

Friday 22nd
May 2026

Queen Victoria Primary School Newsletter



Key Dates

12th June—Mufti Day

18th June—Year 2 Trip

26th June—Careers Day

26th June—Summer Fayre

6th July—Y3 Art Exhibition

6th July—Class Photographs/
Individuals catch ups

7th July—Year 6 Production at
Dormston

14th July—Y6 Leavers' Party

15th July—Y6 Leavers' Trip

17th July—Y6 Graduation

20th July—INSET Day

Sports Day

Friday 19th June

Year 1 and 2—9.15am–10.30am

Year 3 and 4—10.40am–12pm

Year 5 and 6—1.30pm–3.10pm

Wednesday 24th June

Reception—9.30am

Tuesday 30th June

Nursery AM—9.30am

Nursery PM—2.00pm

Term Dates

22nd May—End of Summer Term 1

1st June—Children return to school.

17th July—End of Summer Term 2

Tuesday 1st September—INSET Day
(school closed)

Wednesday 2nd September—Start
of Autumn Term 1 2026

This week's News

As we reach the end of another busy half term, I would like to thank all of our families for your continued support throughout the term. School closed for the May Half-Term holiday on Thursday, as today has been a teacher training day. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 1st June for the final half term of the academic year.

On Wednesday, we were pleased to welcome the Book Bus back into school. Thank you to parents for your patience, as this visit had to be rescheduled from earlier in the year. It was wonderful to see so many children excited about books and reading, and thank you to everyone who supported the event by purchasing books. The Book Bus staff commented on how polite, well-behaved and enthusiastic our children were throughout the visit – something we are always very proud to hear!

After half term, attendance will continue to be extremely important. The final half term is always a very busy one, with lots of important learning, exciting activities and preparations for transition into new year groups. This is particularly important for our Year 6 children as they begin preparing for their move to secondary school. Every day in school really does matter.

Attendance will also be especially important for our Year 1 and Year 4 children, as the statutory assessment windows for the Year 1 Phonics Screening Check and the Year 4 Multiplication Tables Check (MTC) will open shortly after we return to school. We want all children to feel calm, confident and fully prepared, and being in school every day plays a vital part in this.

Hot Weather Reminder

As the weather begins to get warmer, please help us to keep children safe in the sun by ensuring they come to school prepared each day. Children should bring:

- A clearly named water bottle
- A sun hat or cap
- Sun cream applied before school (children may also bring a named bottle if they are able to apply this independently to top up)

Summer Fair – Volunteers Needed

Our Summer Fair will take place on Friday 26th June and we are looking for parent volunteers who may be able to help with setting up stalls, running activities during the event or helping to tidy away afterwards. Events such as these are only possible thanks to the support of our school community, and any help – big or small – would be greatly appreciated. Please contact the school office if you are able to help in any way.



Queen Victoria Primary School Attendance



Attendance Matters!

Thank you to all of our families for your continued support with attendance this half term. Good attendance makes a huge difference to children's learning, confidence, friendships and overall success in school. We know that mornings can sometimes be busy and challenging, so we really appreciate the effort families make to ensure children arrive in school every day and on time.

This week, we were pleased to see several classes achieve strong attendance figures – well done to:

1S – 96.6%, 2J – 96.7%, 3M – 97.3%, 4CB – 97.2%

These classes all achieved 96%+ attendance and therefore earned the opportunity to spin the attendance prize wheel in assembly. Well done to all of the children for their fantastic commitment to attending school regularly!

A special mention also goes to 5S (95.8%) and 5H (95.5%) for showing improved attendance and finishing the half term positively.

As we return after half term, attendance will continue to be extremely important. There is lots of important learning taking place across school, including transition work and statutory assessments for some year groups. Missing school can quickly lead to gaps in learning and make it harder for children to keep up with their classmates.

We would also like to remind families that holidays should be booked outside of term time wherever possible. Requests for leave during term time can only be authorised in exceptional circumstances, and taking holidays during school time can have a significant impact on children's education.

Let's work together to make excellent attendance the norm during the final half term of the year!



	Attendance (%)
RD	82.5
RF	93.4
1S	96.6
1P	85.3
2J	96.7
2O	91.4
3B	86.5
3M	97.3
4CB	97.2
4P	88
5H	95.5
5S	95.8
5M	87
6C	87.1
6H	85.4

School Attendance this week: 91.06%

Keep checking the attendance boards each week!



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

Nursery:

Aiden-Jay

Reception:

Isaac and Osasere

Year One:

Jax and Oliver

Year Two:

Rubie-Rae and Mila

Year Three:

Lily-Rose and Lilly-Mae

Year Four:

Ethan and Frankie

Year Five:

Essa, Harrison and Joshua

Year Six:

Lily and Amelia



Queen Victoria Primary School



Notices



The poster is set against a light blue background with two strings of colorful bunting (red, yellow, blue, and teal) at the top. In the center is a circular logo of the school's crest. Below the logo, the text is centered and reads: 'QUEEN VICTORIA PRIMARY SCHOOL', 'SUMMER FAIR', 'STALL HOLDERS WANTED!' in large bold letters, 'FRIDAY 26TH JUNE', '3:30PM-5:00PM', and 'Contact the school office for details and to book your stall. 01384 888970'.

QUEEN VICTORIA PRIMARY SCHOOL

SUMMER FAIR

**STALL
HOLDERS
WANTED!**

FRIDAY 26TH JUNE

—

3:30PM-5:00PM

Contact the school office for details and
to book your stall.

01384 888970



Book Bus

Our Wonderful Book Bus Visit

This week, our school was excited to welcome the Book Bus, giving children the opportunity to explore a huge range of exciting new books and continue developing their love of reading. The visit created a real buzz around school, with children eager to browse, recommend favourites to friends and talk enthusiastically about the stories they discovered.

We are also incredibly grateful for the generous support from families and the wider community, whose purchases and contributions have helped us receive a fantastic selection of brand-new books for our school library. Thanks to this support, we have been able to add many high-quality fiction, non-fiction and picture books that will benefit children across the school.

Luke from the Book Bus commented on how amazing our children were throughout the visit. He spoke highly of their enthusiasm, excellent behaviour and the genuine love of reading that was clear to see in every year group. It was fantastic to hear such positive feedback about our children.

Reading remains at the heart of everything we do, and opportunities like this help to inspire lifelong readers. Seeing the excitement on children's faces as they explored new texts was wonderful, and we know these new additions will be enjoyed for years to come.

Thank you to everyone who supported the Book Bus and helped make the event such a success.





Notices

Fun at DB Leisure

Please see below, our usual holiday activities for children taking place at DB Leisure!

We also have some highlights:

Bank Holiday - Monday 25th May-Our centres and Dell Stadium are OPEN this bank holiday, but with revised opening hours. Please see <https://www.dbleisure.co.uk/bankholidayhours> for more info.

There are a couple of things to highlight regarding some SEND activities at our centres, I would really appreciate your help in spreading the word to any families, contacts/clients you may know that attend our sessions:

- **Halesowen Leisure Centre:** The Monday SEND Planet Play (soft play) session will take place earlier than usual on bank holiday Monday 25 May due to the centre closing earlier. On this date it will take place from 3.30pm to 5pm.
- **Duncan Edwards Leisure Centre:** The Saturday SEND swimming session will now be included in the free swimming scheme as it was previously a year-round paid session that was excluded in the free swim offer. They are still offering the usual Wednesday session that only occurs during the school holiday, again included in free swim scheme, so this holiday there are two different days customers can choose to attend and make use of the free swimming offer (or they can attend both!)

We have our usual offerings of:

- Free swimming for children
- SEND Family Disability Swims
- Float Fest
- Fun activities for under 5s including Splash Time at Halesowen LC and Stay and Play at Crystal LC.
- Quids In football
- Quids In badminton
- Planet Play (soft play)
- Waikiki Waves family disco (takes place in leisure pool) at Crystal LC
- SEN soft play sessions at Duncan Edwards and Halesowen LC
- Badminton and Table-tennis
- Pickleball



Queen Victoria Primary School

Reading at the Heart



Change your story

Reading is not just a good way to fill the time. It has important and far-reaching benefits which go beyond a love of a good book. When children and young people enjoy reading, they are more likely to create a habit and read more often which in turn will help to build vital reading skills and bring with it a wider range of benefits...

Reading for pleasure can help grow empathy

Enjoying books and discovering new perspectives within the pages of a story can be a great way to introduce children to a range of experiences and viewpoints. The more a child reads, the more likely they are to be exposed to new narratives which can help them develop empathy.

A love of reading can build a child's confidence

In fact, National Literacy Trust's research showed that 26.0% of children and young people who read in their free time at least once a month said it helps them to be confident.

Reading for enjoyment can spark imagination...

...and provide escape as well as inspire creativity. Even fantasy can still speak truth to a child about their place in this world.

Reading can expand horizons

A book can provide children with a way to discover new worlds, meet new people and learn about the past. Whether that's through non-fiction books and autobiographies, or books and magazines exploring historical events or figures.

Reading for pleasure can support your child's learning

Recent National Literacy Trust research also revealed that twice as many children and young people who enjoy reading in their free time have above average reading skills than children who don't enjoy it (34.2% vs 15.7%) - reading skills which will support them in their school journeys and beyond.

How much should my child read a day?

It can feel daunting to factor in more time for activities such as reading with your child each day or encourage your child to find time to read on their own in their free time. We know that life is busy for many reasons, with competing priorities on your time. As children get older, they are also more likely to have higher demands on their own time from homework and sports to other activities including simply spending time with friends. We want to encourage you that it is not about the specific length of time a child reads that is significant, although we love the idea of even finding time to take 10 minutes a day to read. Finding ways to make reading fun, fit it into your day-to-day routine and not becoming stressed or overly caught up with the length of time your child spends reading will help build a manageable habit and grow a love of reading, rather than it feeling like a chore.

Grow a love of reading

What you are doing as parents and carers at home has a significant impact on your child. Finding time to read with your children or encouraging your less-than-enthusiastic readers at home to pick up a book can feel like a challenge. However, there are lots of simple, everyday ways you can encourage your children to grow a love of reading.

[See the National Literacy Trust Website for more ideas!](#)



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators SUPPORTING CHILDREN GOING BACK TO SCHOOL

Change can be hard for children to manage. Going back to school after a long summer break might cause them to feel uncertain about their friendships, school routines and relationships with new teachers. However, trusted adults play an important role in providing both practical and emotional support.

1 LEARN WHAT EQUIPMENT YOU NEED

Figure out a list of all equipment needed for the start of the school year, so you can comfortably get your hands on the necessary items in time. If children have any financial issues and receive free school meals, the school may be able to provide some monetary aid or offer other support.



2 COMMUNICATE WITH THE SCHOOL

If you notice that a child is feeling anxious about a change of teacher or school, arranging a one-to-one meeting with their new teacher can be a good way to alleviate some of the anxiety. Just knowing that they understand the child's worries and will be able to help them if the need arises can build the foundations of a good working relationship. Knowing that you can contact them with any queries can also be reassuring.



3 CHECK THE SCHOOL WEBSITE

There will be plenty of information about the start of term on the school's website to keep you updated. Furthermore, you should be able to find other useful information such as contact details for staff, important school equipment, clubs, and news about any special events on the school calendar for the year. It could be helpful to look through this with children for anything which might reassure them.



4 HELP TO MANAGE FRIENDSHIPS

If a child is feeling anxious about making new friends – especially if they're moving up to secondary school – it can be a good idea to remind them of what they could do or say when meeting new classmates. Investigating the extracurricular activities available could be a good way to open a conversation about their hobbies and pastimes, and joining such clubs could allow new friendships to be built on this mutual interest.



5 PLAN SELF-CARE

Talking to children about how they can manage their self-care can be an effective way of helping them understand its importance. This might involve playing a computer game they love with friends, a weekly visit to the library, getting to bed at the same time each night, or a range of other activities that support their wellbeing and provide the familiarity and safety of a routine that works for them.



6 MANAGE TRICKY FEELINGS

Explain that it's okay to have difficult feelings around returning to school. This can help reduce any shame or embarrassment a child might be feeling over these emotions. Emphasise that other children – even some of the teachers – will be feeling the same way. Consider practical ways to manage these feelings and help children feel more in control of their emotions. Some examples include fidget toys, breathing exercises or a notepad for doodling.



7 SECURE A SCHOOL UNIFORM

Parents and carers should try to buy a child's uniform for the new academic year well in advance of the new term (although allowing for potential holiday growth spurts) and give them time to adapt to any changes. Make sure they can comfortably change into and out of it for PE lessons. Double check the requirements for PE on the school's website, as some schools will also have requirements for PE kits.



8 PREPARE FOR TRANSITION DAYS

Ensuring that children attend transition days is a vital step in preparing for the new year. Some schools also have transition evenings for parents and carers to attend, offering extra opportunities to reach out for any additional support.



9 READ THE MENTAL HEALTH POLICY

If a young person struggles with their mental health, it's important to understand their school's mental health policy and provision to know what support is available. This should be on the school's website. A range of aid is typically on offer – from individual timetable amendments to group sessions on emotional wellbeing. You can then discuss these options with the child to reassure them that help is there if they need it.



10 LEARN ABOUT SEN SUPPORT

If a child has SEN and receives help in school, try to confirm exactly what support is available, to ensure they'll be having their needs met. If they're moving up to secondary school, it's a good idea to meet with the SENCO to ensure that all teachers receive the most relevant, up-to-date information about the child's needs and have a contact to liaise with if these change over time.



Meet Our Expert

Amy Sayer is a freelance mental health trainer for schools, an author and a content writer. She is an Associate for Diverse Educators, a fellow of the Chartered College of Teaching and ITT wellbeing coach. Amy has previously been a SMHL coach, helping many different settings audit their mental health provision and support them to create and implement a strategic plan based on the specific needs of each setting.



#WakeUpWednesday

The National College

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/supporting-children-going-back-to-school>