



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

A Message from Mrs Kee

On Monday the children wore their odd socks to celebrate individuality (one of our school values) and our assembly focused on some key messages for World Down Syndrome day. We talked about labels, like when people say that a person is a good footballer, another is a dancer, another is good at maths and sometimes we might say that a person has learning difficulties or has Down Syndrome or Autism. All of that is fine just so long as we never forget that everyone is a person first and foremost, loved by their family and friends, with all the wonderful qualities of a human being. We watched a video of children with Down Syndrome talking about their lives, what they enjoy, their friends and how they want to be treated with respect and kindness, like all of us.

This week I have observed children in Y1 creating masks using printing techniques. They were patient and supporting each other. In YR, I watched a music lesson where the children listened carefully to the music teacher and playing the keyboard, even though it was challenging. In Y2, the children were creating fire engines and I was impressed with the way they helped each other. In the woodlands, children worked in a team to create a den. It was lovely to see our values in action – We care, We are brave, We celebrate individuality, We leave no one behind. Well done – I am proud of you all!

Happy Mother’s Day to all the special women in our children’s lives – whether it is mum, nan, auntie, great gran, a teacher or a friend – you are special and loved. Wishing you a lovely weekend, *Mrs Kee*

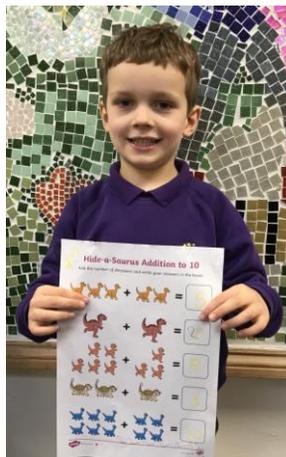




Attendance

Whole School (this week)	91.14%
Reception	88.69%
Year 1	92.77%
Year 2	92.02%

Sharing some lovely moments from this week



Congratulations to **Kestrels** 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.



Congratulations to this Reception child who achieved her Grade 2 Gymnastics certificate and badge and Year 1 child who achieved her swimming certificate. Well done!





Animal Visit

Linked to their current learning unit, the staff in Reception arranged for pupils to be visited by an array of beautiful animals this week. The children were amazed by the different creatures and talked to each other about the experience, describing how the animals looked and felt. I'm sure this will inspire them in their learning next week too!





Mother's Day Play and Stay - Reception

Such a brilliant turn out! Thank you for coming to Reception's Mother's Day Play and Stay session. We hope you had a lovely time with your child.





Mother's Day Play and Stay - Year 1

Playdough plates of favourite food, flower making, biscuit decorating and matching games were just some of the lovely activities the children in Year 1 enjoyed during their Mother's Day Play and Stay session. It was a popular morning with mums, nans and aunts coming to share some quality time with our wonderful pupils. A lovely morning had by all!





Mother's Day Play and Stay - Year 2

What a lovely morning – thank you for sharing your time with us. Smiles all round!





Reading Records and Books

As a school, we recognise the importance of learning to read and the impact it has on a child's success in later life. Please support your child by encouraging them to read to you at home at least three times per week. Reading bedtime stories is also another way of promoting reading for pleasure – you can always use our [school bedtime stories](#) if you're ever rushed!

Remember to complete your child's reading log on Marvellous Me every week. We count up the number of pupils that have been reading at home on Thursday afternoon and then present the class with the highest number of children reading at home with a new class book. We would love to be able to hand out a book to every class each week!

Dragonflies had won for five weeks in a row, but Squirrels have topped it this week and their class book will be presented to them on Monday as we didn't have Merit Assembly today due to the Mother's Day sessions.

Unfortunately, some classes have less than 10 children with a reading log completed this week. That means two thirds of the class missed out on reading at home. Please make sure your child reads regularly at home, even if it just a couple of pages per night.

Charity donations

We have raised £213.00 for Comic Relief and £172.10 for World Down Syndrome day! Thank you to all our families for your kind donations. We understand that times are hard for everyone in the current climate, but you have shown generosity and kindness in line with our school values – thank you.



We care



We celebrate individuality



We leave no one behind

Walk to School or Park Considerately

Remember the best way to get to school is to walk. It is healthy and better for the environment too. If you have to drive, why not park and stroll (park away from the school and walk the last ten minutes). If you have driven, please can you ensure that you've leave as quickly as possible afterwards to ensure other parents have space to park.





Chocolate Bingo!

Date: Thursday 31st March Please arrive 4:30pm 'Eyes down' at 5:00pm

Parents that have paid on ParentPay have paid for their entrance and Bingo book. Last few tickets are available now on ParentPay!

Remember:

- ✓ Non-school uniform on Thursday 31st March in exchange for chocolate egg donations.
- ✓ Bring £1 coins with you as you will only be able to pay for tea, cake, face painting and uniform sales with cash.
- ✓ You also need to **bring your own juice bottle or re-usable travel mugs (must have a lid).**

We look forward to seeing you there!

May Day Plan – Parents Invited

Date: Thursday 28th April 2022

Reception:

What? May day parade around the forest, creating a sensory May tree. Children will also sing a May Day /Springtime song to parents.

When? Parents come into school at the start of the day

Year 1:

What? Children to come to school dressed in May Day clothes and to bring a May Pole. They will perform a song and dance to parents.

When?

Dragonflies - 9.40am

Busy Bees - 10.05am

Ladybirds - 10.30am

Year 2:

What? Children to come to school dressed in May Day clothes and to bring a May Pole. They will be performing songs and a dance at Holly Green.

When? We will be waling down to Holly Green with parents and parading May poles at Holly Green. Parents to meet outside the green gates at 1.40pm





Autism Awareness Week 29th March – 4th April 2022

We will be taking part in World Autism Awareness week through a range of activities aimed at raising awareness of autism within our school community.

What is autism? Autism or Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) is a term used to describe a neurological difference in brain development that has a marked effect on how a person develops (Autism Education Trust, 2021). One in 100 people are on the autism spectrum and there are around 700,000 autistic adults and children in the UK. Autistic people see, hear and feel the world differently to other people. Autism varies widely and is often referred to as a spectrum condition, because of the range of ways it can impact on people and the different level of support they may need across their lives. In order for a diagnosis to take place children need to show difficulties in key areas:

Social interaction and communication- Autistic people may find social interactions and communications difficult. They may find it hard to “read people” or have difficulties with interpreting both verbal and non-verbal language.

Repetitive and restrictive behaviour – autistic people may find changes to routine challenging and prefer to have rigid routines; interests or activities to support them. Some use repetitive movements such as rocking to help them calm down when they are stressed.

Sensory differences - Autistic people process sensory information differently and this can impact how they interact with the environment and their ability to interact with other people. For example, some children may find loud noises or bright lights challenging.

Autism Awareness resources:

[The National Autistic Society](#) has a range of information for adults and children including the excellent video, [Amazing Things happen](#) by Alexander Amelines which you could watch with your child.

[Pablo's World – Cbeebies](#) Pablo's World is a Cbeebies programme where 5 year-old Pablo has autism (although not mentioned). These short films can be used to discuss various circumstances that pupils on the autism spectrum can find difficult

[Woodfer's World - Stories to support exploring differences](#) This is a set of four stories which are aimed at developing empathy in young children. The stories do not mention autism, although the main character shows some autistic characteristics.

Famous People with Autism: Lots of people with a diagnosis of Autism are successful. Here is just a short list of famous people who are Autistic. Albert Einstein, Greta Thunberg, Chris Packham, Susan Boyle, Ladyhawke, Tim Burton, Steve Jobs, Bill Gates, Daryl Hannah

Further information: If you would like more information about autism or think your child may have autism, please either speak to your class teacher or contact Mrs Dawson (Inclusion manager) or Mrs Magill (SENDCO) who would be happy to speak to you.





Covid Update

Thankfully, due to the Government reduction in Covid restrictions, as a school we have been able to engage with our families. This is so important to us because we want our staff and pupils to apply their understanding of our school values when we engage with each other at school, with our families, the wider community and beyond.

Covid restrictions meant that we had to reduce the number of parents in school and some events were cancelled or changed to online. Although we were able to maintain extra curricular activities and some parent events, our offer had to be reduced. This term, we have been delighted to invite parents to our library opening and parent library mornings, parents' evening, forest school sessions and Mother's Day Play and Stay. We are looking forward to Chocolate Bingo night too! Thank you to all our wonderful families for your continued support. It is always a pleasure to welcome you into school. Thank you, Mrs Kee.

For any parents that are interested, children aged five and over are now eligible for the Covid-19 Vaccine. Please see information below.

AGES 5+

ARE NOW ELIGIBLE FOR
THE COVID-19 VACCINE

Give your child the best possible protection this Easter, with clinics available in April.

Contact your GP Surgery to
book your child's
appointment





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?

Autism Awareness Week – 29th March to 4th April

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

Tempest Class photos – Wednesday 6th April

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

INSET day – Friday 8th April

Summer Term begins – Monday 25th April

May Day celebrations (parents invited) - Thursday 28th April 2022

May Day – 2nd May (Bank Holiday)

Toddler Group – Tuesday 3rd May (every Tuesday 9:00am-10:30am, £2 per family)

Fierte Festival – w/c Monday 23rd May

School closed for Queen's Jubilee - Monday 6th June

Y2 KINGSWOOD - Wednesday 6th July to Friday 8th July

Y2 BREWHOUSE performance – Tuesday 19th July

Parent Library Morning Dates until the end of term:

Week beginning: 28th March	Parent Session at start of day
Monday	Squirrels
Wednesday	Owls
Thursday	Busy Bees
Week beginning: 4th April	Parent Session at start of day
Monday	Badgers
Wednesday	Woodpeckers
Thursday	Ladybirds

