

## A Message from Mrs Kee

Our assembly this week was focused on our school value 'We are brave'. The children found out about Rosa Parks, a black woman who refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white person. In 1950s America there were laws separating black and white people on public transport, in schools and in public places. Rosa Parks showed bravery, standing up for what was right and her actions, along with a bus boycott, changed American history. At Violet Way, we celebrate individuality, and the children were inspired by the bravery of Rosa Parks. Linking to this, the theme of Children's Mental Health Week next week is 'My Voice Matters' and will include thinking about why it is important to speak up to make change happen, just like Rosa Parks did years ago. Children will listen to stories, watch videos and enjoy a range of activities across the week. On Tuesday, it is Safer Internet Day, and we have activities planned for the children to complete. Find out more about Children's Mental Health Week in the newsletter this week.


On Tuesday, Mrs Harris (your new Headteacher from the summer term) had a tour of the school and enjoyed meeting the children and staff who were very welcoming. She will be back in school after the half term holiday on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February, where she will be on the school gate in the morning to meet and greet parents. I am sure you will look forward to meeting her.

I hope you have a great weekend, *Mrs Kee*





## Attendance

Whole school (this week)	<b>92.51%</b>
Reception	<b>87.64%</b>
Year 1	<b>94.01%</b>
 Year 2	<b>96.05%</b>



Congratulations to

**Woodpeckers(96.47%)**

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! These children have been awarded certificates for following our Golden Rules and demonstrating our school values.

### Reception



### Year 1



### Year 2



## Home Achievements



Thank you for sharing your home achievements!



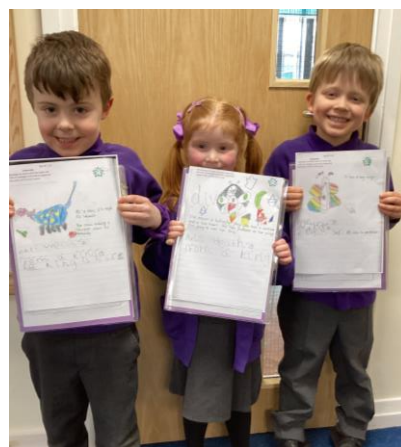
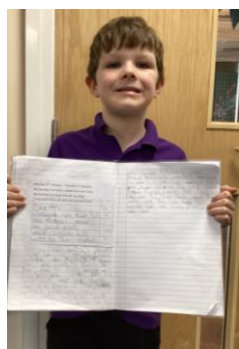
FIERTÉ

MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST





## Lovely learning this week!



**We care**

**We are brave**

**We celebrate individuality**

**We leave no one behind**



FIERTÉ

MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

**INSPIRING ALL TO EXCELLENCE**





## School Council Update

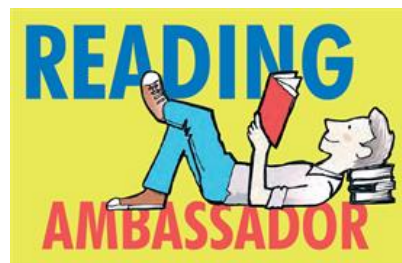


The School Council recently had a meeting with Miss Nicholson. They discussed their learning in school and answered a series of questions. These included what their favourite lesson was, how they know how well they are doing in different subjects, what they like about school, how their teachers help them and how we can make the school an even better place! Next week, they will be trained in leading some playtime games so they can become our Playground Leaders. They will be able to help the other children on the playground to take part in some traditional and modern games. They are looking forward to it!

## Reading Ambassadors Update

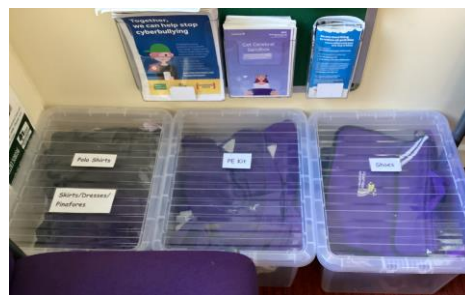
Our new Year 2 Reading Ambassadors have been working very hard so far! They are helping the school to promote reading for pleasure in different ways. One of their roles is to recommend books that they have read to other children using our Recommended Read Bookmarks. Every Thursday lunchtime, they help Miss Nicholson to run the Lunchtime Book Club in the library. This is proving to be extremely popular with the other children!

Each week they also help to make sure that the library is tidy and organised. They are also going to write their own newsletter after half-term with lots of fun and interesting information about reading in! Next week, they will visit the Reception and Year 1 classes to read their Friday story to them and they can't wait to do this! Well done to the Reading Ambassadors!



## PTA update - Uniform

We are committed to supporting parents, especially during difficult times. A big thank you to our wonderful PTA members who have completed the time-consuming task of sorting and organising all the spare uniform. It is now stored in the front entrance of school. Parents are welcome to take any uniform items they require.





## Book Fair Arrival!

After last term's successful book fair, we are pleased to announce that the school will be hosting another! It will be here during parents' evening week in the hall during these times:

**Wednesday 21st February – 3.30 - 7pm**

**Thursday 22nd February – 3.30 - 5pm**

**Friday 23rd February – 8 – 8.45am**

Like last time, it will be a cashless book fair so you will pay via a QR code that you will scan using your mobile phone.

Your support was greatly appreciated in the autumn term because we managed to buy some lovely new books for the children's story time in class. Hopefully, we will be able to buy some more after this book fair as well. There will be exciting new books available to purchase from a wide range of children's authors. In addition to this, there will be some stationery items which are great value and count towards our final amount as well. We look forward to seeing you there!

Watch this video below where one of our favourite authors reads the first chapter from a book that will be available to purchase!

**[Julia Donaldson & Friends – Featuring Axel Scheffler - Scholastic Book Fairs](#)**



## Help is out there

We appreciate that sometimes the holidays can be challenging but you can get help.

### Helplines for children and young people

**Childline** call 0800 1111

**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.





## Children's Mental Health Week – Next week!

Please see the plan below for the activities children will be engaging in as part of Children's Mental Health Week – "My Voice Matters"

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Introduction to Children's Mental Health Week</b> In assembly, the children shall be watching a video about a child that speaks up to make change happen.  The story will be used as inspiration for discussing this year's Children's Mental Health Week theme: My Voice Matters!  The children will consider how they can make a difference – is there anything in their classroom / school / community that they can 'speak up' about to make change? E.g. reducing litter by always putting litter in the bin, promoting walking or scooting to school instead of driving to reduce congestion etc	<b>Safer Internet Day – 'Inspiring Change'</b>  Class assembly – Children will watch 'Mo and Jaz's Story'. It is an interactive story that explores how changes online can make you feel. Mo and Jaz love playing games online. When something happens in their game that makes them feel worried, they realise they need to let an adult know. The 'noise' words in the story have all been designed to stand out.  Teachers will ask questions at the end to explore learners' understanding of what happened.  One lesson during this week will be focused on the Safer Internet Day theme.	<b>Well-being Wednesday</b> <b>Reception and Year 1 –</b> Children will watch signing with Lucinda's Makaton for 'Favourite' and will practise signing 'favourite'.  Children to share their favourite animals, colours, food etc. Can the children also ask others about their favourites? They will watch a video and talk about likes and dislike. This will be a good way of showing how we can think differently and that is okay.  <b>Year 2 – I know I matter</b> Children will be asked how they feel when they feel like they matter. What about the things around us that matter to us – like our environment?  They will watch a video and talk about what mattered to the children in the video  Children to write or draw a picture their 'dream' day – full of things that matter to them.	<b>Progressive Sports Enrichment Day</b> - children in our school had a voice and voted for street dance for our enrichment day. Each class will have a slot in the hall for street dancing!  <b>Class discussion:</b> Celebrating ourselves and each other Celebrations are not just for birthdays or holidays, and we don't always need a party to celebrate.  Children will think about something they've done in the last week that they are proud of. Pride is a feeling that makes you puff out your chest! Do you have something to celebrate like.... You tried a new vegetable? You managed a piece of work that was tricky for you? You spoke to someone new on the playground?  They will complete a proud cloud celebrating something they are proud of.	<b>Learning from Stories</b> Children will listen to their teacher reading SAY SOMETHING! By Peter H Reynolds and Your Voice Matters by Lauren Taylor  The children will consider why it is important to speak up. If there is something not right, they should speak up and say something because their voice matters.  At home – you could talk to your child about their learning over the week. How do they make a difference at school, at home or in the community? What are they proud of? Why is it important to speak up if there is something not right?

Remember a positive wellbeing and mental health is supported by physical health and activity. We have lots of children scooting or biking to school too. It's been proven that children who do some form of exercise, especially a walk before school, do better in class because they arrive refreshed, fit and ready to learn.

## After School Clubs- Spring 2

**Multi-sports Club-** (Spring 2- Year R) Mondays after school until 4pm.

**Gymnastics Club-** (Spring 2- Year 1) Tuesdays after school until 4pm

**Dance and Movement Club-** (Spring 2- Year 2) Thursdays after school until 4.10pm

**Burton Albion Football-** whole term (started in Jan)- please note that there is still some spaces left on this club. If your child is in Y1 or Y2 and would like a place, starting after the half term break, then please contact the office.

**A Microsoft Forms will be sent out on Monday 5th February at 4pm, via Marvellous Me, for you to sign your child up to the club. Places will be offered on a first come, first served basis and you will receive a message to say if your child has received a place later in the week.**





## A message from Mental Health Support Team

**NHS**  
Midlands Partnership  
NHS Foundation Trust  
A Keele University Teaching Trust

### Empowering Parents, Carers, and Professionals: Building Healthy Sleep Habits with Children and Young People

With Sleep Hygiene Expert, Paul Andre

Online  
Wednesday 7th February  
6.30pm - 7.30pm

scan for tickets

CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH WEEK  
MY VOICE MATTERS.

Place 2Be

Our Children and Young People's Mental Health Participation team are hosting a sleep hygiene workshop next week.

If you are a parent, or carer supporting a child or young person with their mental health, join us next Wednesday for this sleep hygiene webinar presented by sleep expert Paul Andre, designed to equip you with the knowledge and tools to help your young person achieve healthy sleep patterns.

Free tickets are available here: <https://buff.ly/490GSJm>

## Violet Way Academy Vacancies

### Teaching Assistant (with cover)

We are seeking to appoint a Teaching Assistant with Cover level 3.

The advert is available to view on [WmJobs](https://www.wmjobs.com). The application pack is also available on the Trust website [Fierte Multi-Academy Trust- Vacancies](https://www.fierte.org). Applicants should submit a completed application form to [hr@fierte.org](mailto:hr@fierte.org)

### Cleaning Supervisor

Adverts are available to view on [Wmjobs](https://www.wmjobs.com). The application pack and full details will also be available on the Trust website [Fierte Multi-Academy Trust- Vacancies](https://www.fierte.org) ([fierte.org](https://www.fierte.org)) Applicants should submit a completed application to [hr@fierte.org](mailto:hr@fierte.org)







# 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

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

### Year 1 - Thursdays

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

### Year 2 – Wednesdays

<b>Kestrels</b>	17/1	7/2	6/3
<b>Owls</b>	24/1	21/2	13/3
<b>Woodpeckers</b>	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 19<sup>th</sup> July

Holiday: Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2024

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July (disaggregated)



## What's Coming Up?

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

**Children's Mental Health Week** – week commencing 5<sup>th</sup> February

**WingWah visit** – Foxes – 5<sup>th</sup> February

**Safer Internet day** – Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February

**WingWah visit** – Badgers- 8<sup>th</sup> February

**Sports Enrichment Day** – 8<sup>th</sup> February

**WingWah visit** – Squirrels – 9<sup>th</sup> February

**School finishes for half term** – 9<sup>th</sup> February

**Half term holiday** – 10<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> February

**Spring Term 2 starts** – Monday 19<sup>th</sup> February

**Stoke City 'City 7s' Assembly for Year 2** –

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February

**Mrs Harris on the school gate in the morning to meet and greet parents** - 21<sup>st</sup> February

**Parents' Evening** – Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> February  
(3:30-7pm)

**Parents' Evening** – Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February  
(3:30-5pm)

**NB: The Book Fair will be in school on the parents' evenings.**

**Mother's Day play and stay sessions** - Monday 11<sup>th</sup> March - see times below:

**Reception** – 9:00-10:00am

**Year 1** 10:00-11:00am

**Year 2** – 11:00am-12:pm

**World Down Syndrome Day** – 21<sup>st</sup> March – Wear odd socks to celebrate individuality

**End of Term** 22<sup>nd</sup> March

**Summer term starts** – 8<sup>th</sup> April

