

Friday 10th  
October 2025

# Queen Victoria Primary School Newsletter



## Key Dates

**23rd October**—Black History Day

### Attendance Awards

**21st October**—Silly Sock Day for 4P

**23rd October**—Silly hair Day for 1S and 2J

**24th Oct**—INSET Day

**27th —31st Oct**— Half Term

**3rd Nov**—Start of Autumn Term 2

**3rd Nov**—Kidz Fit Wellbeing Day

**10th Nov**—Odd Socks Day & Anti-Bullying Week

**14th Nov**—Children in Need

**3rd Dec**—iRock Concert

**5th Dec**—INSET Day

**19th Dec**—Last day of term

**5th Jan**—Start of Spring Term 1

### Class Assemblies

**6S**—13th November

**6C**—20th November

**6H**—27th November

## This week's News

On Thursday, Year 4 had a visit from the West Midlands Fire Service for a SPARKS workshop focusing on fire, road, car and water safety. The children learned how to spot hazards, what to do in emergencies, practised Stop, Drop & Roll, and discussed why smoke alarms are so important. The children asked insightful questions and really embraced the session — thank you to the fire service for their time and expertise.

Also on Thursday, a group of Year 6 pupils travelled by tram into Birmingham to visit Transport for West Midlands. They were shown how the different parts of the transport system link up and how services are coordinated across the region. It was a valuable real-life extension to their classroom learning. On Friday, a group of Year 5 children began their Junior PCSO programme with our local PCSO team. Over the coming weeks, they'll be exploring community safety, leadership, and how to make a positive contribution to school and the local area. Already, their enthusiasm and maturity have impressed us all.

With applications now open for Reception places in September 2026, we've welcomed several families for school tours this week. Many commented on how engaged and focussed our pupils are in the classroom. If you know any families seeking a Reception place next year, please let them know about the upcoming tour dates in October and November — they can contact the school office to secure a visit.

Here's some key dates for the next couple of weeks:

**INSET Day** – Friday 24th October 2025 School is closed to pupils for staff training.

**Half Term** – Monday 27th to Friday 31st October 2025 We wish all families a restful break.

**First Day Back** – Monday 3rd November 2025 Kidz Fit will be in school delivering workshops for Years 1–6. Children in Years 1–6 should wear their PE kit all day.

Thank you, as always, for your continued encouragement and partnership. Have a fantastic weekend!



# Queen Victoria Primary School Let's Celebrate!



Children at the Heart. Aspiration. Responsible. Excellence



## Positive Notes & Behaviour Recognition

We love letting our families know when their children have been caught doing something great in school! All staff give out **Positive Notes** regularly for children who are going out of their way in role modelling our school CARE values. We also love recognising children who follow our school rules: Ready, Respectful & Safe, and conduct themselves well in school by adding them to class recognition boards. Children who demonstrate exemplary behaviour are awarded a **Behaviour Recognition Note** to bring home to let their grown-ups know they have been golden.



## CARE Awards

Each week, teachers award one child in their class who has had a remarkable week in demonstrating our school values or going above and beyond to follow our school Golden Rules: Ready, Respectful and Safe.

Children are awarded these certificates during our Friday Celebration Assemblies and are invited to have squash and biscuits with a senior leader as a special treat.

A huge well done to this week's super stars!



## CARE Award Winners This Week

**Nursery:**

**Noah**

**Reception:**

**Ethan and Asa-Jaxx**

**Year One:**

**Louis and Harley-Jai**

**Year Two:**

**Harper and Freddie-Lee**

**Year Three:**

**Esmee and Misha**

**Year Four:**

**Skyla-Rose and Oscar**

**Year Five:**

**Grace, Jayden and Theo**

**Year Six:**

**Vivien, Leo and Amber**

**Well Done to all!**

# Queen Victoria Primary School Attendance



## Class Attendance

	Attendance (%)
RD	89.00
RF	97.78
1S	95.93
1P	97.14
2J	99.00
2O	93.45
3B	86.79
3M	94.83
4CB	98.08
4P	99.31
5H	96.00
5S	99.20
5M	91.30
6C	94.29
6H	97.50
6S	88.57

### The impact of Attendance on Achievement at Queen Victoria.

Our records from last year show just how important good attendance is for children's success:

Pupils with **97%** attendance or higher (less than 6 days' absence in a year) achieved the best outcomes – over **80%** reached the expected standard in reading, writing and maths.

By comparison, only half of pupils with attendance below **93%** (more than two weeks' absence) reached this standard.

In maths, **84%** of children with the best attendance achieved the expected standard, compared with just **62–70%** of those with lower attendance.

Overall, children with strong attendance were much more likely to achieve well in every subject.

**Every day in school really does count – good attendance gives your child the very best chance to succeed!**

### This week's attendance: 94.77

It's great to see our overall attendance improving week on week.

A huge well done to our 8 classes who earned a chance to spin the attendance prize wheel in assembly on Friday! It's great to see the attendance score board looking much more green! A special well done to 5S, 4P and 2J who achieved almost perfect attendance and will have the attendance trophies in their classes next week.

Lots of classes have also been able to complete the October Attendance Fest challenge, winning a bonus spin of the prize wheel.

**Keep checking the attendance boards each week!**





## Transport Trip

Here's a little snapshot of the Year 6 children's visit to Transport for West Midlands



## Queen Victoria Primary School



### Reception Places September 2026



If your child is due to start school in Reception from September 2026, we'd love you to come and see what makes Queen Victoria Primary School a great place to learn and grow.

We have a limited number of places available.

Please contact the school office to book a visit.

Email: [info@queen-vic.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:info@queen-vic.dudley.sch.uk)  
Telephone: 01384 888970





## DBleisure

### School holiday activities

Children can keep busy over the school holidays with fun activities taking place across Dudley borough leisure centres and the Dell Stadium. Please follow the link below for further details

<https://www.dbleisure.co.uk/school-holiday-activities>

### Road works

We have been notified by Dudley Council that road works will be taking place outside the school starting Monday, 20th October, for a duration of two weeks. These works are to replace the traffic light system.

Please be aware that this is likely to cause significant traffic congestion in the area. We kindly advise everyone to set out earlier than usual and exercise extra caution during drop-off and pick-up times.





Funded by  
UK Government



# FREE bus travel for parents this October half term

All day, unlimited travel from  
27 October until 2 November

Parents, guardians and carers can enjoy  
unlimited free bus travel across the  
West Midlands during these dates.

## How to claim

Applications are open from Monday 6  
October until Wednesday 15 October.  
Just scan the QR code (or visit [tfwm.org.uk/october](https://tfwm.org.uk/october)) to apply!



Once applications close, we'll email you  
with instructions on how to redeem your  
free travel through your Swift account.

You're Bussing It  West  
Midlands  
Bus



# Starting primary school in September 2026

## Why not apply for a place online?

If your child was born between 1 September 2021 and 31 August 2022 they will be due to start primary school in September 2026.

You **MUST** complete an application form either online at [www.dudley.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/admissions) or by completing an application form from your home local authority by **15 JANUARY 2026**. You can include five school preferences on the application; there is nothing to gain by only putting one preference.

Applications will be available from **1 October 2025**.

### Benefits of applying online

- E-mail decision received by 2pm on day of offer
- It's quick and easy to use
- You can apply 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- There's no risk that your application will be lost in the post
- You will get email confirmation that your application has been received
- It's safe and secure

The online system will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from 1 October 2025 until the closing date for applications on **15 January 2026**.

**Please note:** Even if your child already attends a school nursery or has an older sibling at school, do not assume that your child will automatically gain a place at that school. This is a common misconception and often the biggest cause of disappointment for parents who believe otherwise.

For further information please contact Dudley School Admissions Service on **0300 555 2345**.



one click . . . makes it quick  
[www.dudley.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.dudley.gov.uk/admissions)



# Top Tips for SETTING BOUNDARIES AROUND GAMING

If your child loves video games, then you'll probably be aware that how long they spend gaming – and what they're actually playing – can occasionally become a source of concern or conflict. The UK's trade body for interactive entertainment, Ukie, has recently launched a campaign to promote safer and more responsible gaming among young people – with parents and carers helping by setting sensible and fair boundaries. Our guide has tips on key areas where you could agree some healthy ground rules for your child's gaming activity.

## PROMOTE SAFER GAME CHOICES

Deciding which online games are OK – and which should be avoided – is tricky. Some titles allow children to cooperate or compete with strangers, which creates potential risks. Watching your child play online for a while could provide more insight into a particular game, while the parental controls on most consoles allow you to limit who can chat to your child or send them friend requests. Remind your child of the hazards around strangers online when you discuss this boundary with them.

## ENCOURAGE REGULAR BREAKS

Help your child understand the need to take regular breaks, playing in shorter bursts rather than marathon sessions. Bear in mind that some games (such as role-playing games) require time investment from the player, while others (online team games, for example) can't be stopped or paused at a moment's notice. A quick break every hour or so is good practice, and you could suggest some things to do in these breaks, such as having a drink of water or getting some fresh air.

## AGREE SPENDING LIMITS

There's no doubt that gaming can be expensive, and younger players often don't realise how much paying for digital items and subscriptions can add up to. Many young gamers love to buy new skins or upgrades for their character, so you could settle on a fixed amount that your child is allowed to spend on in-game items each week or month. This sort of boundary will not only help your child to manage their expectations but will also make you more aware of the price of these items.

## DISCUSS AGE RATINGS

Children often ignore the age ratings on games – or are unaware they even exist. If you're happy with your child playing a particular game even though it's rated above their age, then establish that as a boundary; emphasise that you've made an exception, and talk about what age ratings mean and why they're important. You could add context to this boundary by browsing games' boxes together while shopping, discussing why some games might have earned certain age ratings.



## FACTOR IN FRIENDS

If your child is a keen video gamer, the chances are that they'll have other gamers among their social circle, too. When friends visit, do they instantly dash to their console or computer? You could put boundaries in place before their guests arrive by agreeing on a length of gaming time. Bear in mind, though, that they may try to extend this once they're together. Try coming up with activities or challenges for them during screen breaks – if they join in, they earn a little extra time on their game.

## ENJOY GAMING TOGETHER

Setting time aside to play video games together can be an enjoyable bonding exercise. Undeniably, some young gamers may be less enthusiastic about a parent or carer joining in, but it can be a productive way of encouraging them to share their hobby with you. Setting goals or tasks might be useful: if they love Minecraft, choose something to build together; if Fortnite's their favourite, ask to try out some of the fun game modes, like Prop Hunt, which don't require high skill levels.

## TALK ABOUT EMOTIONS

Help your child to monitor their emotions as they play. Discuss what is (and isn't) an acceptable level of competitiveness to show while gaming. Are they allowed to trash talk other players, for example? Can they notice when they get angry if they lose? Do they think these emotions are healthy? Some games can provoke anger, but others can bring joy, humour and the thrill of overcoming a challenge. Try to steer your child towards games that tend to produce these more positive feelings.

## BE PREPARED FOR TROLLS

A frequent problem when gaming online is other players who are deliberately troublesome. Make sure your child knows how to report and block someone who makes their experience a negative one. Between you, decide if or how they should deal with these online trolls. Talk about where your child's boundaries are in terms of what they think is acceptable: what behaviour by other users is merely frustrating, and what crosses the line to become upsetting or abusive.

## Meet Our Expert

Daniel Upcombe is a writer specialising in technology, video gaming, virtual reality and Web3. He has also written 15 guidebooks for children, covering games such as Fortnite, Apex Legends, Valorant, Roblox and Minecraft. With work published by the likes of PC Gamer, Kotaku, Pocket Gamer and VG247, he has reviewed more than 50 games and products over the past year.



Source: <https://hipal.app/about/privacy.html>