

Friday 26th June
2026

Queen Victoria Primary School Newsletter



Key Dates

- 30th June**—Year 2 and 4 Music Performance (parents welcome)
- 6th July**—Class Photographs/Individuals catch ups
- 7th July**—Year 6 Production at Dormston
- 8th July**—DPA Music Performance for children
- 10th July**—Year 3 Art Exhibition
- 10th July**—Summer Fair
- 14th July**—Y6 Leavers' Party
- 15th July**—Y6 Leavers' Trip
- 17th July**—Y6 Graduation
- 20th July**—INSET Day

Sports Day

Tuesday 30th June
Nursery AM-9.30am
Nursery PM-2.00pm

Wednesday 8th July
Reception-9.30am

Term Dates

- 17th July**—End of Summer Term 2
- Tuesday 1st September**—INSET Day (school closed)
- Wednesday 2nd September**—INSET DAY (school closed)
- Thursday 3rd September**—Children back to school

This week's News

It has certainly been a very hot week! Thank you to all parents for your understanding and support as we have managed the exceptionally high temperatures in school.

Throughout the week, we have put a range of measures in place to help keep children as comfortable and safe as possible. These have included encouraging regular drinks breaks, making use of shaded outdoor areas, limiting strenuous physical activity, keeping classrooms ventilated where possible, using fans, adjusting our timetable to avoid the hottest parts of the day and allowing children to wear PE kits. We've also had lots of water play in EYFS and our children have enjoyed several frozen treats throughout the week. I would also like to thank our staff, who have worked incredibly hard in the warm conditions to ensure children have continued to enjoy a positive and productive week in school.

This week, we are delighted to share that Queen Victoria Primary School has been awarded the Smart Money Award 2026 in recognition of our commitment to developing pupils' financial education through our partnership with HSBC. Read more on page 3.

Unfortunately, due to the weather warnings issued, we took the decision to postpone our Summer Fair. While we know many families were looking forward to the event, the safety of our children, families, staff and visitors must always come first.

We are grateful for your understanding and support, and we look forward to welcoming you to the fair on the rearranged date of 10th July.

Looking Ahead to Next Week

Next week is an exciting and important one in school as we begin our transition activities in preparation for September. Children will have opportunities to meet their new class teachers, spend time in their new classrooms and begin to look ahead to the next stage of their learning journey.

Good attendance next week is particularly important to ensure every child benefits from these valuable transition experiences and feels confident and prepared for the new school year.

We also have some fantastic musical performances to look forward to. Children in Year 2 and Year 4 will be performing to parents, showcasing the musical instruments they have been learning with Dudley Performing Arts throughout the year. On Wednesday afternoon, our talented musicians will also be taking to the stage for our latest iRock Concert, and we look forward to welcoming families to celebrate their achievements.



Queen Victoria Primary School

Attendance



Class Attendance This Week

	Attendance (%)
RD	68
RF	67
1S	83.1
1P	83.2
2J	79.9
2O	81.7
3B	72.9
3M	72.5
4CB	81.1
4P	81.1
5H	76.8
5S	80.9
5M	72.5
6C	71.9
6H	70.7

Attendance Matters – Let's Finish the Year Strong!

Thank you to all of our families for your support during this week's very warm weather. We appreciate your understanding as we introduced a range of measures to keep children comfortable in school, including offering optional early collection for those families who wished to make use of it.

Well done to all of the children who maintained excellent attendance and punctuality throughout the week. Your commitment to learning is greatly appreciated.

Congratulations to 1P, who achieved the highest attendance this week, closely followed by 4P and 2J. Thank you for setting such a positive example.

As we move into our final week of term, every day in school continues to count. Alongside transition activities, children will be spending time with their new teachers and classmates, helping them feel confident and excited for September. We look forward to seeing as many children as possible in school next week.

Attendance Raffle

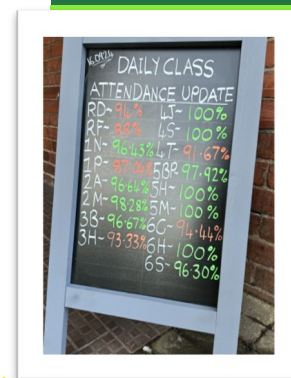
Don't forget our popular End of Year Attendance Raffle! Any child with 96% attendance or above will be entered into the draw for the chance to win some fantastic prizes.

Remember: You have to be in it to win it!

Let's all play our part and finish the year with our strongest attendance yet!

School Attendance this week: 76.48%

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



Queen Victoria Primary School

Smart Money Award



Queen Victoria Achieves the HSBC Smart Money Award 2026!

We are incredibly proud to announce that Queen Victoria Primary School has been awarded the HSBC Smart Money Award 2026.

This national award recognises schools, universities and community organisations that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to teaching financial education and helping young people develop the knowledge and confidence to make informed financial decisions.

Throughout the year, our pupils have taken part in a range of interactive workshops delivered by HSBC volunteers. These sessions have explored important topics including budgeting, saving, understanding credit, spending wisely and recognising the value of money. By learning these essential life skills from a young age, our children are developing the confidence to make sensible financial choices both now and in the future.

The award reflects our commitment to preparing children not only for success in school, but also for life beyond the classroom. Developing financial literacy is an important part of helping pupils become responsible, independent and informed citizens.

A huge thank you goes to our partners at HSBC for their continued support, enthusiasm and expertise. We are delighted that the quality of our financial education has been recognised through this prestigious national award.





Water Safety

Swimming outdoors

If you swim outdoors in the sea, a pool or river to keep cool, make sure it's a safe place to swim. Look out for warning signs and hidden dangers by following the tips below:

- If there's no lifeguard – don't go in
- Check the depth – it can be deceptive
- Avoid floodwaters – never swim during floods
- Throw something that floats to somebody that has fallen in
- Hidden dangers – underwater hazards include rocks, glass, refuse, and pollution

Raise the alarm – if someone is in trouble, call [999](tel:999). Never attempt a rescue yourself

- If you fall in or become tired while you are in the water – stay calm, float on our back and call for help
- Don't drink and drown – avoid alcohol or drugs while swimming. They impair your abilities and judgment
- Rock bottom – avoid jumping from heights, especially bridges. The water below can be shallow with hidden dangers
- Wild water – swimming in natural waters is different from swimming pools. Be wary of strong currents and cold temperatures
- Look before you leap – check for safe exit points before entering. Steep and slippery banks can make it difficult to get out of the water

Children should never swim in these areas unaccompanied. Young children need constant supervision around water, they can drown in less than 2 inches of water.

Organised open water swimming sessions take place all year round at Netherton reservoir.

See the [Netherton Open Water Swimming website](#) for more details.

More advice is available from:

[Royal Life Saving Society](#)

[National Water Safety Forum](#)

[Outdoor Swimming Society](#)

[Healthy Dudley – Water Safety](#)



Queen Victoria Primary School

Reading at the Heart



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

STAYING SAFE IN HOT WEATHER

As temperatures rise, it's essential to take proactive steps to ensure children and young people stay safe and healthy. Hot weather can pose serious risks such as dehydration, heatstroke and sunburn. This guide provides practical tips for parents and teachers to protect children during sunnier spells, helping them enjoy the summer safely.

1 STAY HYDRATED



Ensure children drink plenty of water throughout the day, even if they don't feel thirsty. Encourage them to carry water bottles and take regular sips. It's better to drink small amounts to counteract the effects of sweating. Even if children replenish lost fluids with equal amounts of water, they may still be dehydrated due to salt lost from the body. Avoid sugary drinks and caffeine, which can contribute to dehydration.

2 APPLY SUNSCREEN



Use a broad-spectrum sunscreen with at least SPF 30 on all exposed skin and reapply every two hours or after swimming. Don't forget often-missed spots like the ears, back of the neck and tops of feet. Sunscreen needs around 20 to 30 minutes to be absorbed by the skin, so make sure you leave plenty of time to apply it.

3 WEAR PROTECTIVE CLOTHING



Dress children in light-coloured, loose-fitting clothing made from breathable fabrics like cotton. Ideally clothing should cover as much skin as possible. Shoulders should always be covered as they can easily burn. Wide-brimmed hats and sunglasses with UV protection are also essential to shield them from the sun. Be sure to check your school's dress policy, as uniform rules may be relaxed during amber or red Heat Health Alerts (HHAs).

4 SEEK SHADE



Covering up and seeking shade are the most important sun protection measures. Encourage children to play in shaded areas, especially during peak sun intensity between the hours of 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Use umbrellas or canopies if natural shade is unavailable.

5 AVOID STRENUOUS ACTIVITIES



Children shouldn't take part in vigorous physical activities in very hot weather. Limit these during the warmest parts of the day. Schedule any outdoor games or sports for early morning or late afternoon when it's slightly cooler.

6 KEEP COOL Indoors



If it's safe and appropriate, open windows early in the morning to allow stored heat to escape from the building. Use fans or air conditioning to maintain a cool indoor environment. Close curtains or blinds to block direct sunlight. Switch off electrical equipment like computers, monitors and printers when not in use; don't leave them in 'standby mode' as this still generates heat.

7 TAKE COOL BATHS OR SHOWERS



Encourage children to take cool baths or showers to lower their body temperature. Alternatively, use damp cloths on their skin to provide relief from the heat. When heading out of the house, consider filling up a spray bottle to cool everyone down on the go.

8 MONITOR FOR SIGNS OF ILLNESS



If sensible precautions are taken, children are unlikely to be seriously affected by hot conditions – but teachers, assistants, school nurses and all child carers should watch for symptoms of heat exhaustion, such as heavy sweating, weakness, dizziness, nausea or fainting. If any signs are present, move the child to a cool place, make sure they drink some water, and seek medical advice if needed.

9 MAINTAIN A COOL SLEEPING ENVIRONMENT



Ensure children's bedrooms stay cool by using fans or air conditioning. Use lightweight bedding and consider letting them sleep in the coolest part of the house. Older children can have more choice over what they wear to bed. Some children may prefer to sleep without pyjamas, while some may prefer to opt for a light cotton t-shirt and shorts.

10 EDUCATE CHILDREN ON SUN SAFETY



Teach children the importance of sun safety and encourage them to take responsibility for their health. Explain the risks of sunburn and heatstroke and the value of following these safety tips.

Meet Our Expert

James Whelan is an experienced health and safety expert who is a Chartered Member of the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health. He provides services to educational settings (and other industries) to help them maintain a safe working environment.



#WakeUpWednesday®

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Source: See full reference list on guide page at: [staying-safe-in-hot-weather](https://nationalcollege.com/staying-safe-in-hot-weather)