

A Message from Mrs Kee

Although the weather has been bad, it has not dampened our spirits at Violet Way this week! We began the week in a bubble of love for Valentine's day with an assembly which encouraged children to think about all the different ways friends and family show love towards each other. We talked about hugs, caring for someone who is poorly, tucking up at bedtime, reading a story together, holding hands and eating together. They enjoyed talking to their partner about people in their lives who they love and respect.

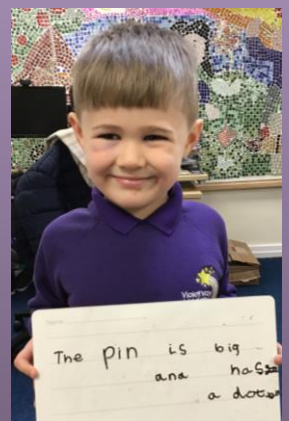
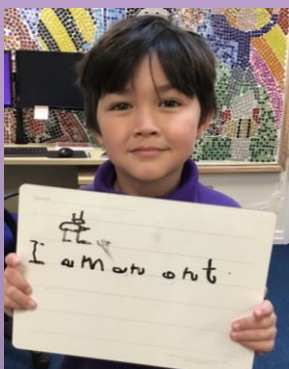
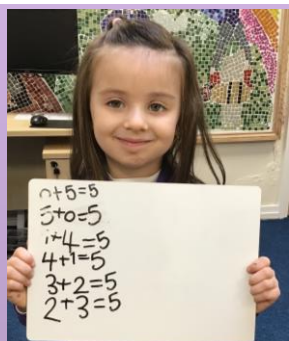
Woodpeckers visited Foxes this week to share their lovely story writing. The children read aloud the stories they had written to our youngest children. Publishing their work in this way gave the children a real purpose and motivation for writing. The children in Reception enjoyed having the Y2 children reading to them.

The Y1 and Y2 children that attended Mrs Williams' lunchtime dance club this half term enjoyed recording their performance to share with their peers at school. Mrs Williams has also shared the videos on Teams for parents to watch and enjoy. We are proud of the commitment they showed, attending every week and practicing hard to learn all the dance moves, performing well as a team.

Y1 pupils concluded their 'Explorers' topic this half term with a fantastic curriculum celebration. They dressed up as explorers, made dens, tested which materials helped to keep their hands warm and went on a special journey. A wonderful day was had by all.

After the half term break, we are looking forward to inviting parents into school for special events: parents' meetings, the grand opening of our new library, parent forest school sessions and a chocolate bingo. Details of slight changes to forest school sessions are in the newsletter this week.

Wishing you all a lovely holiday. See you on 28th February, *Mrs Kee*





Attendance

Whole School (this week)	92.79%
Reception	88.94%
Year 1	94.34%
Year 2	95.17%



Congratulations to
Owls

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



Achievements



These Y2 pupils have achieved a Beaver badge for keeping a diary, a football trophy, a gymnastics certificate. Well done!





Celebrating our Year 2 Authors!



This week, children in Woodpeckers 'published' their story writing by visiting our Foxes Reception class and reading their stories to the children. It provided a purpose and motivation for writing and was such a lovely experience for all the children to enjoy.



We encourage all children to enjoy writing at home too. During the holiday if your child does any writing, we would love to see it!





Y1 Curriculum Celebration



Year 1 Explorer Day





125 Thumbs Up Points!



This half term the children across the school have been working hard to earn Marvellous Me 'Thumbs Up' points. They do this by following our Golden Rules, demonstrating our School Values and showing Star Learner qualities. They are awarded prizes for 15, 25, 50, 75 and 100 points but the top prize for 125 points is an afternoon with Mrs Kee. These children enjoyed eating cookies, biscuits, cakes and drinking hot chocolate. They also danced and told jokes. Well done!

Mini-Athletics

The children that participated in Mini-Athletics this half term were presented with a certificate from Coach Sarah in our Merit assemblies today. Well done!





World Book Day Celebrations

To celebrate World Book day, we are planning several weeks of reading and book-related learning activities from 28th February 2022. During that first week after half term, we have a poetry focus across the school. The children will learn a rhyme by heart and perform it to the school on Friday.

The book fair will be in the hall and open from the end of school on **Monday 28th February throughout parents evening till 6.30pm**. It will also be open on **Wednesday 2nd March and Thursday 3rd March from 8.40am until the start of school**. We hope many of you will come and visit! Full details can be found on the [website in Newsletter 5 \(4.2.22\)](#).

The library is being fitted in the first week and the children will all get the opportunity to visit it. There will be a bedtime story read by staff in school added to the website everyday for two weeks. Mrs Kee will also be reading a story to every class in the school.

World Book Day 3rd March - Children and staff can come to school dressed in pyjamas and bring in their favourite book to stay in school on Thursday and Friday. They will be able to talk about their book and share it with their talk partner. We will start the day with milk, toast and a story read by their class teacher. There will be a whole school writing theme based on the book *Where the Wild Things Are*.

Parent Library Sessions: Before we return to our planned Parent Library mornings, we would like all classes to have a session in the new library with parents.

We hope parents can join us in our brand new library when the gates open in the morning until 9am on the following dates:

Monday 7th March – Kestrels

Tuesday 8th March – Badgers

Wednesday 9th March – Ladybirds

Thursday 10th March – Squirrels

Monday 14th March – Owls

Tuesday 15th March – Foxes

Wednesday 16th March – Woodpeckers

Thursday 17th March – Dragonflies

Friday 18th March – Busy Bees

Fun Competition!

There will be a selection of book characters for children to choose from in each class and the child who has chosen the winning book character will win a book prize!

Parents can pay £1.00 via Parent Pay to enter their child into the competition. We hope lots of children will be able to take part – please remember to pay £1.00 for your child on Parent Pay.





Forest School Dates

Parent Forest School Sessions

We are delighted to be able to invite parents to a Forest School session with their child. You'll be able to experience some of the activities children participate in during their Forest School sessions and join in! **Please see below updated Parent Forest School Sessions from 1.30pm on the following days:**

Monday 7th March – Kestrels
Tuesday 8th March – Badgers
Wednesday 9th March – Ladybirds
Thursday 10th March – Squirrels

Monday 14th March – Owls
Tuesday 15th March – Foxes
Wednesday 16th March – Woodpeckers
Thursday 17th March – Dragonflies
Friday 18th March – Busy Bees

Please note that some changes have had to be made to the original dates that were sent out at the end of last term. On the day of your child's Parent Forest School session, please arrive at the main green gates for a 1.30pm start and staff will greet up to take you up to the woodlands. Our woodlands can get muddy during the winter months, so wellies or boots are advised. We hope many of you will be able to join us. Please be aware, Forest School sessions happen in most weathers but in the case of particularly bad weather, the dates may have to be changed and sessions may not be able to go ahead. We will inform parents via Marvellous Me if this is the case.

Forest School Sessions Spring Term 2

The following shows the days and dates your child will have Forest School next half term. Again, some changes may have been made to the days your child had Forest School this half term. Class teachers will also send Marvellous Me updates to remind you about Forest School dates.

Week 1:

Monday pm	Tuesday pm	Wednesday pm	Thursday pm	Friday pm
Year 2 Owls	Reception Foxes	Year 2 Woodpeckers	Year 1 Dragonflies	Year 1 Busy Bees

Week 2:

Monday pm	Tuesday pm	Wednesday pm	Thursday pm	Friday pm
Year 2 Kestrels	Reception Badgers	Year 1 Ladybirds	Reception Squirrels	Nurture Groups GD children / Planning

Week 1 Groups: 28/2 14/3 28/3

Week 2 Groups: 7/3 21/3 4/4





Maths Calculation Videos

On our school website, in addition to our curriculum pages, we also have a [Supporting Your Child at home](#) page with lots of specific information for parents about their child's wellbeing, home learning and things you can do at home to support your child's development in the different curriculum subjects. We have recently added some video links to our Maths section of the [Supporting Your Child at home](#) and these are also available on the curriculum page for [maths](#).

The videos were created by teachers across Fierté Trust to demonstrate how different maths calculations are taught in our academies. Our very own Mr Malcom (Y2 teacher and Maths leader) has recorded the Place Value videos.

For ease, I have also included the links below:

[Place Value - Trust Mathematics Videos - YouTube](#)

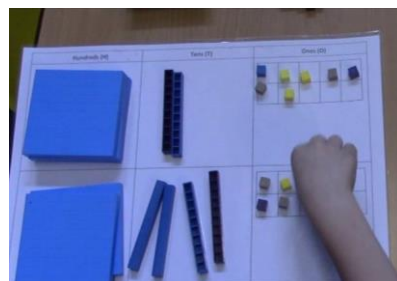
[Addition - Trust Mathematics Videos - YouTube](#)

[Subtraction - Trust Mathematics Videos - YouTube](#)

[Multiplication - Trust Mathematics Videos - YouTube](#)

[Division - Trust Mathematics Videos - YouTube](#)

[Bar Models - Trust Mathematics Videos - YouTube](#)



Covid restrictions to be eased

Thank you to parents for supporting us and following Government advice about Covid. The Government intends to remove all remaining domestic coronavirus restrictions in England by the end of February. After the half term, we plan to ease the measures we had in place.

We will continue to communicate regularly with the Local Authority as appropriate and follow any guidance as required. Mrs Kee will continue to keep parents informed of any changes or updates. We will continue to encourage good hand washing and hygiene routines and ventilation.

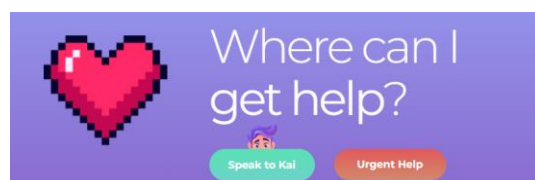
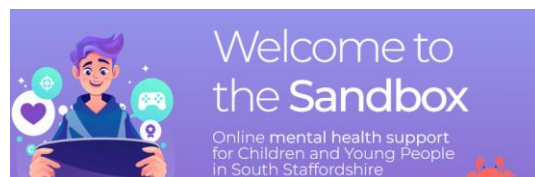
We plan to return to whole school assemblies in the hall on Mondays and Fridays.





Children's Wellbeing and Mental Health

There is a new online resource available for children and young people living in Staffordshire called The Sandbox. The Sandbox is a website to support children and young people in South Staffordshire to thrive. It provides information about why children might sometimes feel bad and how to feel better. The Sandbox provides and signposts children and young people in South Staffordshire self-help mental health resources. Also providing quick access to mental health support including mental health assessment, internet-delivered Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (iCBT) and 1-2-1 therapy. It is a free resource provided by the NHS. Everyone is different. Some people need more help, and need to talk to someone who understands their problems. Other people like to find ways to do things themselves. The Sandbox helps with both of these options. The site is designed for children and young people of school age. You don't have to register to access the information on the website, but you will have to register if you want to get more involved. The website accepts registrations for ages 4-18 years.



There are also some great websites offering parenting advice. Please click on the following links to access the articles and online parenting courses. [Place2Be: Parenting Smart: Articles](#) [Place2Be's Parenting Smart - Online Course](#)

Help is out there

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

Helplines for children and young people

Childline call 0800 111 111

Young Minds text 85258

Shout crisis messenger 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

Safeguarding

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.





Dates for your diary

Staffordshire Term Dates 2021-22

Autumn Term 2021

Inset day: Wednesday 1 September

Term Starts: Thursday 2 September

Half Term: Monday 25 October – Friday 29 October

Term ends: Friday 17 December

Holiday: Monday 20 December – Monday 3 January

Spring Term 2022

Inset day: Tuesday 4 January

Term Starts: Wednesday 5 January

Half Term: Monday 21 February – Friday 25 February

Term ends: Thursday 7 April

Inset day: Friday 8 April

Holiday: Monday 11 April – Friday 22 April

Easter Sunday: Sunday 17 April

Summer Term 2022

Term starts: Monday 25 April

May Day: Monday 2 May

Half Term: Monday 30 May – Friday 3 June

Term ends: Wednesday 20 July

Holiday: Thursday 21 July – Friday 2 September

Violet Way Inset Days

Wednesday 1st September

Friday 22nd October

Tuesday 4th January

Friday 8th April

Monday 6th June (School closed for Queen's Jubilee)

Monday 20th June

What's Coming Up?

Book Fair– Monday 28th February after school until 6.30pm

Wednesday 2nd & Thursday 3rd March 8.40am – 9am

World book day and dress up day – Thursday 3rd March (wear your pyjamas and bring a book)

Grand Opening - Library sessions with parents – week commencing 7th March and 14th March

Forest school sessions with parents - week commencing 7th March and 14th March

Food Waste Action Week – Week commencing 7th March

Year 2 Parents SATs Meeting– Wednesday 16th March @ 9am

Red Nose Day– Friday 18th March Children can come into school wearing red.

World Down's Syndrome day – Monday 21st March – wear blue and yellow and donate £1.00

Mother's Day Play and Stay sessions – Friday 25th March

Year R - 9:00am

Year 1 - 10:00am

Year 2 - 11:00am

Chocolate Bingo! Thursday 31st March 4:30pm – Please bring chocolate egg donations into school on this morning

Easter Egg hunt in the Woodlands with the Easter Bunny – Thursday 7th April

