

Queen Victoria Primary School Newsletter



Key Dates

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

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 been another incredibly busy and exciting week at Queen Victoria Primary School, with lots of opportunities for our children to celebrate their achievements and prepare for the next stage of their learning.

Transition

On Monday morning, our annual Transition Day took place. Children spent the morning getting to know their new teachers, classrooms and classmates ready for September. It was wonderful to see so much excitement across the school, and we hope the morning has helped everyone feel confident about the year ahead. We were also delighted to welcome many of our newest families for Nursery Stay and Play sessions and to meet our new Reception children, who visited to spend time with their teachers and explore their new classrooms. We can't wait to welcome them officially in September.

Many of our Year 6 pupils have also enjoyed transition visits to their new secondary schools this week, with further visits taking place next week. These opportunities are invaluable in helping children feel settled and excited as they prepare for the next chapter of their education.

Music Concerts

Tuesday was a fantastic day of musical performances. Our Year 4 children proudly showcased the cornet and violin skills they have developed this year through Dudley Performing Arts, while our Year 2 pupils impressed families with their recorder concert. The confidence and progress shown by the children was wonderful to see. Thank you to everyone who came along to support them—it meant so much to the children.

Nursery Sports Day

Our Nursery Sports Day also took place on Tuesday. It was lovely to see our youngest children taking part with such enthusiasm, determination and big smiles. Thank you to all the parents and family members who joined us to cheer them on and make the event so special.

Stour Vales Maths Competition

Congratulations to a team of Year 2 mathematicians who represented Queen Victoria at the Stour Vale Academy Trust Maths Competition on Wednesday. We are incredibly proud to share that they won the competition and brought the trophy back to Queen Vic! They demonstrated excellent teamwork, resilience and mathematical thinking throughout the event—a fantastic achievement for everyone involved.

iRock Concert

Wednesday also saw another fantastic iRock concert, giving our young musicians the opportunity to perform to family and friends. It is always a pleasure to see children's confidence grow through music, and the performances were thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who attended.

Playground Leaders

Today, Dudley School Sport Partnership returned to continue working with our Playground Leaders. These pupils play an important role in organising games and activities for younger children during lunchtimes, helping to ensure that everyone has an active, enjoyable and inclusive playtime. It has been wonderful to see them developing their leadership skills and growing in confidence throughout the training programme. From us all at Queen Vic, have a great weekend.

Queen Victoria Primary School

Attendance



Class Attendance This Week

	Attendance (%)
RD	92
RF	95.5
1S	98.8
1P	94.6
2J	93.8
2O	93.4
3B	93.8
3M	96.1
4CB	93
4P	97.5
5H	95
5S	94.8
5M	89.6
6C	89.7
6H	95

Attendance Matters – Let's Finish the Year Strong!

This week, our whole-school attendance was 94.15%. Thank you to all of our families who continue to support regular attendance and punctuality. Every day in school really does make a difference, particularly as we approach the end of the academic year with transition activities, celebrations and opportunities for children to spend time with their new classes and teachers.

A huge well done to Year 1S, who were this week's attendance champions with an outstanding 98.8% attendance! Congratulations also to Year 4P (97.5%) who won the KS2 trophy. Well done to Year 3M (96.1%), who achieved excellent attendance this week. It's also great to see Reception F, Year 5H and Year 6H all reaching 95% or above.

For classes whose attendance has dipped this week, thank you for your continued support in helping us improve. Even one or two missed days can have a significant impact on learning, friendships and children's confidence, so every day really does count.

As we head into the final weeks of term, let's finish the year strongly by aiming for excellent attendance every day. Thank you for your continued partnership in giving every child the very best opportunity to learn, achieve and thrive.

Attendance Raffle

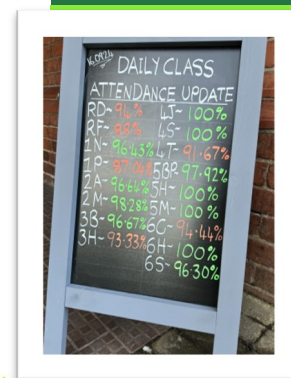
Don't forget our popular End of Year Attendance Raffle! Any child with 96% attendance or above will be entered into the draw for the chance to win some fantastic prizes.

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: 94.15%

**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

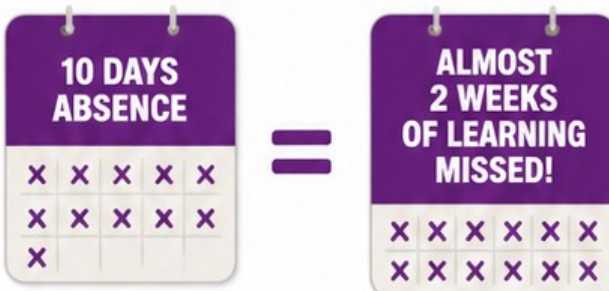


WATCH OUT FOR HIDDEN COSTS

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.



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:

Millie

Reception:

Itse and Noah

Year One:

Bliss and Toby

Year Two:

Nelly-Rose and Prabhnoor

Year Three:

Joseph and Misha

Year Four:

All of Year 4

Year Five:

Alfie, Evie and Una

Year Six:

Charlie and Cara

Music Concerts

This week, our talented Year 2 and Year 4 musicians took to the stage to perform for their families in two fantastic Dudley Performing Arts concerts.

Our Year 2 children proudly showcased everything they have learnt this year on the recorder, while Year 4 impressed the audience with performances on the cornet and violin. From the very first notes to the final applause, every child demonstrated the dedication, perseverance and confidence they have developed through their weekly music lessons. Learning a musical instrument is about so much more than playing the right notes. It helps children to develop concentration, resilience, teamwork and self-confidence, and performing in front of an audience is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate these skills.

We are incredibly proud of every child who performed so brilliantly. Thank you to Dudley Performing Arts for their excellent teaching throughout the year, and to all of the parents and family members who joined us to support our young musicians. Your encouragement makes these occasions even more special.

Well done, Year 2 and Year 4 – what fantastic performances!



Queen Victoria Primary School

Queen Vic Crowned Maths Champions!



A huge congratulations to our fantastic team of Year 2 mathematicians, who proudly represented Queen Victoria Primary School at the inaugural Stour Vale Academy Trust Year 2 Maths Competition this week.

The event brought together teams of mathematically able pupils from across the Trust to tackle a range of exciting challenges designed to test their reasoning, problem-solving and teamwork. Throughout the morning, our children demonstrated outstanding resilience, communication and mathematical thinking as they worked together to solve each task.



We are incredibly proud to announce that Queen Victoria were crowned overall winners, bringing the trophy back to school! While winning was a wonderful achievement, the competition was also a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to meet children from other Stour Vale schools,

apply their mathematical skills in new ways and enjoy the challenge of working collaboratively.

A huge well done to our brilliant team for representing the school so positively. Their enthusiasm, determination and excellent teamwork made us all incredibly proud. Congratulations, Team Queen Vic – what a fantastic achievement!



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!*

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!](#)



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®