

## A Message from Mrs Kee

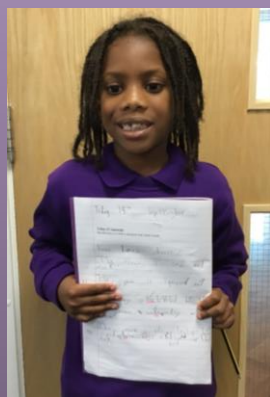
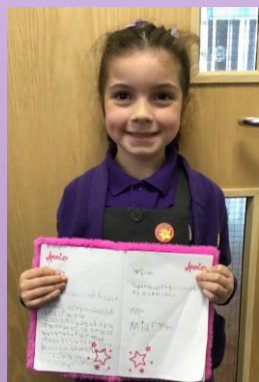
We started the week with an assembly about this half term's 'Jigsaw' PSHE unit 'Being me in my world'. We identified how we can use our words and actions and what we say to be kind to someone else, making links to our school value 'We care' and our Golden Rule 'We have kind hands, kind feet and kind words'. Over the half term, the children will learn that our choices have an impact on others. They will develop an understanding of rewards and consequences and find out how to deal with worries.

Our Reception children have had their first full week in school, including two days where they walked to their classes without parents. We are very proud of how they are settling into Violet Way – well done! To enable the children in Reception to get used to their morning routine, parent library sessions for Reception pupils won't start until after the half term break. Year 1 and Year 2 parent library mornings start next week.

In addition to our new Reception pupils starting at Violet Way, we have had new staff join us from September. They have been welcomed by the staff and pupils and have made a great start in their different roles at Violet Way. I have included their names in the newsletter and there is also a '[Meet our Team](#)' page on the website with all staff.

Children across the school had their first 'Rock it!' Music lesson this week with Wendy Baugh. They really enjoyed singing and making music together.

In our assemblies, including Merit Assembly today, the children have been walking in quietly, listening carefully and showing the Merit Award winners how proud they were of them by putting their 'thumbs up' or making a 'We care' heart and singing our 'Well done' song. Have a lovely weekend. I look forward to seeing you next week, *Mrs Kee*





## Attendance



Whole school (this week)	<b>97.03%</b>
Reception	<b>96.92%</b>
Year 1	<b>96.78%</b>
Year 2	<b>97.42%</b>



Congratulations to  
**Foxes (99.66%)**

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. Check out our award winners this week!

### Reception



### Year 1



### Year 2



## Home Achievements



We  
celebrated  
awards for  
reading,  
swimming,  
sports and  
football –  
well done!



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## Year 1 in Pictures



Learn, enjoy, play



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## Year 2 in Pictures



**Learn, Explore, Play**





## Meet our Team

Parents can view the 'Meet our Team' section of the academy website to see all our staff across the school.

Below are our new staff who joined us in September and key safeguarding personnel in school (Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads).

Miss Nicholson –  
Deputy Headteacher



Mr Garb –  
Ladybirds Class Teacher



Mrs Nixon-Pittom –  
Teaching Assistant (KS1)



Mrs Young –  
Lunchtime Supervisor



Mrs Millward –  
Lunchtime Supervisor



Mrs McDonnell –  
Lunchtime Supervisor



**The DSL and DDSLs at Violet Way Academy are:**



Mrs Michelle Kee  
Headteacher  
DSL



Mrs Marie Dawson  
Inclusion Manager  
DDSL



Miss Nicholson  
Deputy Headteacher  
DDSL



Mrs Shirley-Anne Magill  
SENDCO  
DDSL

Mrs Briony Marler is also a DDSL but is currently on maternity leave.







## Toddler group

Toddler group started this week and fun was had by all! The sessions take place every Tuesday 9:00am -10:30am £2 per family. The staff always provide a range of lovely activities and resources for the children to explore as well as some planned craft activities. If you have a pre-school toddler, just pop along to see them – they would love to welcome you to the group.



**Toddler Group**  
Come and join us  
every Tuesday  
during term time  
9:00am – 10:30am.  
Just £2 per family!





## Watch out for the Violet Way Scarecrow!

During the summer holiday, our PTA Chair, Stacey Gaynor, received confirmation that we could enter a PTA Violet Way scarecrow at the local garden centre, Garden King!

Thanks to the PTA members who gathered lots of materials and worked with some Y1 and Y2 pupils in school to create our very own Scarecrow!

We will let you know how we get on!



## Well done Reception!

Well done to Reception pupils who came into school on Thursday and Friday without parents. Thank you to all of the Y1 and Y2 parents for being patient and supportive. On Monday and Tuesday, we will open the gates at 8:40am for Reception pupils but will return to the usual opening time for all pupils of 8:45am on Wednesday. Gates will open at 8:40am just for the class that has parent library morning (Year 1 and Year 2) on Wednesday and Thursdays. Please refer to the Library morning dates in the newsletter. Reception parent library morning start after the October half term.

## Congratulations!

We are sure parents will be delighted to know that, during the school holiday, Mrs Marler had a beautiful baby boy. Eddie was born prematurely but mum and baby have been well looked after by the hospital staff and both are doing brilliantly!

We look forward to meeting Eddie when he is ready!





## Allergen Policy

All parents should be aware that we have an Allergen Policy, which can be found on our website [policy page](#). Some key important notes for parents:

- It is the parent's responsibility to inform the school of any allergies by completing the new entrant's form.
- Parents are responsible for ensuring any required medication is supplied, in date and replaced as necessary.
- For the protection of the children in our schools **no nuts will be allowed in any area at any time. This includes any food that contains Nutella® or similar, peanut butter or any other foods containing nuts. These restrictions also apply to any packed lunches and snacks that are created or sent in from home** (The Academy cannot check all lunchboxes and items brought into school, therefore will take measures as reasonably practicable).
- Products that are labelled "May contain nuts" will be accepted into schools as these pose minimal risk and are labelled to protect the manufacturer.

## Parent and Carers Communication and Email Protocol

As advised in the CEO's message to parents last week, there is now a Trust-wide Parent Communication and Email Protocol on our [policy page](#). When communicating by email staff want to respond to parental queries at the earliest opportunity and will do their utmost to do so, however, the majority of teachers' time is taken up teaching and preparing for lessons. Some key points below:

- There is no expectation for staff to answer emails outside school hours and there is a Trust expectation that this is followed by all.
- Emails sent by parents must have the expectation that they may not be answered outside of the agreed period from 8.00am-6.00pm or over a weekend. This is to encourage a better work-life balance for our staff and to make parents think carefully about the emails they are sending.
- Staff are not expected to check emails before 8.00am or after 6.00pm on working days, or over the weekend.
- In terms of replies to parents, we expect that any emails are responded to within a three working day period. Staff may not always monitor their email accounts during the school holidays, so they may not be able to respond within three working days during these periods.







## Community Meeting

On Tuesday this week, Mrs Kee attended a meeting at Paulet High School with Mr McArthur (Paulet Headteacher), Conor Wileman (County Councillor), Jane Winfield (PSCO), and representatives from Brizlincote Parish Council and the local neighbourhood. The purpose of the meeting was to share ideas about how to improve the parking issues in the local vicinity of the school, including car idling (due to the pollution it causes) and inconsiderate and illegal parking.

As a school, we regularly promote and encourage parents to walk to school with children or, if driving is necessary, to park safely and considerately of local residents. This means parking in a way that considers the safety of pedestrians, not blocking driveways or exits to homes and following the rules of the highway.

Working with our local community is really important to us and pupils. Our pupils often show 'We care' by collecting litter in their local environment, and partaking in 'walk to school' weeks, for example.

During the meeting, we agreed to share information around school event days as we are aware these can cause increased cars on the road. We have suggested that local residents can check our weekly newsletters for further information. However, we appreciate that some residents may not access the internet, so we request that parents living locally, particularly in the cul-de-sacs opposite the schools, communicate events that they are aware of with their neighbours.

It is important that parents do not sit in running cars and we support the Staffordshire 'Anti-Idling' campaign. This is because we want to reduce the amount of pollution in the air that our pupils are breathing in. Poor air quality can seriously aggravate conditions like asthma and it's responsible for hundreds of deaths a year across Staffordshire. You can help make a change! Choosing to switch off your engine whilst waiting in your car is a simple change you can make straight away.





## Parent Reading Meeting

If you want to find out more about phonics and reading at Violet Way, there are two meetings planned for parents. On **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October** there will be a meeting at **9:00am and 4:30pm**. We have planned two meeting so parents can choose which suits them. You are welcome to pop in. If you are unable to attend, please do not worry as we will be publishing the meeting slides on the website.

At Violet Way, children bring home a reading book and a library book.

Books should be brought to school daily in their book bag.

- Reading books will be changed on Mondays and returned to children on Tuesday. Please ensure your child's reading book is in school on Monday.
- Library books are changed on Tuesdays in Reception, Wednesdays in Year 2 and Thursdays in Year 1.

Please be aware that, depending on their stage of reading, children may be set different reading challenges at home. Reception will start their phonics learning in school after a few weeks of settling in and reading books for Reception will start being sent home after October half term. Children in Reception will still have a library book for you to enjoy reading together at home.

Remember that the parent library sessions start next week for Year 1 and Year 2. We look forward to welcoming you and your child. During these sessions, please can parents help the children to put the books back in the correct place! There are labels to help you on the shelves. Thank you!

## Kingswood Meeting for Y2 Parents

On **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October** there will be a meeting about Kingswood for Y2 parents at 9:30am and 5:00pm. We have planned two meetings so parents can attend which meeting time suits them best. The meeting is to give you more information about the Year 2 residential and to give you the chance to ask any questions that you may have. There will be a letter sent out next week that provides further details.

The Kingswood trip is **Wednesday 3rd July to Friday 5th July**. We look forward to seeing you at the meeting!







# 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 (start after the October half term). Year 2 sessions are on Wednesdays and Year 1 sessions are on Thursdays. Please see dates below for your child's parent library session.

### Reception Tuesday Sessions:

<b>Foxes</b>	-	-	7/11	28/11
<b>Squirrels</b>	-	-	14/11	5/12
<b>Badgers</b>	-	-	21/11	12/12

### Year 2 Wednesday Sessions:

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

### Year 1 Thursday Sessions:

<b>Dragonflies</b>	21/9	12/10	9/11	30/11
<b>Ladybirds</b>	28/9	19/10	16/11	7/12
<b>Busy Bees</b>	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



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# 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> September – Dragonflies

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September – Busy Bees

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September – Ladybirds

**Parent Reading Meeting** – 5<sup>th</sup> October at 9:00am and 4:30pm

**Kingswood Meeting for Year 2 Parents** – 5<sup>th</sup> October at 9:30am and 5:00pm

**School Photographs** - Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> October

**Parents' Evenings** – Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October

**Harvest Assemblies** – Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> October

**Whole School Sports Enrichment Day** – Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October

**Anti-Bullying Week** Theme: Making a Noise about Bullying – week commencing Monday 13<sup>th</sup> 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.

