

A Message from Mrs Kee

It was Children's Mental Health Week this week and the theme was My Voice Matters. Over the week, the children engaged in a range of planned activities to help them learn about their voice and the difference they can make by speaking out about the things that are important to them. When children feel heard, and they are making a difference, this can help children's self-esteem. When adults help children express themselves, this can help their health and wellbeing. To find out what the children have been up to you can view the overview for the week [here](#). There are also lots of photographs in the newsletter this week!

Safer Internet Day was Tuesday this week and the theme this year was 'Inspiring Change'. The children learnt about the power technology has to change all our lives. They celebrated all the amazing ways technology is shaping the world we live in, whilst also thinking about how they can stay safe in an ever-changing online world. Parents can find out about more about online safety by visiting the following websites:

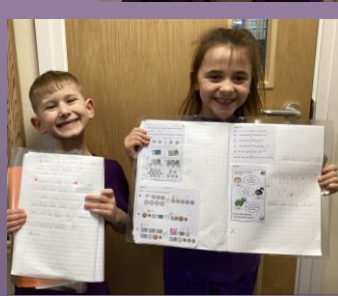
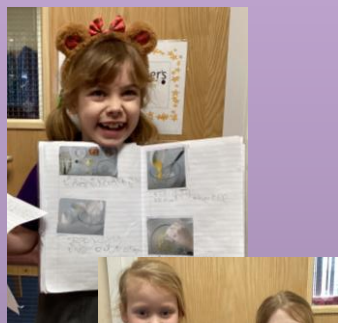
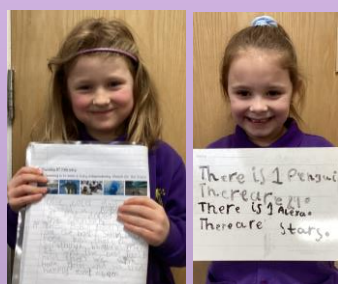
[Keeping children safe online | NSPCC](#)

[Parents and Carers - UK Safer Internet Centre](#)

We are looking forward to parents joining us for parents' evenings after the half term holiday, where the Book Fair will also be available. I hope you all enjoy a lovely half term holiday.


Several parents have been asking when my last day at school will be. I will be finishing at Violet Way on the last day before the two week Easter holiday, which is Friday 22nd March. I look forward to the next five weeks working with pupils, staff and parents.

See you all after the half term break on 19th February, *Mrs Kee*





Attendance

Whole school (this week)	93.48%
Reception	91.80%
Year 1	93.15%
 Year 2	95.61%



Congratulations to

Dragonflies (98%)

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 Achievements



Swimming, Karate, dancing and football achievement certificates were shared in the assembly this week – week done!

Merit Awards

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

Reception



Year 1



Year 2





Children's Mental Health Week



Our Voice Matters – the School Council asked classes what activity they would like during the week and they chose street dance. Every class enjoyed their session on Thursday.



Our Voice Matters – Children shared their opinions about likes and dislikes and created 'proud clouds'. They listened to stories about children that had made their voice heard.

We care

We are brave

We celebrate individuality

We leave no one behind



FIERTÉ

MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST

INSPIRING ALL TO EXCELLENCE



Children's Mental Health Week



Staying safe online

During Children's Mental Health Week, the children enjoyed outdoors activities as well as learning about keeping safe online and talking to a trusted adult if something worries them as part of Internet Safety Day on Tuesday. They also talked about personal information and what they should not share with others online.





Reception Wing Wah Trip



Our Reception children had a wonderful time at Wing Wah's in Burton. Thank you to staff and volunteers for supporting and Bill for driving them there. They loved the restaurant tour, dragon dance and, of course, the food!





Book Fair Reminder

Don't forget about the Book Fair after half-term:

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. We look forward to seeing you there!

Reading Ambassadors



Well done to the Year 2 Reading Ambassadors who read a story to the children in the other classes today. Our Reading Ambassadors demonstrated our value 'We are brave' and the children in each class loved listening to them read. We look forward to doing this again next half term.

Baby Basics Community Appeal

We have been asked by a local fundraising group if we would like to be drop-off point for their Baby Basics appeal. They would be very grateful of any donations of 'baby basics', things like nappies, wipes, baby toiletries etc.

After the half term we will have a drop off box

by the green gates in the morning for any of your donations.

This will run up until Friday 29th Feb. Thank you for your support.



Violet Way Academy Vacancies

Teaching Assistant (with cover) CLOSING SOON! CLOSING DATE 15TH FEBRUARY

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

Cleaning Supervisor

Adverts are available to view on [Wmjjobs](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





Is my child too ill for school?

It can be tricky to know whether or not to send your child to school if they're not feeling well. You might be thinking that you don't want to put other children at risk of coming down with something. You also want to make sure that your child has the best chance possible of making a speedy recovery. This is particularly true during the winter months, when flu and other bugs are making their yearly rounds.

However, going to school is so important. High attendance at school helps your child develop key skills and prevents them from missing out, not just academically, but on those enriching moments with friends and teachers that make up the school day.

It's normal for your child to get sick every now and then, and most of the time it's no more than a common cold. A minor cough, sore throat or light common cold symptoms, on their own, means it's fine to send your child to school under NHS guidelines. If your child has certain symptoms, on their own, such as a runny nose, a minor cough or sore throat, it's usually safe to send them to school. These minor symptoms won't stop them from learning and playing with their friends. This is also the case for other minor ailments such as ear infections, conjunctivitis, and head lice. For these illnesses, you can send your child in but ensure you let the teacher know and they should be receiving treatment for these conditions e.g. eye drops for conjunctivitis can be purchased from the pharmacy and treatment for headlice is wet combing or lotions from the pharmacy [Head lice and nits - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

The NHS provides information about when you do and do not need to keep your child off school if they are ill. [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)

If you have checked the guidance and it is necessary to keep your child off school, it is important to email office@violetway.org or call the school office on 01283 248530 (there is an answer machine if your call is not answered). Please state your child's name, class and the reason for absence.

It is also important that we have up-to-date contact details for parents and carers in case your child falls in at school or in the case of an emergency. We need at least two contacts. If your contact number changes, please ensure that you inform the school office immediately.





Burton and South Derbyshire College

Are you a 19+ adult looking to change your career?

Ever dreamt of being a midwife, paramedic or mental health professional? If you lack the qualifications for university, an Access to Higher Education (HE) course at Burton and South Derbyshire College (BSDC) will give you the skills and qualifications to take you to your next step.

Why choose an Access course at BSDC?

Exciting career paths - Explore careers in midwifery, nursing, science, pharmacy, social work and more.

Learn the basics - Develop the essential knowledge and skills for success in your chosen field.

Accessible pathways - If traditional university routes seem challenging, our courses offer an alternative. Our Level 3 Access courses usually involve only two days in college each week.

Personalised Support - Our experienced staff are dedicated to guiding you, building your confidence and supporting you every step of the way.

Find out more

Ready to kickstart your dream career? Find out more at www.bsdc.ac.uk/access or contact us on enquiries@bsdc.ac.uk/01283 494400.

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.





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?

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

School finishes for half term – 9th February

Half term holiday – 10th – 18th February

Spring Term 2 starts – Monday 19th February

Stoke City 'City 7s' Assembly for Year 2 – Tuesday 20th February

Mrs Harris on the school gate in the morning to meet and greet parents - 21st February

Parents' Evening – Wednesday 21st February (3:30-7pm)

Parents' Evening – Thursday 22nd February (3:30-5pm)

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

World Book Day- Thursday 7th March

Mother's Day play and stay sessions - Monday 11th March - see times below:

Reception – 9:00-10:00am

Year 1 10:00-11:00am

Year 2 – 11:00am-12:pm

Red Nose Day- Friday 15th March

World Down Syndrome Day – 21st March – Wear odd socks to celebrate individuality

End of Term 22nd March

Summer term starts – 8th April

