

Friday 10th July
2026

Queen Victoria Primary School Newsletter



Key Dates

- 13th July**—Y6 Puberty workshop
- 14th July**—Y6 Leavers' Party
- 14th July**—Reception Road Safety Workshop
- 15th July**—Y6 Leavers' Trip
- 15th July**—EYFS Adventure Steet visit school
- 16th July**—Attendance Tuck Shop
- 17th July** - Y6 Graduation
- 20th July**—INSET Day

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

Our Ofsted Report is Here!

This week has been a very special one for Queen Victoria Primary School. On Tuesday, we were delighted to share our Ofsted report with families. The report will be published on the Ofsted website shortly, when it will also be available for everyone to read.

We are incredibly proud of the outcome, with Early Years recognised as Strong, all other inspection areas judged to be at the Expected Standard, and Safeguarding confirmed as Met. More importantly, the report captures the caring, ambitious and inclusive community that makes Queen Victoria Primary School such a special place.

One of the highlights of the inspection was seeing our children represent the school so brilliantly. Inspectors met with groups of pupils from across the school, spoke to many children during lessons, breaktimes and lunchtimes, and visited classrooms throughout the inspection. Our pupils spoke confidently, respectfully and honestly about their experiences at Queen Victoria, and we could not be prouder of the way they represented our school.

Thank you to everyone who has played a part in this achievement – our fantastic children, dedicated staff, supportive families, governors, trustees and Stour Vale Academy Trust. Your encouragement, commitment and partnership have all contributed to the improvements recognised in this report.

Whilst we are taking time to celebrate this milestone, we also know that school improvement is an ongoing journey. We look forward to continuing to build on this success and providing the very best education and opportunities for every child at Queen Victoria Primary School.





Ofsted *says...*

We are proud to share highlights from
our recent **Ofsted inspection (June 2026)**.



"Queen Victoria
Primary School is
a **happy** place to be.
Pupils enjoy coming
to school."



"From the moment
children enter, **kind**
and **caring** staff meet
their needs effectively.
Relationships are
warm and supportive."



"Teaching focuses
on **vocabulary** and
foundational
knowledge."



"Staff take every
opportunity to
engage children
in talk."



"**Inclusion** is at
the heart of
the school."



Leaders have ensured
that there is a **calm,**
inclusive and
welcoming
environment."



Leaders at all
levels show
high ambition
for pupils."



"Staff feel **valued**
and **supported**
in their roles."

Our Ofsted Report Judgements

● Safeguarding	MET
● Early Years Early years is a strength of the school	STRONG
● Achievement	EXPECTED STANDARD
● Attendance and behaviour	EXPECTED STANDARD
● Curriculum and teaching	EXPECTED STANDARD
● Inclusion	EXPECTED STANDARD
● Leadership and governance	EXPECTED STANDARD
● Personal development and wellbeing	EXPECTED STANDARD

Ofsted



Read our report



Year 6 Production

Year 6 Takes to the Stage with GIGGLEBOX

Our Year 6 children gave a fantastic performance of Giggglebox this week, bringing laughter, energy and confidence to the stage. Weeks of rehearsals and hard work came together in a brilliant production that entertained everyone in the audience.

We are incredibly proud of every child. Whether they had a starring role on stage or preferred to work behind the scenes helping with props, scenery and the smooth running of the show, every contribution was valued and played an important part in its success. It was wonderful to see the children supporting one another and working together as a team. A special mention must go to Freddy, who stepped up at the last minute to perform a lead role in the evening performance after another cast member was unfortunately unable to take part. Taking on such a challenge with very little notice required real courage and confidence, and he did a brilliant job.



You were amazing
in your production of
GIGGLEBOX!

A huge thank you to our dedicated staff for all of the time and effort they invested in preparing the production, and to our families for filling the theatre and giving the children such fantastic encouragement. Your support helped make it a truly memorable evening for everyone involved.

Well done, Year 6 – what a wonderful way to celebrate the end of your primary school journey!



This Week in School

Tuesday – Road Safety Workshop

Our nursery children took part in an engaging road safety workshop, learning important skills to help them stay safe when walking near roads. The session reinforced key messages about crossing safely, being alert to traffic and making sensible choices when travelling to and from school.

Wednesday – Dudley Performing Arts Visit

We were delighted to welcome Dudley Performing Arts into school for a day of live musical performances. Our younger children thoroughly enjoyed *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*, performed through beautiful live string music, while our older pupils were treated to *The History of the Electric Guitar*, an exciting performance exploring how the instrument has shaped popular music through the decades. The performances were inspiring, interactive and gave children the opportunity to experience live music performed by talented professional musicians.

Wednesday – Reception Sports Day

Our Reception children had a fantastic time taking part in their Sports Day on Wednesday. They showed great enthusiasm, determination and teamwork as they competed in a range of fun races and activities, cheered on by their families. A big thank you to everyone who came along to support the children and helped make the event such a special occasion. Well done to all of our Reception pupils for taking part with such big smiles and excellent sporting spirit!

Thursday – Safety Seymour Visits Queen Victoria

Children in Years 1, 2 and 3 enjoyed a visit from Safety Seymour and Cadent Gas, learning how to stay safe from the dangers of carbon monoxide – the invisible

gas that you can't see, smell or taste. Through fun, interactive activities, pupils discovered how carbon monoxide is created, how to recognise the signs of danger and the simple steps families can take to stay safe at home.

Friday – Year 3 Art Exhibition

Year 3 enjoyed a visit to Priory House in Dudley to view their artwork on display as part of the North Dudley Learning Partnership exhibition. The exhibition celebrated the National Year of Reading, showcasing fantastic artwork created by Year 3 and Year 9 pupils from schools across the local area. It was a wonderful opportunity for our children to see their own work displayed in a real gallery and to celebrate the creativity of young artists from across the partnership.

Summer Fair Success!



A huge thank you to everyone who came along to support our Summer Fair on Friday afternoon. It was wonderful to see so many families enjoying the

activities, games and refreshments together. Thank you to our fantastic staff for all of their hard work in organising such a successful event, and to everyone who donated prizes, volunteered their time or helped behind the scenes to make the evening possible. Finally, a special mention has to go to Mr Braiden and Mr Purcell, who proved to be excellent sports on the ever-popular 'Splat the Teacher' stand! Judging by the queues (and the amount of wet sponges!), it was certainly one of the highlights!



Queen Victoria Primary School

Year 3 Art Project



Year 3 Artwork Takes Pride of Place in Local Gallery



Our talented Year 3 children were proud to see their fantastic artwork displayed at Priory House in Dudley as part of the North Dudley Learning Partnership exhibition.

Inspired by Roald Dahl's *George's Marvellous Medicine*, the children worked together to create a colourful clay sculpture and painted scene, bringing George's magical world to life. Throughout the project, they developed their sculpting techniques, explored texture and detail, while showing great creativity, patience and teamwork.

A special thank you to Sarah Williams from Bedazzle, who worked alongside our staff and children to plan and bring this fantastic project to life. Her expertise and guidance helped the children produce a piece they can all be incredibly proud of.

It was wonderful to see their finished artwork displayed in a professional gallery alongside creations from other local schools—a fantastic celebration of creativity and artistic achievement.



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:

Kain

Reception:

Heidi and Ronnie

Year One:

Louis and Poppi-Eva

Year Two:

Rey and Macauley

Year Three:

Layla and Isla

Year Four:

Olivia S and Olivia R

Year Five:

Harvie-Jai, Brooke and Thalia

Year Six:

All of Year 6

Well Done to all!



Queen Victoria Primary School

Attendance



Class Attendance This Week

	Attendance (%)
RD	87.5
RF	98
1S	94.2
1P	94.3
2J	89.3
2O	88.3
3B	90.4
3M	88.2
4CB	94.4
4P	90
5H	93.6
5S	94.3
5M	87.1
6C	83.4
6H	88

Attendance Matters – Let's Finish the Year Strong!

This week has been exceptionally hot, and we would like to say a huge well done to all of the children who have continued to come to school each day with such resilience, positivity and commitment to their learning. We know the warm weather can make the school day more challenging, and we are proud of how well our children have coped.

Congratulations to Miss Fellow's class (RF) for achieving this week's highest attendance with an excellent 98%!

Next week is our final week before the summer holidays. While there are lots of exciting activities to enjoy, there is also plenty of important learning taking place as we help children reflect on this year and prepare confidently for September.

Every day in school counts, so let's finish the academic year strongly by giving every child the best possible opportunity to be here, learn and make lasting memories with their friends.

Attendance Raffle

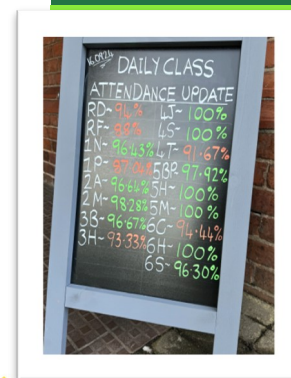
Don't forget our popular End of Year Attendance Raffle! Any child with 96% attendance or above will be entered into the draw for the chance to win some fantastic prizes.

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: 90.48%

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



Summer Holidays - Planning Ahead!

With the summer holidays fast approaching, we know many families are beginning to think about next year's holidays.

We understand that family time is incredibly important, but taking holidays during term time can have a significant impact on your child's learning, friendships and confidence.

If you're looking to make your holiday budget go further, here are a few ideas that could help without your child missing valuable time in school.



TOP 10 MONEY SAVING TIPS FOR CHEAPER HOLIDAYS



1



BE FLEXIBLE WITH YOUR DATES

Prices are often much cheaper at the very beginning or end of the school holidays rather than during the peak weeks.

2



TRAVEL MID-WEEK

Flights on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays are often cheaper than weekend departures.

3



COMPARE PRICES

Use comparison websites such as Skyscanner, Google Flights or Kayak to compare prices and set up price alerts.

4



CONSIDER DIFFERENT AIRPORTS OR DESTINATIONS

Flying from a nearby airport or choosing a less popular destination can sometimes save hundreds of pounds.

5



THINK ABOUT SELF-CATERING

Apartments and holiday parks can often be more affordable than hotels, especially for families.

6



USE LOYALTY POINTS AND CASHBACK

Supermarket reward schemes, cashback websites and credit card rewards can all help reduce the overall cost.

7



COMPARE ALL-INCLUSIVE WITH SELF-CATERING

Depending on your family's needs, either option could offer the best value.

8



BOOK EARLY (BUT NOT TOO EARLY!)

For popular destinations, booking 8-12 months in advance can lock in better prices. For last-minute deals, 4-6 weeks before travel can sometimes be cheaper if operators are trying to fill seats.

9



TRAVEL WITH FRIENDS OR FAMILY

Renting a villa together or splitting costs (car hire, food, pool) can work out much cheaper than booking individually.

10

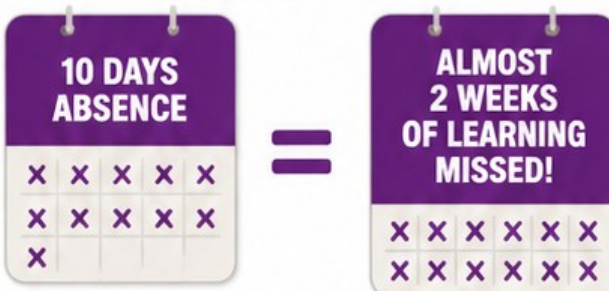


WATCH OUT FOR HIDDEN COSTS

Check baggage charges, transfers, resort fees and airport parking before booking so there are no surprises.

EVERY DAY COUNTS!

Just 10 days of absence across the school year is almost two weeks of learning missed.



Good attendance helps children build confidence, maintain friendships and achieve their very best.

WHEN YOUR CHILD ATTENDS SCHOOL EVERY DAY, THEY BENEFIT FROM:



CONSISTENT LEARNING AND PROGRESS

They don't miss out on important teaching and build on their knowledge every day.



STRONG FRIENDSHIPS AND ROUTINES

Being in school helps children feel included, supported and part of the team.



IMPROVED CONFIDENCE AND WELLBEING

Good attendance builds self-esteem and helps children feel happy and secure.



THE BEST CHANCE OF ACHIEVING THEIR POTENTIAL

Every day in school is another step towards success and a bright future.

We're here to help!

If you need any support with attendance or have any questions, please speak to your child's class teacher or contact the school office.



MISS SCHOOL, MISS OUT!

Thank you for working with us to make attendance a priority. Together, we can give every child the best possible start.

DBleisure

School holiday
activities | DB
Leisure

A huge well done to Rayanne in Year 5 who ran Race for life and raised over £200 for Cancer Research.



We foster...
YOU can too

Dudley Council needs new foster carers - have you got what it takes?
Fostering in Dudley offers a rewarding career, training, guidance and 24 hour support 365 days a year

Visit our website for more information and drop-in session dates
www.fosteringindudley.org.uk
call 01384 815833
or email fosteringrecruitment@dudley.gov.uk

Dudley
Metropolitan Borough Council

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the best job in the world



HealthyDudley

FAMILY FUN DAY

Ellowes Hall Sports College
DY3 2JH

✓ **FREE** picnic | Bible story | Fun activities & craft

TUESDAY, 4TH AUG | 10AM-1 PM

SCAN QR CODE TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE

QUEEN VICTORIA PRIMARY SCHOOL

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Every child. Every meal.

Stronger together.



We want to make sure every family in our school community receives the support they are entitled to. Many parents are unaware that they may qualify for Free School Meals (FSM) under the new Expanded or Targeted schemes — even if their child already receives a free meal in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2.

Applying takes only a few minutes and could make a real difference to your family and to our school.



UNDERSTANDING THE THREE TYPES OF FREE SCHOOL MEALS

1

UNIVERSAL FREE SCHOOL MEALS (RECEPTION TO YEAR 2)

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 automatically receive a free school meal, regardless of household income. However, this is not based on benefits, and you still need to apply if you meet the criteria for Expanded or Targeted FSM. This helps the school receive additional funding (Pupil Premium) to support your child's learning.

2

TARGETED FREE SCHOOL MEALS (RECEPTION TO YEAR 6)

Your child may qualify for Targeted FSM if you receive any of the following:

- Universal Credit (with net earnings below £616.67 per month)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (without Working Tax Credit, and income below £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on (paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying)

Even if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 and already receives a Universal free meal, applying for Targeted FSM ensures the school receives extra funding to support your child.

3

EXPANDED FREE SCHOOL MEALS (RECEPTION TO YEAR 6)

The government has widened eligibility so that more families can receive support.

- Pupils from households receiving Universal Credit who do not meet the Targeted threshold.

If this applies, your child will now be entitled to receive free school meals.



HOW TO APPLY

Applying is quick, confidential, and can be done online.



Apply here through Dudley Council:
<https://www.dudley.gov.uk/residents/benefits/free-school-meals/>

You will receive a decision quickly, and the school will be notified automatically.



WHY YOUR APPLICATION MATTERS

- ✓ Your child receives a healthy, nutritious meal every day
- ✓ You could save hundreds of pounds each year
- ✓ The school receives extra funding to support your child's education
- ✓ Your child may gain access to additional support programmes



We strongly encourage all eligible families to apply.

If you need help completing the application, please contact the school office, we are happy to support you.

*Thank you for supporting
our school community!*

What Parents & Educators Need to Know about DIGITAL DEVICES & WELLBEING

Children aged 7 to 14 now spend roughly 3 to 5 hours a day on phones, tablets, consoles, and computers. That much screen time has parents and educators worried – not just about the hours logged, but about online safety and the knock-on effects on mental health. This guide brings together practical, expert-backed strategies so adults can nurture healthier digital habits and help young people thrive both on and offline.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

SLEEP DISRUPTION

Excessive screen time, especially before bed, can interfere with melatonin production and delay sleep onset. Children may struggle to concentrate or regulate emotions due to poor sleep hygiene linked to late-night device use.

ONLINE PEER PRESSURE

Social media platforms expose children to unrealistic standards and peer validation loops. Likes, comments, and follower counts can influence self-worth and lead to anxiety or risky behaviour to gain approval.

CYBERBULLYING EXPOSURE

Children may encounter bullying through messaging apps, games, or social media. This can be persistent and anonymous, making it harder to detect. Victims often feel isolated and reluctant to report incidents.

REDUCED PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Time spent on screens often replaces outdoor play and physical activity. This sedentary lifestyle can contribute to obesity, poor posture, and reduced cardiovascular health.

EMOTIONAL DYSREGULATION

Fast-paced digital content can overstimulate young brains. Children may become irritable, impatient, or struggle with boredom and emotional control when not engaged with screens.

PRIVACY AND SAFETY RISKS

Children may unknowingly share personal information or interact with strangers online. Without guidance, they may not understand the long-term consequences of digital footprints or unsafe online behaviour.

Advice for Parents & Educators

SET CLEAR BOUNDARIES

Establish screen-time limits and device-free zones, e.g. classrooms and dinner tables. Use parental controls and co-create a digital use agreement with children to encourage accountability. Trying a visual schedule or timer app can help children understand and stick to limits.

MODEL HEALTHY HABITS

Children mirror adult behaviour. Demonstrate balanced device use, take regular screen breaks, and prioritise face-to-face interactions to reinforce positive behaviours. Making a habit of putting your phone away during meals and conversations can show that real-life interactions come first.

ENCOURAGE OPEN DIALOGUE

Create a safe space for children to talk about their online experiences. Ask open-ended questions like, "What did you enjoy online today?" to build trust and awareness. Try setting aside 10 minutes each day for a digital check-in where children can share what they've seen or done online.

PROMOTE DIGITAL LITERACY

Teach children how to evaluate online content, recognise misinformation, and understand privacy settings. Empower them to think critically and act responsibly in digital spaces. You could use real-life examples from the news or social media to help children practise spotting fake information.

Meet Our Expert

Adam Gillett is Associate Vice Principal for Personal Development at Penistone Grammar School and works on secondment one day a week for Minds Ahead, which works with schools on improving their mental health provision.



#WakeUpWednesday®

The National College®