



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*





Attendance

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

WOW! 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's 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 at school





Reception – First few days in school!



Playing and exploring



Socialising



Discovery





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 11th 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 11th 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 11th 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 [here](#).

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 16 th Nov Visit from grandparents, dental nurse, PCSO and Nurse	Trip to Wing Wah	Animal experience in schools – 29 th February	Trip to Conkers – 16 th May	
EYFS Parental Engagement Sessions	Harvest Assembly 19 th October Parent reading meeting 5 th Oct	Nativity Performance – 14 th Dec Reading workshops for parents		Mother's Day Play and Stay 11 th March 9am	May Day Parent event – 1 st May	Father's Day Play and Stay – 14 th June 9am Sports day 10 th July 9:15am
EYFS Curriculum days	Transition Meetings and Play and Stay sessions	Parent stay and play – oral hygiene				Seaside – dress up day – 11 th July
Year 1 Trips / Visitors	Packington Farm trips: Dragonflies 19 th September Busy Bees 20 th September Ladybirds 22 nd September	Tamworth Castle trip 17 th Nov	Explorer question time	Chick-hatching in school Animal experience in school		Walk to Burton – 19 th June
Curriculum days		Castle Curriculum Day (<u>not</u> dress up)	Explorer day (<u>not</u> dress up)		Victorian curriculum day – dress up day - 26 th April May Day Parent event – 1 st May	Grandparents sharing about changes in Burton Father's Day Play and Stay – 14 th June 10am Sports day 11 th July 10:45am
Year 1 Parental Engagement Sessions	Harvest Assembly 19 th October Parent reading meeting 5 th Oct	Christmas sing along with parents 20 th December Reading workshops for parents		Mother's Day Play and Stay 11 th March 10am		
Year 2 Trips / Visitors		Edge Hill Christmas Performance 12 th Dec	African Drumming session (Rock It!)	Teams meeting with school in inner-city London	Twycross Zoo trip	Kingswood residential 3rd to 5 th July
Year 2 Parental Engagement Sessions	Harvest Assembly 19 th October Parent reading meeting 5 th Oct Kingswood parent meeting 5 th Oct	Christmas Carol Concert at St Peter's Church 18 th Dec Reading workshops for parents		Mother's Day Play and Stay 11 th March 11am	May Day Parent event – 1 st May	Father's Day Play and Stay – 14 th June 11am Sports day 11 th July 9:15am Brewhouse rehearsal 16 th July Brewhouse performances 17 th July Y2 Graduation – 19 th July
Whole school events	Parents' evenings 18th October (3:30-7pm) and 19 th October (3:30-5pm) School photographs 11 th Oct Sports Enrichment Day – 26 th Oct Walk to school month – October	Anti-bullying week 13 th -17 th Nov Odd socks day -13 th Nov Christmas dinner day - 7 th Dec Pantomime in school – 22 nd Dec	Children's mental health week 5 th - 11 th February Safer Internet Day 6 th February Sports Enrichment Day 8 th Feb Parents' evenings 21 st Feb (3:30-7pm) and 22 nd Feb (3:30-5pm)	World Book Day 7 th March Easter Egg hunt – 22 nd March	Parent Forest School Sessions – join your child on their Forest school day on w/c 13 th May / 20 th May Sports Enrichment – 23 rd May Class photographs - 10 th April Walk to school week - May	Reports to parents - 12 th July Parent open evening (drop in) 15 th July
Dress up days Dress up days – we usually request a £1 donation to charity where applicable. Occasionally, there may be additional days not planned into the schedule.	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 (gates open at 8:40am for parent library session class).					
		Remembrance Day – wear your poppies with pride in November Odd socks day – wear odd socks on 13 th November Children in Need – spots or yellow clothes on 17 th Nov Wear your Christmas jumper on Christmas dinner day – 7 th Dec		Wear pyjamas on World Book Day 7 th March Comic relief - March – Wear red World Down Syndrome Day 21 st March – wear odd socks (celebrate individuality)		





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.**

- Toast
- 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 **not** be fizzy and energy drinks are **not** 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 Anker Moor 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: ceo@fierte.org

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 [Parent Communication and Email protocol](#), 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 8th 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.

Strongly Agree	25
Agree	8
Disagree	0
Strongly disagree	0
Don't know	1



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

Strongly agree	22
Agree	7
Disagree	2
Strongly Disagree	0
Don't know	3

**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.**

Strongly agree	19
Agree	14
Disagree	1
Strongly Disagree	0
Don't know	0

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

Strongly Agree	24
Agree	10
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	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.

Strongly agree	17
Agree	14
Disagree	1
Strongly Disagree	0
Don't know	2





The school supports my child's wider personal development.

Strongly Agree	19
Agree	10
Disagree	2
Strongly Disagree	0
Don't know	3



I would recommend this school to another parent.

Yes	34
No	0



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 it 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**

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.

Also in the newsletter the trip to Kingswood 2024 was quite confusing re dates

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.

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.

Reading rockets organisation quite variable between classes, some come home on Tuesday others can take most of the week to return.

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

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.

What we did / our response

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.

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.

This is an interesting one as other parents have commented previously about liking cards with handprints because they like to see how their child has grown. We will explore having a mix of both.

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 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.

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.

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.





Library and Forest School Dates

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





FREE
ENTRY

JOIN US FOR
**St. Peter's
Church
Open Day**

SATURDAY
16TH SEPTEMBER
11AM - 3PM

Join us for
A look around the building
Fun family activities
Tea/coffee, cakes and ice cream
A chance to share memories
Tours up the tower
(tower tour for 8 and over only and
subject to weather conditions)

4 STAPENHILL RD,
BURTON-ON-TRENT
DE15 9AF



FIERTÉ

MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

INSPIRING ALL TO EXCELLENCE



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 22nd 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 22nd 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 13th 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.

