



- We care
- We are brave
- We celebrate individuality
- We leave no one behind



A Message from Mrs Kee

I hope all members of our school community managed to have a good rest over the Christmas break. Happy New Year to you all! Although often enjoyable, I recognise that the holiday can be a difficult and stressful time! Please do not hesitate to get in touch at any time of the year if you need support. We are here to help and support our school community and if we don't have the answer, we can signpost you to other services that can help.

The children have been excited to come back to school and have quickly settled back into their routines. They look lovely in their uniform – I know many of them seem to have had a growth spurt over the holiday! Thank you to parents for ensuring they have correct uniform. Remember, the PTA have lots of spare uniform that parents can have for free or a small donation if you are able to. Please just let the office know and they will be able to help office@violetway.org, or you can speak to Mrs Dawson or our PTA members who will be happy to help. We welcome Miss Mayer, teaching in Ladybirds, Mrs. Fazal, teaching in Owls, Mr. Carlin, working in Squirrels and Miss Nayyar, working across the school. The children are talking positively about their start to the Spring term and SLT have been popping into classes, observing lovely calm classroom routines across the school.

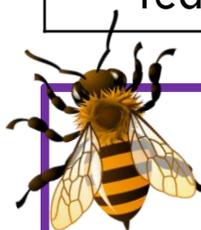
The class assembly focus this week linked to our Jigsaw PSHE lessons for this half term, 'Dreams and Goals', which relates to our value 'We are brave'. The focus is on persevering in the face of challenge to reach our goals and achieve. The children watched a short, poignant video about a girl persevering in the face of challenge. You might want to watch it at home together: [Never give up on your dreams short movie- on youtube - YouTube](#) Perhaps you could take a few moments this weekend to talk to your child about time where you persevered to achieve a goal and encourage them to consider their own dreams and goals. I look forward to seeing you all next week, *Mrs Kee*





Attendance

Whole school (this week)	96.46%
Reception	96.45%
Year 1	98.31%
Year 2	94.51%



Congratulations to



Busy Bees (100%)

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 Awards

Congratulations to our Merit Award winners! The children have been awarded certificates for following our Golden Rules and demonstrating our school values.

Reception



Year 1



Home Achievements



Thank you for showing your certificates for swimming, musical theatre, dancing and being brave at a hearing test.

Year 2



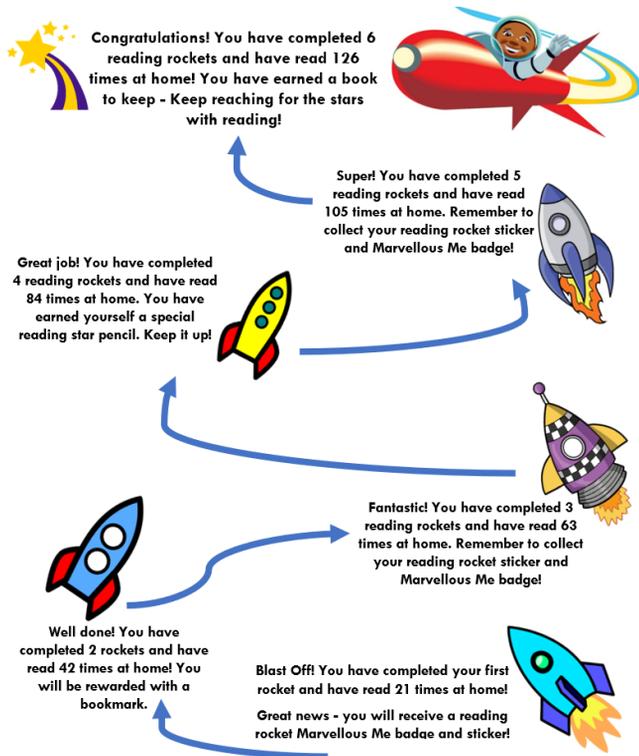


LOOK - lovely learning this week





Reading Rocket Challenge!



Reading Rockets

Thank you for supporting with your child's reading at home; it makes such a difference! Please remember to return Reading Rockets on a Monday but also please take it to school every day in case your child reads in class on that day. Thank you! NB: Mrs Kee is aware that there are a couple of children who are owed a prize – these will be given out next week!

Current Vacancies

Cleaning Supervisor

Adverts are available to view on Wmjobs in the next few days. The application pack and full details will also be available on the Trust website [Fierte Multi-Academy Trust-Vacancies \(fierte.org\)](http://Fierte Multi-Academy Trust-Vacancies (fierte.org)) Applicants should submit a completed application to hr@fierte.org

Attendance Matters

At the end of the Autumn Term, we congratulated all the children that had 96%+ attendance. 142 children across the school received a certificate! We also had 60 children who had 100% attendance in the Autumn Term, and this was also celebrated. All parents will have received a letter about their child's attendance in the Autumn Term. The information below illustrates the impact of lost learning over an academic year:

Attendance record and lessons missed*

95% attendance means a child missed about 10 days or 2 weeks of lessons in the school year.

90% attendance means a child misses four weeks of lessons in the school year.

85% attendance means the child misses almost 6 weeks of lessons in the school year

80% attendance means the child misses over 7 weeks of lessons in the school year

Punctuality*

Arriving 15 minutes late every day adds up to 2 weeks absence a year!

*Please note, these calculations are approximate, based on how the terms fall each calendar year.





Children's Eye Health

Eye appointments for children are FREE! If you haven't done so already, it would be worth booking your child in for an eye test at the optician. In school, we will always inform parents if their child appears to be struggling to read from the Interactive Whiteboard, or is experiencing headaches or other signs, which could indicate they can't see clearly. It is important to seek advice from your GP or visit an optician if you have any concerns about your child's sight. Children often don't complain about their sight, but they may show signs of not being able to see clearly, such as:

- Sitting close to the TV
- Holding objects very close to their face
- Blinking a lot
- Rubbing their eyes

Children should have regular eye checks at the opticians, even if your child is not showing any of these signs.

The following information is shared from the [Staffordshire Connects Website](#)

Although serious vision problems during childhood are rare, routine eye checks are offered to newborn babies and young children to identify any problems early on.

Free NHS sight tests are available at opticians for children under 16 and for young people under 19 in full-time education.

Go to an opticians if you have any concerns about your child's eyes or vision. The earlier a problem is picked up the better.

When will my child's eyes be checked?

Children's eyes are checked a number of times throughout the first hour, weeks and years of their lives. Parents are also asked if they have any concerns about their children's eyesight as part of their child's health and development review around 1 year and between 2-2 and half years. **It is important that children around 4-5 years old are examined for Vision Screening. This can be done by an eye test at any high street optometrist.**

Where can I find more information?

Visit the NHS website for more information on eye tests for children and what tests may be carried out.





Mental health and Wellbeing

“Mental health is a state of wellbeing in which every individual realises their own potential and can cope with the normal stresses of life, work proactively and fruitfully, and is able to contribute to their community” (World Health Organisation).

Our curriculum, including PSHE and enrichment activities, support children’s mental health and wellbeing and we also want to provide support to our whole school community.

Parents can access a wealth of information online to support their own health and wellbeing and that of their children. However, sometimes there is so much out there it is difficult to know what to access! Below are just a few links that you may find useful:

[Combined Wellbeing](#)

[Every Mind Matters - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

[Better Health - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

[Explore mental health](#)

[5 steps to mental wellbeing - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

[Place2Be: Parenting Smart: Articles](#)

[Mental wellbeing - Mind](#)

CPR TRAINING - YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN YOU MIGHT NEED TO USE THIS!!!
Please take advantage of this free 15 minute



CPR training

Thank you to Mrs Taylor for sharing this information about CPR training offered by the Heart Foundation. The training is called ‘RevivR’.

Click on the link below for further information:
<https://tinyurl.com/bd zx559e>

Learn the steps of CPR

RevivR is the 15-minute mobile training that shows you when and how to do CPR to save someone’s life. All you need to practise is a cushion.





Library and Forest School Dates

Parent Library Mornings – Spring 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 (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 - Tuesdays

Foxes	16/1	6/2	5/3
Squirrels	23/1	20/2	12/3
Badgers	30/1	27/2	19/3

Year 1 - Thursdays

Dragonflies	18/1	8/2	7/3
Ladybirds	25/1	22/2	14/3
Busy Bees	1/2	29/2	21/3

Year 2 – Wednesdays

Kestrels	17/1	7/2	6/3
Owls	24/1	21/2	13/3
Woodpeckers	31/1	28/2	20/3

Forest School Sessions – Spring 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:

15/1 29/1 19/2 4/3 18/3

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:

8/1 22/1 5/2 26/2 11/3





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

REMEMBER – PARENT LIBRARY SESSIONS START BACK NEXT WEEK – PLEASE REFER TO DATES IN THE NEWSLETTER FOR YOUR CHILD'S CLASS

Multisports competition – 24th January

Year 2 drumming workshop – 25th January

WingWah visit – Foxes – 5th February

Safer Internet day – Tuesday 6th February

WingWah visit – Badgers- 8th February

Sports Enrichment Day – 8th February

WingWah visit – Squirrels – 9th February

School finishes for half term – 9th February

Half term holiday – 10th – 18th February

Spring Term 2 starts – Monday 19th February

