

Afternoon tea with Mrs Kee! 125 Thumbs up point winners!

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

## A Message from Mrs Kee

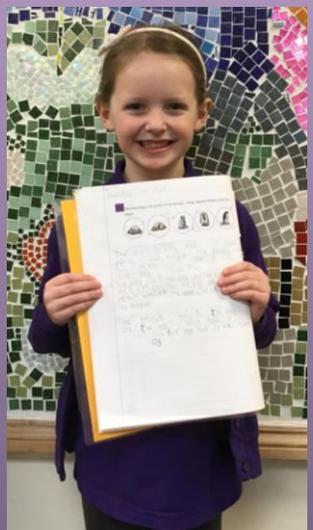
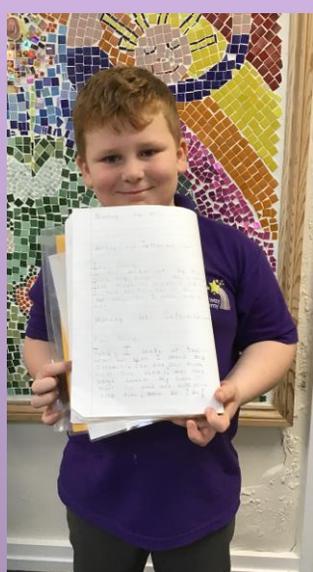
What a lovely spring term it has been – I can't believe how quickly the time has flown by! It was lovely to end the term with a range of Easter-themed activities. The Easter Bunny visited Violet Way and hid chocolate eggs for the children to find. As I walked around school, children were making moving chicks, singing songs and engaging in Easter-themed maths. Many thanks to the PTA for organising our Easter Chocolate Bingo and to all the families and staff that attended. We had over 125 people attend, and a fantastic time was had by all.

Year 1 children had a visit from a range of animals. This experience links to their learning in science but was also booked because, when they were in Reception, they missed out on a similar experience due to Covid.

Mrs Williams has received lots of great writing from home. Well done to the children that gained a Marvellous Me writing award! I have also had the pleasure of reading some of the children's writing in school. Year 2 have produced some super writing about the Great Fire of London and Year 1 have been writing about penguins. Children in Reception showed me how hard they have been working on writing simple sentences, remembering to use a capital letter and full stop.

Our May day celebration is on 28<sup>th</sup> April so get making your May poles during the holiday (all year groups) – we can't wait to see them! More details in the Newsletter.

Have an egg-cellent (sorry!) Easter. See you soon, *Mrs Kee*





## Attendance

Whole School (this week)	92.05%
Reception	87.86%
Year 1	94.43%
Year 2	93.96%

## Class Attendance Awards

The class in each year group with the highest attendance this term was:



Reception - Foxes



Year 1 – Ladybirds



Year 2 – Kestrels



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.**

## Home Awards

We had a Gymnastic superstar and a martial arts master this week! Well done!





## Year 1 – Carnival of the Animals!







## Forest School Dates Summer 1

Please add these Forest school dates to your diary for next half term:

**Badgers** – Monday 25th April, 9th May, 23rd May

**Owls** – Tuesday 26th April, 10th May, 24th May

**Ladybirds** – Wednesday 27th April, 11th May, 25th May

**Squirrels** – Thursday 28th April, 12th May, 26th May

**Busy Bees** – Friday 29th April, 13th May, 20th May

(last session on 20th May due to Jubilee street party on 27th)

**Kestrels** - Tuesday 3rd May, 17th May

**Dragonflies** – Wednesday 4th May, 18th May

**Foxes** – Thursday 5th May, 19th May

**Woodpeckers** – Friday 6th May, Monday 16th May

(One session on Friday due to the Monday being a bank holiday)



## Parent Library Mornings Summer 1

Week beginning: 25<sup>th</sup> April

	Parent Session at start of day
Monday	Foxes
Wednesday	Kestrels
Thursday	Dragonflies

Week beginning: 16<sup>th</sup> May

	Parent Session at start of day
Monday	Foxes
Wednesday	Kestrels
Thursday	Dragonflies

Week beginning: 2<sup>nd</sup> May

	Parent Session at start of day
Monday	<b>MAY DAY SCHOOL CLOSED</b>
Tuesday	Squirrels
Wednesday	Owls
Thursday	Busy Bees

Week beginning: 23<sup>rd</sup> May

	Parent Session at start of day
Monday	Squirrels
Wednesday	Owls
Thursday	Busy Bees

Week beginning: 9<sup>th</sup> May

	Parent Session at start of day
Monday	Badgers
Wednesday	Woodpeckers
Thursday	Ladybirds



love your library





## May Day Plan – Parents Invited

**Date: Thursday 28th April 2022**

Please read the information below carefully as each year group has a different plan and times. Thank you.

### Reception:

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

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

**Year 1 and Year 2 children – remember to make a May Pole at home and bring it to school on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April**





## Toddler Group

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

We are planning to start our Parent and Toddler session on Tuesday mornings for parents with pre-school children. These ran very successfully last academic year, prior to the Covid disruption. Mrs Kee has confirmed with Mrs Jo Smith, who runs the sessions, that the sessions can now restart.



The sessions will run **9:00am-10:30am every Tuesday at a cost of £2.00 per family**. The first session will be on **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2022**. Please go to the side entrance by the steps (adjacent to the sports court). The catering team will supply a plate of fruit and juice for the children and there will be hot drinks and toast available for purchase.



### Can you help?

Mrs Smith has purchased some new resources for the group but has said that parents at Violet Way have always been wonderful at donating toys. She has requested that any parents that have clean, good-quality toys suitable for toddler group that they wish to donate (for example, large floor jigsaws, chunky plastic cars, dolls or other toddler toys that can be wiped down) be brought to the school office by Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

Many thanks for your support.





## Fierté Festival The Queen's Jubilee 'Happy and Glorious'



All of the schools in our Trust will be celebrating the Queen's Jubilee during the last week of next half term.

As part of this celebration all learning for this week will be linked to the Queen and the children will be taking part in a variety of events. Each school in the Trust will have a different decade of the Queen's reign. Our school decade is the 60s.



On Monday 23rd May all staff and children are to come in 60s decade clothes for the launch of our week of celebrations.

They will be learning and singing songs from this decade and learning to play 60s decade music in Rokit music lessons too.



There will be a range of activities over the week in school but something we have planned to do is to create a Jubilee red, white and blue garden in school. Over the next few weeks children can collection some smooth rounded stones and bring them into school to paint in red, white and blue for our garden. We would also like to plant some red, white and blue flowers and would appreciate any donations of plants for this.



We have a parent session planned for Thursday 26th May and would like to invite parents into school to make a crown with their child. The times for these sessions are:

**Reception – 9am**

**Year 1 – 10am**

**Year 2 – 11am**

The week will end with a street party celebrating during lunchtime and the afternoon. On this day – Friday 27th May - children are to come to school dressed in red, white and blue.





## Reminders and Information

### Safety and Scooters

Please remember to be mindful of other parents, children and toddlers when collecting your child and exiting the site. Please do not allow children to ride their scooter on site, until you are out of both sets of green gates – if children ride on their scooters down the slope, they may fall off and hurt themselves or knock a younger child over. Also, please make sure that you keep your child close by you when you collect them as it is so easy for them to get lost in the crowd. Thank you.

### COVID Update

As you will be aware the remaining Covid restrictions were removed on 1<sup>st</sup> April. We have updated our Covid page on the website to reflect the current advice and changes. Please click [here](#) to view.

### Cost of trips and coaches

We wanted to make parents aware that, as of 1<sup>st</sup> April there have been increases in the cost of trips and coaches. As a school, we try to keep the overall cost for parents as low as possible as we appreciate that the cost of living has increased for everybody. We can arrange payment plans where required, just speak to Miss Evans in the office.

### Vacancy at Edge Hill Academy

There is currently a caretaker vacancy at Edge Hill Academy. This job is for 20 hours per week, Monday to Friday, if you or anyone you know might be interested, please apply by filling out the application form you can find in the link below.

[EHA Caretaker vacancy details](#)

## 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** Shout crisis messenger text 85258

Childline call 0800 1111

Young Minds text 85258 [Is this OK?](#) online chatbot

**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.





## Egg-citing Easter Activities!

[Click here](#) for to visit this Easter's issue of Primary Times magazine. It is full of egg-citing things to do with all the family, including a tick-sheet of 20 activities, plus great competitions to win. There are also exclusive discounts at Lower Drayton Farm, the Big Bounce, and a free Kids Pass from Everyone Active!

You don't have to spend lots to enjoy fun Easter holiday activities. Have a look at some of these suggestions to help you plan for the holidays!



### The Great Outdoors

- Scavenger hunts collecting leaves, seeds, flowers
- Natural world bingo sheets with tree types: insects, flowers, animal tracks to tick off
- Bird-watching
- Making maps
- Spending the night outside in a tent
- Creating art with natural elements like leaves, sticks and flowers
- Building dens or other structures and sculptures with natural objects

### Fun on rainy days

Baking – chocolate rice krispie or cornflake cakes are no-cook recipes and they're great for using up any left over Easter chocolate! There's a recipe [here](#). Fruit kebabs are also easy to make with the children and healthy too!

Make your own play dough (cost about £3.00). You can use an online recipe, such as [BBC Good Food's playdough recipe](#).

Watch animals spring onto your screen with free virtual farm tours. Animal Farm Adventure Park in Burnham-on-Sea gives a virtual tour on its [YouTube channel](#) introducing us to its resident animals.

For more exotic animals, Chester Zoo has opened up its virtual gates with various tours around the zoo, introducing its red pandas, Asian elephants, tigers and more. Check out all the past virtual zoo days at the [Chester Zoo YouTube channel](#)

You could also sing songs, watch a movie, draw and colour, make collages with different materials, dance around the living room or build with cartons, tubes and boxes!





## Easter Treats

As the cost of living increases, families may be struggling.

See opposite for some places that are offering free meals for kids during Easter half term!

On the following page, you'll find information about saving energy.



### **MARKS AND SPENCER**

Kids eat free in the M&S Cafe if you spend £5. One free children's meal per transaction. Between 4th April and 22nd April.

### **MORRISONS**

Kids eat free all day, every day in Morrisons cafes nationwide with one paying adult. Plus they have the feed the family for £10 deal running at Easter

### **YO! SUSHI**

Pick any main, a side of edamame beans and drink and you'll get it free with a £10 adult spend throughout half term.

### **ASDA**

Kids eat free in Asda's cafes after 3pm Monday - Friday.

### **GORDON RAMSAY RESTAURANTS**

Kids under 12 eat FREE all day, every day at selected Gordon Ramsay restaurants.

### **BELLA ITALIA**

Children can eat for £1 with any adult main. The offer is valid from 1st April - 24th April 2022

### **TABLE TABLE, BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE**

Two children get free breakfast with one paying adult! It has also been reported that if you sign up to their newsletter they send out a code for kids eat free, but I haven't personally tried this.

### **THE REAL GREEK**

Kids eat FREE every Sunday for every £10 spent by an adult.

### **DUNELM CAFE-PAUSA**

Kids eat FREE when adults spend just £4 or more at Pausa cafes which you will find inside Dunelm stores.

### **PRETO**

Kids under 12 eat FREE all day, every day at selected Gordon Ramsay restaurants.

### **HUNGRY HORSE**

Kids eat breakfast free when accompanied by a paying adult, all day every day through the Easter holidays from 9am - 12pm.

### **FARMHOUSE INNS**

From 4th - 22nd April, Monday to Friday, up to two kids per paying adult can eat for just £1 each





## Energy Saving

**Some tips for saving energy and saving money!**

**Turn off standby appliances – Save up to £30.00 yr.** Turn appliances off at the plug

**Install a smart thermostat – Save up to £75.00 yr.** Make your heating more efficient by only warming the rooms you are using.

**Turn down your thermostat- Save up to £80.00 yr.** Turning your heating down by just one degree could save

**Buy efficient appliances- Save up to £300.00 yr.**

**Wash clothes at a lower temperature – Save up to £10.00 yr.** Washing at 30 degrees rather than 40 degrees can help, if you can cut out one wash cycle per week you'll clip £5 off your annual energy bill.

**Be smarter about water – Save up to £10.00 yr.** You can save around £25 a year by washing up in a bowl rather than using a running tap. Buying a more efficient shower head can save you as much as £18 per person a year on energy bills, plus an additional amount if you have a water meter.

**Draught-proof your property – Save up to £35.00 yr.**

A cold draught can cause your home to lose heat, which makes it more tempting to turn the heating up. Draught excluders or draught-proofing kits are a good way to prevent this. Seal cracks in floors and skirting boards line your letterbox and block an unused chimney to reduce your heating bills by up to £35 a year.

**Monitor your usage – check and supply readings no more estimates**

Keeping a watchful eye on your consumption levels can help you decide if and when you have to change the way you use energy. Installing a Smart Meter lets you track your consumption with accurate and real time information.





# 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 1<sup>st</sup> September

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> October

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April

Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June (School closed for Queen's Jubilee)

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June



## What's Coming Up?

**Summer Term begins** – Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April

**May Day celebrations (parents invited)** - Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2022

**May Day** – 2<sup>nd</sup> May (Bank Holiday)

**Reception Play and Stay** Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 9:10-10:30

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

**Fierte Festival (Queen's Jubilee)** w/c Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> May

**Queen's Jubilee Parent Sessions** – Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> May – Reception: 9am Year 1: 10am Year 2: 11am

**Queen's Jubilee Dress up** – Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May – Dress in Red, white and blue

**May Half term holiday** – w/c Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May

**School closed for Queen's Jubilee** - Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June

**Summer 2 Starts** – Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June

**Y2 KINGSWOOD** - Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> July to Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July

**Y2 BREWHOUSE performance** – Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July

