

## A Message from Mrs Kee

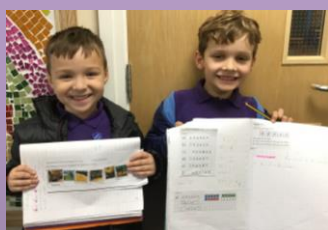
It has been a great final week of the half term, ending with a fun PE enrichment day today. Children across the school enjoyed their 'Glow in the Dark' dodgeball sessions. Our three PE enrichment days (one each term) provide a great opportunity for children to experience a wide range of different active experiences, helping them to develop an understanding of healthy lifestyles. There are some pictures in this week's newsletter. Our school council will be gathering ideas from children for the next PE enrichment days!

Our book fair this week was well attended. Great to see children excited about the different books they bought, and I am sure they will enjoy sharing these at home. The book fair also raised money for school. From funds raised last year and this year, we have been able to purchase new books for our daily read aloud story time sessions for every class. Thank you!

Although it doesn't seem quite right talking about Christmas in October, to help parents plan for the Christmas performances, we have provided dates and times in the newsletter this week. We have planned some reading workshops for November, with a focus on reading for pleasure. The dates for these have been added to the 'dates for your diary' section of the newsletter.

I was pleased to hear that parents enjoyed the Inclusion Coffee Morning today and provided us with some lovely positive feedback – thank you.

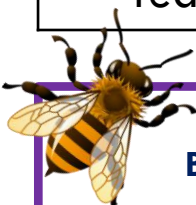
Have a lovely break. See you on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November, *Mrs Kee*





## Attendance

Whole school (this week)	95.16%
Reception	94.99%
Year 1	94.24%
Year 2	96.26%



Congratulations to **Busy Bees (96.97%)** 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.**

**WOW!**

## Home Achievements



Thank you for sharing your home achievements!

## 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!







## PE Enrichment



Thank you to Miss Cullumbine for organising such a fabulously fun and active PE enrichment day!

## Reading at Violet Way

Mrs Kee has congratulated lots of children this week for completing their first reading rocket in their new year group. Well done!

Thank you for supporting our Book Fair. We have raised money for new books in school and lots of children have got some lovely new books to enjoy reading at home! There were 5 winners of the raffle – they were delighted to win a new book!

We are holding Parent Reading Workshops on 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> November and the focus will be reading for pleasure. Dates and times for each class are in the 'Dates for your Diary' section at the end of the newsletter.





## Thank you for showing 'We care'

Many thanks for your support with our Harvest Festival celebrations and food bank donations. Mr Bill filled the minibus last Friday and took over 25 bags of food to YMCA food bank in Burton. Thank you, Mr Bill! Please see the response from YMCA below:

**YMCA BURTON**



To the pupils, parents and staff of Violet Way Academy:-

23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023

Dear All

Thank you so much for your very kind food donations to our foodbank and support of YMCA Burton. We are incredibly grateful for your generosity and it is with donations like yours that we can continue to make a difference and support as many individuals and families as possible. Below are a couple of quotes from recipients of our foodbank who have accessed our service recently:

YMCA Burton upon Trent  
& District  
Northside House  
Northside Business Park  
Howkins Lane  
Burton upon Trent  
Staffordshire  
DE14 1DB

T 01283 538802

***"Lovely essential service. What would we do without you?"***

***"Brilliant service, very friendly and welcoming."***

Struck by the difficulties of recent years, our services are in unprecedented and significant demand, with waiting lists forming for some of our services for the first time ever. As an increasing number of individuals and families need emergency food parcels, housing, emergency accommodation and support, we are working tirelessly to ensure that this is provided and that we can keep up with the demand. So far this year, we have issued over 2700 emergency food parcels, providing vital support to those in need. We are supporting more families than ever before, with the majority of families and individuals stating that their reason for needing a food parcel is that their money is simply not covering bills. This reflects the harsh reality of the cost of living crisis and is a very difficult time for many.

Thank you once again for always thinking of us and for your generous support.

Yours sincerely

*Julia Davies-Ratcliffe*

Foodbank Co-ordinator





## Get ready for Christmas!

We know that it still feels very early to be talking about Christmas! However, we are aware that parents will want to start getting prepared for the Christmas events coming up in school. Please see below for the dates and times of our Christmas performances.

### Reception Christmas Nativity – Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> December



9:15am -Foxes  
10:15am - Badgers  
1:45pm - Squirrels

Come and celebrate the birth  
of a special baby!

### Year 1 Christmas Singalong – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December

9:15am – Ladybirds  
10:15am – Dragonflies  
2:15pm – Busy Bees

Parents are encouraged to join in with  
our Year 1 Christmas singalong!



### Year 2 Christmas Carol Concert at St Peter's Church– Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December

All of Year 2 – 1:45pm start time

We will be asking for parents to accompany us  
during the walk to the church from 1:10pm and  
back to school after the performance.  
Further details will be shared next half term.





## Year 2 - End of year assessments

As you are probably aware, KS1 assessments are no longer statutory, and this took effect from 1 September 2023. The KS1 teacher assessments in English reading, English writing, mathematics and science are now optional. There is no legal requirement for schools or local authorities to report KS1 teacher assessment data back to the DfE. Assessment is an ongoing process throughout the year and teachers use a range of formative assessment strategies across all lessons, such as mini quizzes, whiteboard work, questioning and feedback. This informs the teaching in the lesson and planning. In terms of summative assessment, we use PIRA and PUMA assessments at the end of each term in Year 1 and Year 2.

There is still a requirement for schools to provide an annual report to parents and carers about pupils' general progress in Year 2.

The Trust wanted to ensure a consistent approach across all academies, and we have decided that we will be using the optional SATS assessments with Year 2 pupils during May 2024. Children complete the assessments in small groups during May and will already be familiar with question types as they are similar to PIRA and PUMA questions and questions presented to them in lessons. An information meeting is provided for parents nearer to the time.

## Year 2 trip

As promised, we have been considering different options for a Year 2 trip in the summer term, following the cancellation of Kingswood. Miss Nicholson has been in touch with Laches Wood and they are able to provide us with a day experience for the whole year group on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024. Mrs Holford is currently getting quotes from coach companies so that we can provide parents with the total cost of the trip. Laches Wood boasts a rich mix of natural beauty and woodland shelter, with a wide range of team building activities on offer that will stretch and challenge the children.

We are sure that this trip, along with the Think Tank and Twycross Zoo trips in Year 2 this year, will provide our children in Year 2 with a range of exciting and memorable experiences.







## Current Vacancies

**Cleaning Supervisor** - Advert available on [WMjobs](#). The application pack and full details of the role can be found on the Trust website [Fierte Multi-Academy Trust- Vacancies \(fierte.org\)](#). Applicants should submit a completed application to [hr@fierte.org](mailto:hr@fierte.org) by the closing date (Monday 6th November).

**Class Teacher (Maternity Cover)**- We are seeking to appoint a part time Class teacher to cover Maternity leave in Y2. The advert is available on [WMjobs](#). The application pack and full details of the role can be found on the Trust website [Fierte Multi-Academy Trust- Vacancies\(fierte.org\)](#). Applicants should submit a completed application to [hr@fierte.org](mailto:hr@fierte.org) by the closing date (Thursday 16th November).

## Staying happy and safe

We appreciate that sometimes, the holidays can be challenging but there is always help available.

### Helplines for children and young people

Childline call 0800 1111

Shout crisis messenger text 85258

Young Minds text 85258

[Is this OK?](#) online chatbot and 1-2-1 chat

### Helplines for adults

Samaritans call 116 123

Domestic Abuse helpline call 0808 2000 247

**For confidential advice and support with behaviour, parenting, child development, emotional health and well-being text Chat Health 07520 615722.**

### Safeguarding

As a parent, carer, relative, neighbour or member of the public you may be concerned about the welfare and safety of your own child or a child you know. If you are worried about an adult or a child, it is important that you report it immediately. For emergencies and immediate danger call 999 for police assistance.

**For concerns about a child in Staffordshire call 0300 111 8007. Emergency out of hours: 0345 604 2886.**





## Domestic Abuse

Domestic violence or abuse can happen to anyone. Domestic abuse, includes physical, emotional and sexual abuse in couple relationships or between family members. It can happen against anyone, and anybody can be an abuser. Domestic abuse also includes honour-based abuse and forced marriage. Just one incident counts as abuse. Domestic abuse can affect anyone regardless of ethnicity, age, gender, sexuality or social background. If you are suffering from physical, sexual, psychological or financial abuse, or are being threatened, intimidated or stalked by a current or previous partner or close family member, it's likely you're a victim of domestic abuse. **You're not to blame for what's happening. You're not alone.**



### Support and helplines

New Era Domestic Abuse - Local helpline: 0300 303 3778 or, if you'd like to chat online with New Era, you can do this now by [live chat](#).

National Domestic Abuse Helpline - The [National Domestic Abuse](#) website provides guidance and support for potential victims, as well as those who are worried about friends and loved ones. It also has a form through which you can book a safe time for a call from the team. Call: 0808 2000 247

Women's Aid - [Women's Aid](#) has a range of direct services for survivors, including a live chat service and an online Survivors' Forum. They have developed additional advice specifically designed for the current coronavirus outbreak.

Men's Advice Line - The [Men's Advice Line](#) is a confidential helpline for male victims of domestic abuse and those supporting them. Call: 0808 801 0327

### Services for perpetrators

Anyone that's displaying unhealthy or abusive behaviour within their relationship and wants to change this can access help from New Era. New Era Perpetrator services can also help children under 16 years of age who need help with relationship based behaviour or are in need of one to one guidance around healthy relationships. Phone: [01785 601690](tel:01785601690)  
Email: [new-era@rrpgov.uk](mailto:new-era@rrpgov.uk)







OFFICIAL

Community Safety Flash



## Remember, Remember Celebrate Bonfire Night Safely.

### The Firework Code

Fireworks are explosives and potentially dangerous, so they need careful handling and storage.

- Only buy fireworks that are CE marked.
- Don't drink alcohol if setting off fireworks.
- Keep fireworks in a closed box.
- Follow the instructions on each firework.
- Light them at arms' length, using a taper.
- Stand well back.
- Never go near a firework that has been lit. Even if it hasn't gone off it could still explode.
- Never put fireworks in your pocket or throw them.
- Always supervise children around fireworks.
- Light sparklers one at a time and wear gloves.
- Never give sparklers to a child under five.
- Keep pets indoors.
- Don't set off noisy fireworks late at night and never after 11pm.



### Sparkler safety tips

- These are often viewed as harmless but they do burn at fierce temperatures and can easily cause injuries.
- Light sparklers one at a time.
- Supervise children with sparklers and never give them to children under five.
- Make sure everyone handling sparklers wears gloves.
- Hold sparklers at arm's length while being lit.
- Don't wave sparklers about close to other people.
- Never hold a baby in your arms while you are holding a sparkler.
- When you have finished with the sparkler put it in a bucket of cold water.



[www.staffordshirefire.gov.uk](http://www.staffordshirefire.gov.uk)



**Staffordshire**  
Fire and Rescue Service  
preventing • protecting • responding



FIERTÉ

MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

INSPIRING ALL TO EXCELLENCE



## Application for a Reception place

**Advance notice of Reception application process - The application process for a Reception place for September 2024 will open on 01 November 2023.**

The easiest way for parents to apply is online. Further information can be found on the [Staffordshire admissions website](#). The closing date is 15 January 2024. You can find further information about Reception September 2024 admissions [here](#)

For more information about the EYFS and our Reception provision at Violet Way please click [here](#). We also have an [admissions page](#) with the details of how to apply through the Staffordshire Admissions website.

Tours of the school for new applicants are being held on the following dates and prospective parents can book by calling the office or emailing

[office@violetway.org](mailto:office@violetway.org)

- Thursday 9th November at 10am or 4pm
- Thursday 16th November at 10am or 4pm

## Application for a Junior place

**Advance Notice - Parents of children in Year 2 need to apply for a Junior School place – The application process for a junior school place for September 2024 will open on 01 November 2023.**

The easiest way for parents to apply is online. Further information can be found on [Staffordshire admission website](#). The closing date is 15 January 2024.

Parents of pupils in Year 2 have been sent their personalised letter this week. The letter has a Unique Identification Number – this is needed for the application process. Parents can access an 'Information to Parents' booklet through the Staffordshire [website](#).





# 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







# 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

**Autumn 2 – All children return to school following the half term holiday on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November**

**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.

**Y1 trip Tamworth Castle** – 17<sup>th</sup> November

**Children in Need – 17<sup>th</sup> November** - Be like Pudsey and wear spots or yellow and pay £1 on Parent Pay to raise money for Children in Need.

**Parent Reading Workshops at 2:15pm on the following dates:**

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> November – Badgers, Dragonflies and Kestrels

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November – Squirrels, Ladybirds and Woodpeckers

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> November - Foxes, Busy Bees and Owls

**Year 2 trip to Think Tank** – 29<sup>th</sup> November

**Christmas dinner day** – 7<sup>th</sup> December – Wear your Christmas Jumper

**Reception Nativity** – 14<sup>th</sup> December: 9:15am Foxes 10:15am Badgers 1:45pm Squirrels

**Year 2 Carol Concert at St Peter's Church** – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December

**Year 1 Christmas Singalong** – Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December 9:15am-Ladybirds 10:15am-Dragonflies 2:15pm-Busy Bees

**Pantomime time!** 22<sup>nd</sup> December – We have a theatre production company providing a panto for all children.

**Break up for Christmas** – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December

