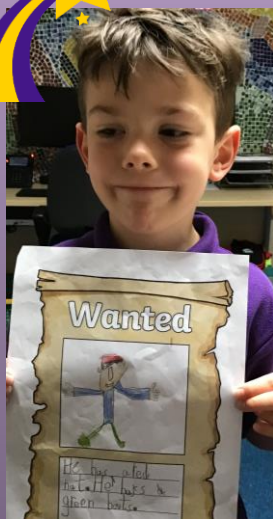
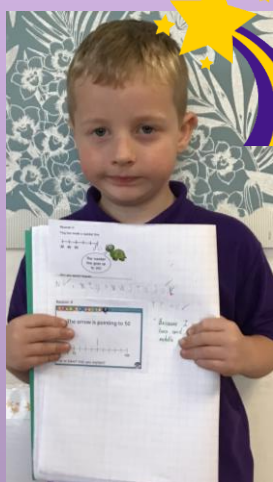


A Message from Mrs Kee

Our assembly on Monday this week focused on our value 'We care', and in particular, helpfulness. We found out about animals that help each other and talked about small things we can do to help others that make a big difference. The children came up with some good suggestions, such as picking up coats that have fallen off pegs in the corridors at school and tidying their bedrooms at home – you'll have to let me know how they are getting on with that one! In addition, our VWA Scarecrow 'Hector' has been positioned in his new home at Garden King today. Thank you to our PTA for organising for us to be a part of the competition. We love that our scarecrow is showing 'We care' and helpfulness by litter picking!

The Senior Leadership Team have carried out learning walks in writing lessons this week. We observed children in Y2 writing sentences using adjectives to describe nouns and some sentence writing linked to the story 'What the Ladybird Heard' in Year 1. It was lovely to see the children enjoying writing and showing pride in their achievements.

As promised, there is some more information in this week's newsletter about 'myHappymind', the programme we are delivering in school based around helping children to understand how their brain works and to support them in developing positive skills and habits. I hope you have a happy weekend, *Mrs Kee*





Attendance

Whole school (this week)	95.78%
Reception	94.99%
Year 1	96.56%
Year 2	95.78%



Congratulations to
Owls (99.23%)
for being the class

WOW!

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.**

Home Achievements



We celebrated awards for reading, swimming, football, judo and kick-boxing this week – well done!

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





Curriculum in Focus

Physical Education (PE)

As part of our PE curriculum this year we are utilising our sports premium funding to provide 'Balanceability' lessons in Reception. The children are all really enjoying accessing these – staying active, developing their skills and having fun!



We are brave



We have a wide range of clubs taking place after school and during lunchtime. Many thanks to Mrs Holford who has organised all the clubs. We currently have dance, football and gymnastics after school clubs and karate and dance lunchtime clubs. These have proved popular and, as you can see from the photographs, the children are keeping active, learning new skills and smiling!





myHappyMind

We have introduced a program to all year groups at school called myHappyMind. myHappyMind is all based around helping children to understand how their brain works and to support them in developing positive skills and habits to be their very best selves!

myHappyMind is delivered in schools by class teachers through a series of interactive lessons and then the children apply these learnings throughout the day. To further embed this learning and ensure that you are able to engage in these topics with your child, myHappyMind has developed a set of resources for parents. These resources can be accessed online on your computer, or through an app on your phone. The resources allow children to continue to practise some of the habits they have developed at school, such as Happy Breathing, for you to learn more about what they are learning in the program. Also included are activities for you to do together at home, to complement the in-school lessons.

To access these materials just go to <https://myhappymind.org/parent-resources> and enter your name, email, and authentication code. Your authentication code is **136762**

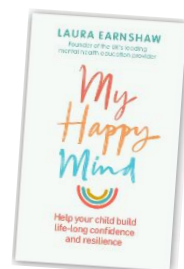
Or scan this QR code to sign up



We really encourage you to make use of this free content so that you can support your child in getting the best out of the curriculum. If you have any questions about the curriculum, please contact your class teacher.

If you have any technical questions about accessing the resources, please contact hello@myhappymind.org

Want to learn more? Check out myHappyMind founder Laura Earnshaw's best selling book on Amazon.





Walk to School Month

We are encouraging pupils and parents to take part in Walk to School Month this October.

Walking is a healthy, active and non-polluting way of getting to school. For those that live too far away to walk the whole distance away and try parking 5-10 minutes from the school and walking the rest of the way. Walking also promotes a less congested environment around the school gate making it safer for everyone.

Lots of children have been enjoying scooting to school. You can leave scooters just inside the green gates. Some parents bring scooters for collection time. Please remember not to ride scooters or bikes inside the school grounds as there are lots of families, including children and toddlers. Please push scooters or bikes when inside the school gates to prevent any accidents.



Help For Households

We understand that the cost of living rises are impacting many households. The Government have a website that families may find useful. The 'Help for Households hub' provides information about the range of help available in relation to the cost of living. You can visit their website by clicking on this link: [Help for Households - Get government cost of living support](#)

Help for Households

In addition, Staffordshire County Council also have their own website with information about ways to support you to manage the cost of living. You can visit their website by clicking [here](#).

If you are struggling and want someone to talk to, we can help. Please contact the school office and ask to speak to Mrs Dawson (Inclusion Manager) who can offer guidance and signpost to support.





Introducing our VWA Scarecrow!



Thank you to the PTA for helping some of our pupils to create and decorate our school scarecrow which has been entered into the Garden King Scarecrow competition.

Our lovely, helpful Pumpkin Scarecrow has now found his home at Garden King's Pumpkin Woods. We will let you know how he gets on in the competition!

From Saturday 30th September until the end of October you can explore Pumpkin Woods at Garden King garden centre. There is a charge for accessing Pumpkin Woods. More information can be found [here](#).



**Next week!**

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 5th October** there will be a meeting at **9:00am and 4:30pm**. We have planned two meetings 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.

Next week!

Kingswood Meeting for Y2 Parents

On **Thursday 5th 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 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. Parents will have received a letter providing more 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:

Foxes	-	-	7/11	28/11
Squirrels	-	-	14/11	5/12
Badgers	-	-	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 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

Parent Reading Meeting – 5th October at 9:00am and 4:30pm

Kingswood Meeting for Year 2 Parents – 5th October at 9:30am and 5:00pm

School Photographs - Wednesday 11th October

Cake shop – Friday 13th October from 2:30pm

Flu Vaccinations – 17th 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.

