

A Message from Mrs Kee

What an excellent start to the week we had on Monday afternoon at St. Peter's Church for our Year 2 Christmas Carol Concert. The children behaved impeccably and performed so beautifully. Thank you to the parents that were able to help with the walk to the church, your support is much appreciated. Well done Year 2! A special thank you to Rev. Steve too for allowing us to perform in the perfect setting!

Our Year 1 Christmas Sing-along performances were also well attended by parents and the children loved singing, saying their lines and dancing to Christmas songs. Thanks for parents for joining in with our special sing-a-long to wish everyone a Merry Christmas!

Congratulations to Badgers, Dragonflies and Woodpeckers, who were the classes with the best attendance this term in their year groups and received their certificate in the assembly today. Certificates were also presented to all the children achieving 96% attendance or above.

The children were so excited for the pantomime in school today. They were entranced by a performance of Robin Hood and joined in with all the pantomime traditions!

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, *Mrs Kee*





Attendance

Whole school (this week)	86.79%
Reception	83.15%
Year 1	87.78%
Year 2	89.69%



Congratulations to

Owls (95.62)

for being the class
with the highest attendance for the
whole of the Autumn ter.

Well done for your ***fantastic
attendance*** this term!

Home Achievements



Thank you for
sharing your
home
achievement –

Well done!

Class Attendance Awards

Reception – Foxes (96%)



Year 1 – Dragonflies (95%)

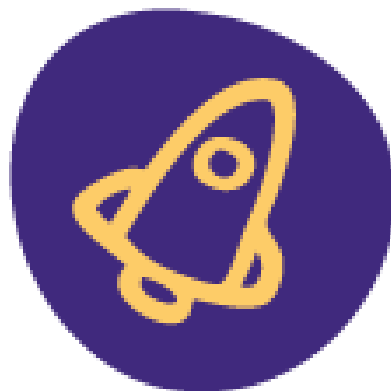


Year 2 – Owls (96%)





Year 1 Sing-a-long Performances



We are
brave



Congratulations to all the Year 1 children who performed their Christmas sing-a-long performances this week. They demonstrated our value, 'We are brave' and performed beautifully. Thanks to our parents for being great sports and joining in with 'We wish you a Merry Christmas'!





125 Thumbs Up Point Winners

This afternoon Mrs Kee hosted a special treat for our 125 thumbs up point winners. The children enjoyed a special, scrummy Christmas biscuit and played some games together in the library. Well done for your achievement!



PTA – Thank you!

The PTA have been little Christmas Elves this year. They have organised special letters from Santa, held a Christmas online raffle, organised the Year 1 disco and ensured every child had a Christmas present from Santa (a lovely book to read).



We were delighted to hear the news that we had won a prize from the Tesco community grant scheme. The PTA have now ordered some lovely 'scooter pods' for scooter storage in school. Thank to all the parents that put the little blue counters in the Violet Way boxes at local Tesco stores and to the PTA for organising everything.

Thank you!





125 Thumbs Up Point Winners

This afternoon Mrs Kee hosted a special treat for our 125 thumbs up point winners. The children enjoyed a special, scrummy Christmas biscuit and played some games together in the library. Well done for your achievement!



It's Panto Time! Oh no it isn't!





Merry Christmas!





Laches Wood

In May 2024, the Year 2 children have a trip to Laches Wood. The cost of the day trip is £42 to be paid by Parent Pay please. This has been opened on Parent Pay now. Payments can be split into two parts. The first instalment of £22 is due by 10th January 2024 and the second instalment of £20 is due by 7th February.

The programme of events for the day will include:

- ✓ Caving
- ✓ Rock room
- ✓ Blindfold trail
- ✓ Tree trail
- ✓ Photo trail
- ✓ Team games

Farewell and Welcome

Today we say farewell to Mr Garb and wish him well as he starts a new chapter.

From January, Miss Mayer will be teaching in Ladybirds.

Current Vacancies

Cleaning Supervisor and Teaching Assistant (with cover)

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 \(fierte.org\)](#) Applicants should submit a completed application to hr@fierte.org

Communication channels

Whilst we value and appreciate the high proportion of positive and supportive communications we receive from many parents, there remain a very small minority which do not meet appropriate or respectful thresholds, despite this being shared as a concern previously by the Trust CEO, Maria Hamblin.

As a school, we are always open to listening to parent concerns. Please contact the office to arrange to make an appointment with your child's class teacher in the first instance. You are also welcome to arrange to speak to the SENDCO (Mrs Magill), or Inclusion Manager (Mrs Dawson) if you have concerns regarding your child's SEND needs or need support. If you feel that your concern has not been addressed by the class teacher, please arrange to speak to, or meet with, our Deputy Head Teacher, Miss Nicholson. After you have received support from these members of staff, if you still feel that you need further support please request to speak to Mrs Kee, who will be happy to help you.





My Happy Mind – Feedback so far....

As a school, we launched MyHappyMind across the school at the start of this academic year. We have had some really positive feedback from staff and pupils about the 'Meet your Brain' module:

- 100% of teachers say that Meet Your Brain has helped their class to understand their brain
- 100% of teachers say Happy Breathing has benefitted most children in their class
- 83% of teachers are integrating the language from Meet Your Brain into their teaching and learning

What teachers have said about MyHappyMind programme:

- ✓ A child in my class said to me, 'I'm finding this Math's work very tricky, so I am going to do some Happy Breathing to help my brain'.
- ✓ All children have learnt information about their brain.

The programme is clearly already having a positive impact on our pupils at Violet Way.

Staying happy and safe

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

Helplines for children and young people

Childline call 0800 1111

Shout crisis messenger text 85258

Young Minds 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

For confidential advice and support with behaviour, parenting, child development, emotional health and well-being text Chat Health 07520 615722.

Safeguarding

As a parent, carer, relative, neighbour or member of the public you may be concerned about the welfare and safety of your own child or a child you know. 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.





Update from the Trust CEO

Autumn Update (December 2023)

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you are looking forward to Christmas and spending time with cherished ones. Our children across the Trust have enjoyed their nativities, discos, parties and all that Christmas in school has to offer. Here are a few Autumn updates.

Garden Village Primary Academy

You will no doubt be aware that our new school in Tamworth has already started to be constructed. A Project Team are securing excellence in staffing, resources, and the intended curriculum for our brand-new school. Thank you to Executive Leaders and Central Support Staff for ensuring that every deadline has not only been met, but in many areas already exceeding expected dates and timings.

Parental engagement

Working together to support our children remains a priority and the way in which parents work with staff across all roles remains a fundamental to every child's success. The relationships we strive for, must be built on mutual respect, equality, and a willingness to give. Please therefore, continue to treat our staff in the way in which you would wish to be treated yourself. They appreciate the many parents who demonstrate this day in day out with kindness and thoughtfulness towards our hard-working staff.

Chair of the Trust Board

We are delighted to welcome a new Chair of the Trust Board, Mrs. Zoe Insley. She has already dedicated many hours as a Trustee but has now taken the reins as Chair. Zoe has considerable expertise in business and organisational leadership. She has many attributes that will ensure that as a family of schools we are supported to secure the highest outcomes for our children.

Finally...

Thank you to our beautiful children. They make our jobs such a joy and privilege and we never forget that it is for their benefit that we give our best endeavours. We look forward to seeing them on their return.

Wishing each and every one of you a peaceful, perfect Christmas.





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?

INSET day – Monday 8th January 2024

Children return to school for Spring Term – Tuesday 9th January

Swimming for Dragonflies starts – Tuesday 9th January

Toddler Morning – Every Tuesday morning 9:00am-10:30am, £2 per family

Multisports competition – 24th January

Year 2 drumming workshop – 25th January

WingWah visit – Foxes – 5th February

Safer Internet day – Tuesday 6th February

WingWah visit – Squirrels – 7th February

WingWah visit – Badgers – 9th February

Sports Enrichment Day – 8th February

School finishes for half term – 9th February

Half term holiday – 10th – 18th February

Spring Term 2 starts – Monday 19th February

