

Friday 24th
October 2025

Queen Victoria Primary School Newsletter



Key Dates

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

2J—4th December

2O—11th December

All assemblies start at 9.15am

This week's News

As we reach the end of our first half term of the school year, I want to thank everyone for their continued hard work, enthusiasm and support. It's been a busy and exciting few weeks, and the children have certainly earned their half term break!

On Monday, our Police Community Liaison Officers visited school to deliver their 'Darker Nights' safety talks to pupils in Years 5 and 6. The sessions helped the children think about how to stay safe and considerate as the evenings draw in, with useful advice on personal safety, road awareness and celebrating Halloween responsibly.

We would like to wish a very Happy Diwali to all families who celebrated earlier this week! On Wednesday, Years 2 and 3 enjoyed a special assembly all about Diwali, learning about how the festival is celebrated around the world. Our Reception children also began exploring Diwali in preparation for their upcoming learning on celebrations after half term.

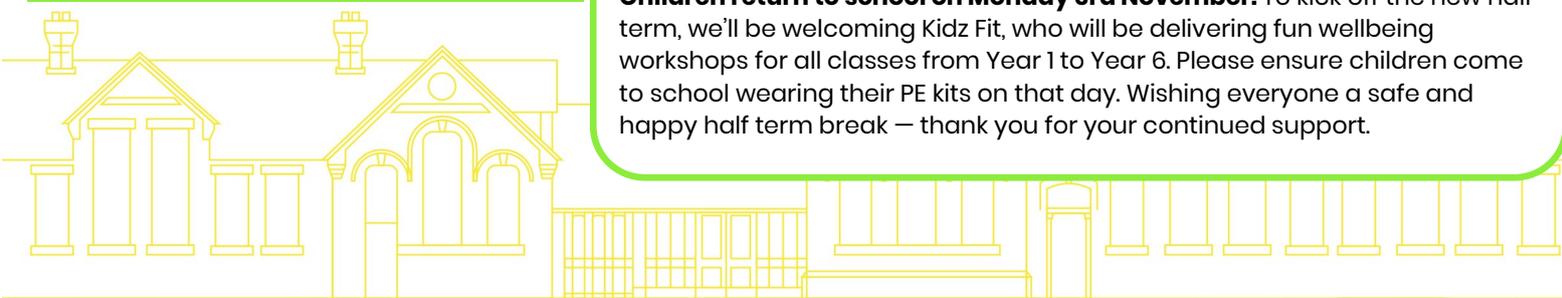
Wednesday was an exciting day for Year 1, who visited the Black Country Living Museum to take part in the Little Makers programme. The children loved stepping back in time to see what life was like in the past in our local area—exploring traditional shops, homes and classrooms, and meeting characters from Victorian times. Staff were incredibly proud of their excellent behaviour and curiosity throughout the day.

A big well done to all the children in Years 1 and 2 for their amazing homework projects this half term! Year 1 pupils created brilliant models of our school and grounds, while Year 2 children made models of their favourite places in the local area. It has been wonderful to see so much creativity, effort and pride in their work—thank you to families for supporting these at home.

On Thursday, all classes took part in our Black History Day as part of Black History Month. During the morning, each class learned about an inspiring figure from Black history, exploring their achievements and legacy. In the afternoon, children worked on art projects inspired by Black artists, producing some stunning and thoughtful pieces of work.

School closed to pupils at the end of the day on Thursday for the half-term holiday. Friday was an INSET Day for staff. We hope all our children and families enjoy a well-earned rest over the week ahead.

Children return to school on Monday 3rd November. To kick off the new half term, we'll be welcoming Kidz Fit, who will be delivering fun wellbeing workshops for all classes from Year 1 to Year 6. Please ensure children come to school wearing their PE kits on that day. Wishing everyone a safe and happy half term break — thank you for your continued support.



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:

Archie

Reception:

Dave and Maddison

Year One:

Joseph and Theo

Year Two:

Ollie and Isabelle

Year Three:

Destiny and Nellie

Year Four:

Bede and Oliver

Year Five:

Jensen, Quinn and Joseph

Year Six:

Heath, Lily and Eva

Well Done to all!

Queen Victoria Primary School Attendance



Class Attendance

	Attendance (%)
RD	83.75
RF	90.28
1S	99.07
1P	93.30
2J	95.42
2O	96.55
3B	87.50
3M	95.69
4CB	93.27
4P	93.97
5H	95.50
5S	91.00
5M	88.59
6C	95.24
6H	88.75
6S	88.69

Being in School Matters

- When children attend regularly, they have more chance to keep up with lessons, enjoy friendships, and feel part of the school community. The DfE's recent research shows that pupils with higher attendance do better in both primary and secondary schooling.
- On the flip side, missing just a few days may seem harmless – but it adds up. Over time it can make it harder for a child to grasp new learning, stay confident, and move forward.
- As parents/carers, you play a key role. Under the law you are responsible for making sure your child receives a full-time education
- Talk to us! If there are any issues making it difficult for your child to attend (for example worries, transport, health), please let us know so we can work together with you to support your child's attendance.

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

Let's all aim for attendance that supports every child to achieve, belong and progress.

This week's attendance:

92.41%

Let's work together to increase this percentage in the first week back after half term!

Attendance Raffle

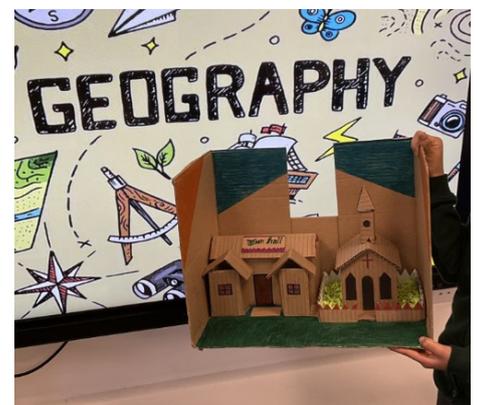
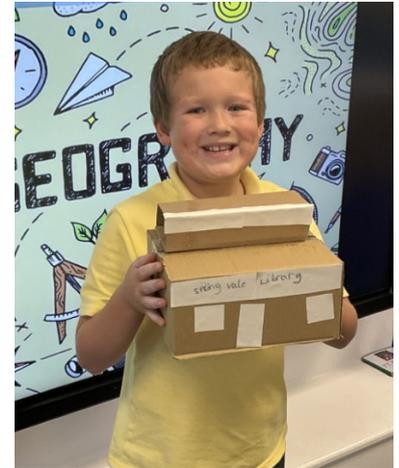
A huge congratulations to Sophie In Year 1 who won our attendance raffle prize of a £20 Asda Voucher. Well Done Sophie!

Keep checking the attendance boards each week!

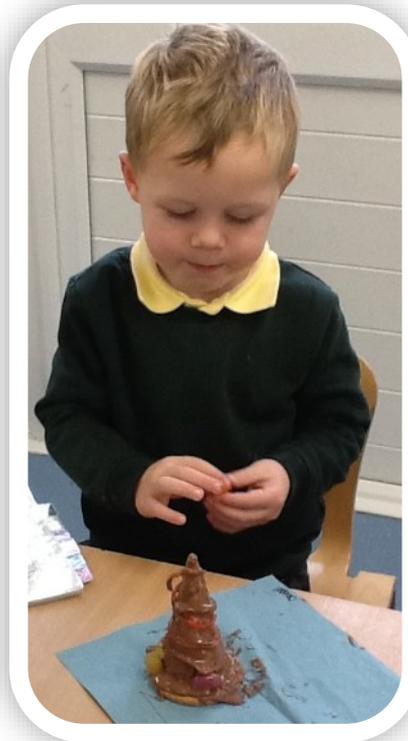


Homework Project

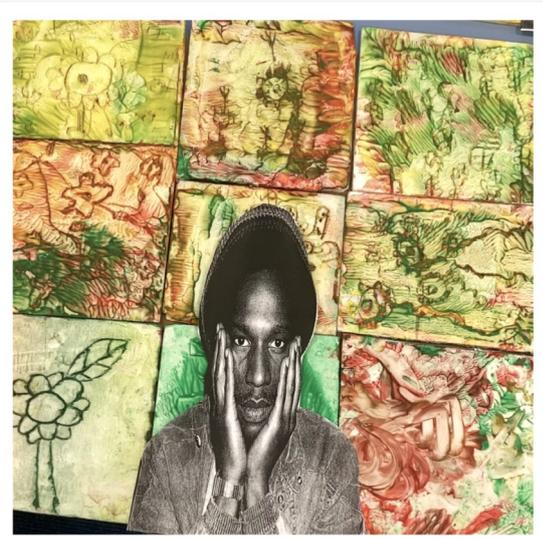
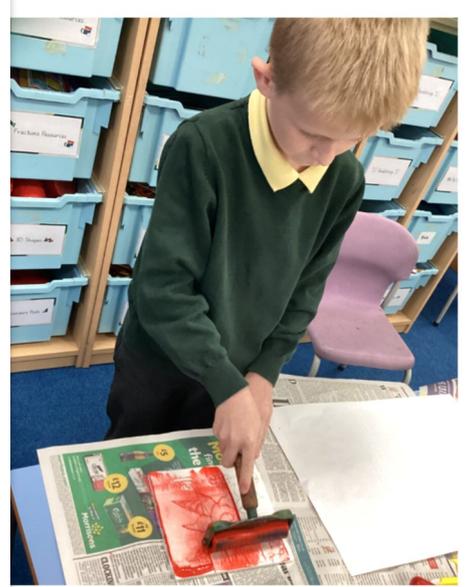
Year 2 created 3D models of their favourite place in our local area. They talked to the class about where it is and why it is their favourite place.



Nursery Spooky Activities



Year 3 Black History & Art



Queen Victoria Primary School

Year 1 BCLM Visit



Here are some photos from Year 1's visit to the Black Country Living Museum this week.



Queen Victoria Primary School Notices



Lunchtime Halloween Treats



Bedazzle Join the spooky fun!
Kids Art Workshop: Dali Dreams
Monday 27th Oct
10am-12pm
Priory House
Dudley
DY1 1HH

£10
Unleash your creativity this Halloween!
Booking: info@bedazzle.org.uk
www.bedazzle.sumupstore.com

WOLFIE'S HALLOWEEN BALL

During half-term:
Wednesday 29th October
at 11am or 2pm for two hours

Halloween themed activities, games and prizes plus a spooky "Bella Bright" book reading with author Carolyn Ward!

BOOK NOW

TICKETS
£8.00





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 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



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about FORTNITE



WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

With over 650 million registered users, Fortnite remains one of the most played and discussed online games globally. Known for its vibrant graphics, fast-paced gameplay, and cultural crossovers with everything from music artists to superhero franchises, the game continues to capture the attention of young people. This guide outlines the risks trusted adults need to know about, including game updates, and offers practical safety tips to help address them.

ALWAYS ONLINE

There's no single-player, offline mode in Fortnite; it can only be played online. Internet access can sometimes be an issue when you're out and about, both in terms of connectivity and using up data. You may find that dedicated, young Fortnite players are often less enthusiastic about family time or trips away – such as days out and holidays – than you might expect.

IN-GAME COSTS

Fortnite is free to download and play, but it does offer various additional purchases – limited-time cosmetic 'skins', music tracks, LEGO items, and battle passes. Children can feel pressured to spend money on V-Bucks – the in-game currency – to avoid missing out, particularly as exclusive items rotate frequently. Some items may not return to the store for years, while Battle Pass rewards are often "gone when they're gone".

VIRTUAL VIOLENCE

There's no avoiding that Fortnite is about shooting other players to eliminate them from the contest. That said, there's no blood or gore. The violence is rendered in a cartoonish style, and there are frequent comical touches to lighten the mood, such as mini-games and emotes. Guns and other weapons often look and behave realistically, so discretion is advised. Past seasons have introduced characters and references from mature franchises like *The Witcher* and *Halo*.

CROSSPLAY AND PARTY CHAT

Fortnite is popular with many gamers of various ages. Crossplay allows friends to play with each other, regardless of whether they're on an Xbox, PlayStation, Nintendo Switch or PC, while the Party Chat feature allows them to talk to each other during the game. This can put youngsters at risk of exposure to strangers, inappropriate language, and cyberbullying.

FREQUENT UPDATES

Seasonal releases introduce new map changes, gameplay mechanics, and cosmetics. Ongoing updates can increase screen time and potential for obsession as children try to unlock rewards before the season ends. These regular renewals help to hold players' interest, but also give young gamers plenty of reasons to keep coming back. Seasons often change thematically.

POP CULTURE REFERENCES

Part of Fortnite's appeal is its ongoing crossovers with other popular franchises, ranging from films and TV shows like *Power Rangers* and *Avatar: The Last Airbender*, to comic book characters including Batman. Other collaborations with series, artists, and influencers may expose children to music, language, or ideas that are more suitable for older audiences.

Advice for Parents & Educators

DISCUSS SAFE SOCIAL INTERACTION

Talk with children about who they're playing with online. Coordinate play time with the child's friends for socialisation and safety in numbers. Encourage them to avoid private voice chats with strangers and remind them not to share personal information. Use real-life examples to explain potential risks, and remind them that if they see something concerning, they should tell a trusted adult.

SET SPENDING LIMITS

Fortnite's rotating store is a not-so-subtle mechanism for coaxing players into buying sought-after items before they disappear for weeks or months. This could lead to surprise transactions on bank cards if children are tempted into an impulse purchase. Parents could consider getting a prepaid card for the child or ensuring that purchases require adult authorisation. This can be done through parental settings on a console or account settings in the Epic Games app on PC.

ENJOY FORTNITE TOGETHER

Fortnite also offers split-screen gameplay, meaning that two people can play simultaneously on the same console or computer. This can be a good option for siblings or for when a child's friends visit, but it also offers an opportunity for parents to do something fun with their child, while making sure they're playing the game safely. Who knows? You might even teach them a thing or two!

BE WARY OF SCAMS

The immense popularity of Fortnite with younger audiences – that are generally more trusting – means there's no shortage of scammers looking to fraudulently obtain passwords and other personal data through techniques like phishing. As the developers point out on many of Fortnite's loading screens, they never ask for a player's account password outside of the game. Make sure any young player knows this.

Meet Our Expert

Lloyd Coombes is an experienced freelance writer and has been working in the gaming and tech industry for seven years. A regular visitor to the App Store to try out new tools, he's also a parent and therefore understands the importance of online safety. He's also a tech and fitness writer and has been published at sites including IGN, TechRadar, and plenty more.

