

## A Message from Mrs Kee

It was lovely to see the children, families and staff this week following a short period of absence. The children welcomed me back with open arms and I have been delighted to see lots of children bringing a range of lovely learning to my office this week.

On Monday, the assembly covered safety and the children talked about staying safe in the home, school and outside. For example, they talked about what to do if the fire alarm is raised, how to walk with scissors safely and safe use of the internet. At this time of year it is particularly important that children understand the dangers of ice knowing that they should stay off the ice and frozen waters as they will not be able to hold a person's weight.

The children in Year 2 visited the Think Tank in Birmingham on Wednesday. They were very well behaved and represented the school well. Thank you to our staff and parent volunteers that supported the trip – we couldn't have done it without you! It was interesting to hear about the children's favourite parts of the trip, for some it was the Science Museum, others liked the 'Mini Brum' area, and for a few it was the coach journey!

I hope you enjoy the weekend. See you on Monday, *Mrs Kee*





## Attendance

Whole school (this week)	94.25%
Reception	94.36%
Year 1	94.47%
Year 2	93.89%



Congratulations to **Busy Bees (97.32%)** 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.**

## Home Achievements



Thank you for sharing your home achievements – 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







## Odd Socks Day



On 'Odd Socks' day at the start of Anti-Bullying week, we raised awareness of celebrating individuality by wearing odd socks to school. In assembly we talked about what makes us special and unique and how we should celebrate our differences. The children were able to give some great examples of their unique strengths and qualities.



## YR – Dental Hygiene



A few weeks ago, we were delighted to invite parents of children in Reception to a 'dental hygiene' presentation and play and stay session.

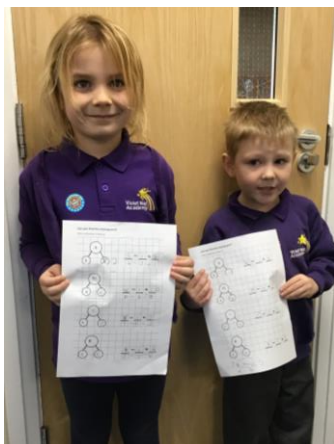
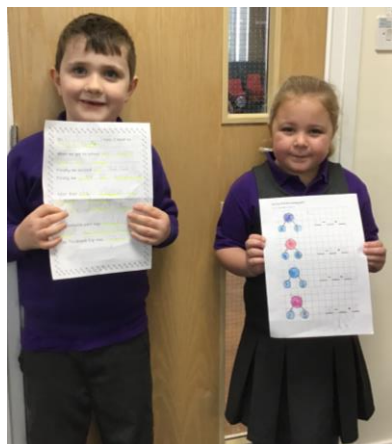
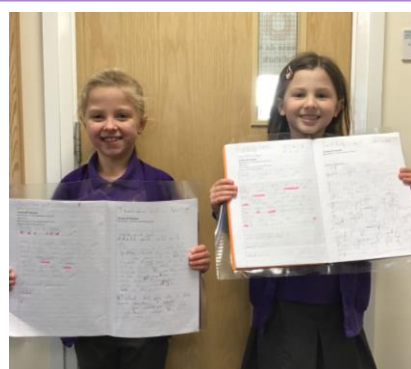
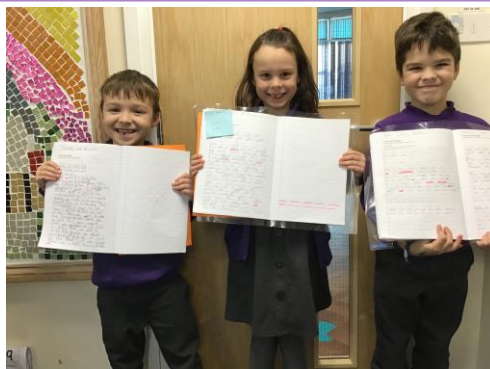
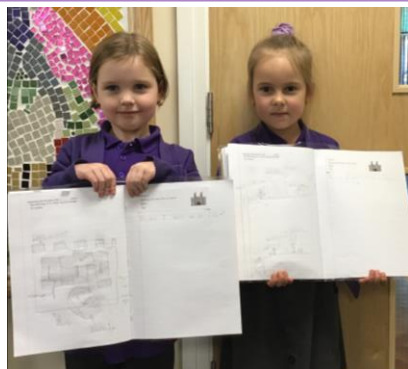
There were lots of related activities, including measuring out the amount of sugar in certain foods and drinks!







## Lovely Learning



Mrs Kee was delighted to see lots of lovely learning this week as well as a great lunchtime dance club session!

## Current Vacancies

**Cleaning Supervisor, Teaching Assistant (with cover) and a Teaching Assistant with 1:1 support** - Advert's will be available to view on [Wmjobs](https://www.wmjobs.co.uk) in the next few days. The application pack and full details will also be available on the Trust website [Fierte Multi-Academy Trust- Vacancies \(fierte.org\)](https://www.fierte.org) Applicants should submit a completed application to [hr@fierte.org](mailto:hr@fierte.org)





## Positive Feedback

We thought we'd share a lovely positive feedback message we received from a member of the public this week about our Y1 pupils:

Just a well deserved note.

I happened to be in the Green Bank Leisure Centre early afternoon on Tuesday 28th November 2023, talking to the reception staff, when a quite large group of pupils from your school (I would say aged 5 -6) came out from their swimming lesson. They behaved impeccably, and formed up in a straight line before filing past the reception desk to exit the building, as they passed the desk, all of them, without fail, smiled and waved and said to the staff members 'thank you for having me'.

I was so impressed. I felt it only fair to take the time to pass on my congratulations to children themselves for acting so impeccably, but to the parents of all the children and the school for producing such nice young people - very well done.

Very refreshing these days!

## Trips and Visitors

As a school we plan a range of trips and visitors to school to enhance and widen children's experiences. We provide parents with information about the trip or visitor and ask for a voluntary contribution. The cost of trips includes the cost of the visit per child plus transport. The PTA also contributes a small amount per child to keep costs as low as possible where appropriate. The school does not charge any additional amount for the cost of trips or visitors.

In the vast majority of cases, we have always been able to go ahead with planned trips and visits because parents have supported through their contributions. However, if insufficient voluntary contributions are raised to fund a trip or visit, or the school cannot fund it from some other source, then it must be cancelled. Where trips have gone ahead but insufficient funds have been provided, we would have to re-assess whether they are feasible to continue in the future or whether we would need to remove them from our enrichment opportunities. We thank you for your continued support.





## Year 1 Disco

£2.50- Payment can now be paid via Parent Pay!



**YEAR 1  
DISCO  
PTA  
WEDNESDAY 20TH  
DECEMBER  
5PM - 6PM  
£2.50 *Per ticket***







## Tickets on Sale Now!

Please click on the link to purchase PTA Christmas Raffle tickets: [PTA Christmas Raffle Tickets](#) This will also be sent out in a Marvellous Me message. Good luck!



Raffle drawn Friday 15th December

## Great Prizes to be won!

Christina's Handmade gifts Voucher

Pegs a daisy voucher

Dr Suess book set

Play @ lower Drayton farm tickets

Roller world pass x2

Toboggan vouchers

Garden King Voucher

Meadowside softplay vouchers

Bath salts

Alcohol

Jangala softplay passes

Wetherspoons Ashby meal for 4

Tesco Hamper

Meadowside family swim vouchers

Peak wildlife park  
Child passes

7 day vip pass  
Meadowside leisure centre

Soft drinks hamper

Skin and wellness by Sarah - mini facial

**+ MORE!**





## Y2 Visit to Edge Hill

Year 2 children have been invited to visit Edge Hill on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December for the Edge Hill Christmas Production! It will be in the afternoon but we are awaiting confirmation of times and will let you know soon.

We need parents to support with walking to and from Edge Hill to enable this to go ahead. As it is just walking to and from the school, parents do not need to have applied to be volunteers and any parents can support. Please let your class teacher know if you are able to support us walking to and from Edge Hill on this date.

Thank you.



## Christmas is on the way!

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

9:15am -Foxes

10:15am - Badgers

1:45pm - Squirrels

Please wait by the main school entrance to be signed in.

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

9:15am – Ladybirds

10:15am – Dragonflies

2:15pm – Busy Bees

Please go to the main school entrance to be signed in.

### **Year 2 Christmas Carol Concert at St Peter's Church – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December 1:45pm start time**

Parents are invited to watch the performance in the church. Please can the Year 2 parents accompany us during the walk to the church from **1:20pm** and back to school after the performance. Please let your child's class teacher know if you are able to help. As stated previously, for walks to and from the church, parents do not need to be signed up as volunteers. Once we arrive at the church, we will ask for teachers and children to enter first, and once settled, parents will be able to come in afterwards.







## Attendance Matters

**It is vital that children attend school every day.** Frequent absence can add up to a considerable amount of lost learning which can seriously disadvantage children.

- 5 minutes late every day means more than 3 days of education are missed.
- A score of 90% in a test would be a good result, but 90% attendance means that a child will have missed 4 weeks over a school year or around 100 lessons.
- Even 95% attendance means 2 weeks lost or around 50 lessons.
- 85% attendance is 6 weeks or around 150 lessons missed.

Being in school is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing, and wider development. Evidence from the Department for Education shows that the students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE and A Level results. Their research found that pupils who performed better both at the end of primary and secondary school missed fewer days than those who did not perform as well. The data shows that in 2019, primary school children in Key Stage 2 who did not achieve the expected standard in reading, writing and maths missed on average four more days per school year than those whose performance exceeded the expected standard. 84% of Key Stage 2 pupils who had 100% attendance achieved the expected standard, compared to 40% of pupils who were persistently absent across the key stage.

Recently, Ofsted have pointed out that missing small amounts of education can mean a child misses important parts of the curriculum and, as a result, they may struggle to connect the parts of learning that are built on in lessons each day. Furthermore, Ofsted states:

*And it's not just about the academic opportunities. There's value in the whole school experience. Learning with peers, enjoying sport and music, building relationships with adults beyond their families, and building friendships – these are the building blocks of well-being and a good life. School contributes so much to this.*

**It is therefore vital that children are in school as much as possible.**

We know that our academies are doing all that they can to improve attendance and to support children and parents where there is a decline. Also, we know that most parents and carers do all that they can to ensure their children attend school every day unless they are genuinely too ill to attend. We very much appreciate this.

Our appeal is to those parents and carers who could be doing more to support attendance, for example, by not booking holidays during term time or keeping their child at home when they are well enough to attend. The NHS has produced some useful guidance regarding this for parents which can be found here: <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

Should you have any concerns regarding attendance, please speak to the relevant staff in your respective academy. They can refer these on to a member of the Trust Central or Executive Teams if appropriate.

**Attendance does really matter and, working in partnership, we can ensure children reap the benefits of all we have to offer both academically and personally.**





# 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 – at 8.40am - 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. 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 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

**Christmas Dinner Day – 7th December** – Wear your Christmas Jumper!

**Year 2 visit to Edge Hill for their Christmas Production** – 12<sup>th</sup> December

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

**Year 2 Carol Concert at St Peter's Church** –  
Monday 18th December 1:45pm start

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

**Year 1 School Disco**- Wednesday 20th  
December- 5pm-6pm- £2.50  
(to be paid via Parent Pay)

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

**Break-up for Christmas** – Friday 22nd December

