acknowledgement of work that's been done would be really well received.	We are so pleased that children enjoy completing the home learning opportunities. We will discuss this as part of our meetings with teachers to ensure that they acknowledge all completed home learning.			



### Parent Library Mornings – Autumn Term

Parents are invited to join their child, every three weeks for a parent library session. Gates will open 5 minutes earlier for the class whose library session it is. Reception sessions are on Tuesdays. Year 2 sessions are on Wednesdays and Year 1 sessions are on Thursdays. Parent library morning sessions start the week after next. Please see dates below for your child's parent library session.

**Reception Tuesday Sessions:** 

Foxes	19/9	10/10	7/11	28/11
Squirrels	26/9	17/10	14/11	5/12
Badgers	3/10	24/10	21/11	12/12

Year 2 Wednesday Sessions:

Kestrels	20/9	11/10	8/11	29/11
Owls	27/9	18/10	15/11	6/12
Woodpeckers	4/10	25/10	22/11	13/12

Year 1 Thursday Sessions:

Dragonflies	21/9	12/10	9/11	30/11
Ladybirds	28/9	19/10	16/11	7/12
Busy Bees	5/10	26/10	23/11	14/12

### Forest School Sessions - Autumn Term

Week 1:

Monday - Dragonflies

Tuesday - Owls

Wednesday - Badgers

Thursday - Kestrels

Friday - Foxes

These class will have Forest School Afternoons on the days above during the following weeks: 11/9 25/9 9/10 23/10 13/11 27/11 11/12 Week 2:

Monday - Ladybirds

Tuesday - Woodpeckers

Thursday - Squirrels

Friday - Busy Bees

These class will have Forest School Afternoons on the days above during the following weeks: 18/9 2/10 16/10

6/11 20/11 4/12









# Dates for your diary

### Staffordshire Term Dates 2023-2024

#### Autumn Term 2023

Inset day: Monday 4 September Term starts: Tuesday 5 September

Half term Holiday: Monday 30 October - Friday 3

November

Term ends: Friday 22 December

Holiday: Monday 25 December - Friday 5 January

#### Spring Term 2024

Term Starts: Monday 8 January

Half term Holiday: Monday 12 February - Friday

16 February

Term Ends: Friday 22 March

Holiday: Monday 25 March - Friday 5 April

Easter Sunday: Sunday 31 March

#### Summer Term 2024

Term Starts: Monday 8 April May Day: Monday 6 May

Half term Holiday: Monday 27 May - Friday 31

May

Term Ends: Friday 19th July

Holiday: Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July – Friday 30 August

Please also make a note of our planned INSET

days

for next academic year at Violet Way:

#### **Violet Way Inset Days**

Monday 4th September 2023

Friday 20th October 2023

Monday 8th January 2024

Friday 21st June 2024

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July (disaggregated)

### What's Coming Up?

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

Packington Farm Visits - Year 1

Tuesday 19th September – Dragonflies Wednesday 20th September – Busy Bees Friday 22nd September – Ladybirds

School Photographs - Wednesday 11th October

**Parents' Evenings** — Wednesday 18th and Thursday 19th October

Harvest Assemblies - Thursday 19th 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

INSET Day - Friday 20th October

Whole School Sports Enrichment Day – Thursday 26th October

Anti-Bullying Week Theme: Making a Noise about Bullying – week commencing Monday 13th November

**Odd Socks Day** – Monday 13<sup>th</sup> 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.

