

Queen Victoria

Primary School



NEWSLETTER

11th September 2026



Key Dates

15th Sept – International day of democracy

22nd Sept – Coffee Morning: SEND Parents

23rd Sept – Reception Parents' Phonics Workshop

24th Sept – Year 1 Parents' Phonics Workshop

25th & 26th Sept – Harvest Collection

30th September – Year 6 SATs meeting

2nd Oct – Y6 screen time workshop

8th Oct – Flu Vaccinations

8th Oct – Year 1 Phonics Workshop for parents

9th Oct – World Mental Health Day (wear yellow)

16th Oct – Y3 Bully Busters workshop

21st Oct – Parents' Evening

23rd Oct – Kidz Fit Day (Y1-Y6)

Half Term: Monday 26th – Friday 30th October



This Week's News

It has been another busy and positive week at Queen Victoria, as children continue to settle into their new classes and routines. The first few weeks of the school year are so important. They give children and staff the opportunity to establish positive routines, build relationships and set high expectations for the year ahead. We have been really pleased with the way children have returned to school and the purposeful atmosphere we are seeing in classrooms across school.



This week, our Year 4 children began their instrumental music lessons with teachers from Dudley Performing Arts. Over the coming weeks, children will be learning to play either the violin or cornet as part of their music curriculum. The visiting teachers were particularly impressed by how well the children focused, listened and applied themselves as they were introduced to their new instruments. It was a fantastic start, and we are looking forward to hearing their musical skills develop throughout the year!



On Friday, we held the first of our weekly Celebration Assemblies of the new school year. It was wonderful to recognise children who have already been demonstrating our CARE values through their choices, attitudes and actions in school. Our CARE Awards are an important opportunity to celebrate children who consistently show the qualities we want to see throughout our school community. We also celebrated positive attendance and presented our weekly attendance trophies to the classes achieving the highest attendance. Every day in school matters, so we are looking forward to seeing plenty of friendly competition between classes for those trophies over the coming weeks!



More News



Reading Miles

Children should now have brought home their reading book and reading diary. One of the most important ways you can support your child's learning at home is also one of the simplest: read with them every day.

Becoming a fluent reader takes practice. We sometimes talk about children needing to build up their 'reading miles' – the more words and books they read, the more automatic and confident reading becomes. When children read fluently, they can focus less on working out individual words and more on understanding and enjoying what they are reading.

A little and often is best. Even 10–15 minutes of reading each day can help to build good habits and keep those reading miles growing. Please listen to your child read regularly, talk to them about their book and record their reading in their reading diary. For older or more confident readers, this might sometimes mean talking together about what they are reading rather than listening to every page. Thank you for helping us make daily reading a habit – those few minutes each day really do add up.



Next Week: International Day of Democracy

Next week, we will be marking the International Day of Democracy and using it as an opportunity for children to experience democracy in action. Children will have the opportunity to vote for their School Council representatives, giving them a real voice in choosing the pupils who will represent their class and help shape school life this year.

It is a great opportunity to help children understand that democracy is about having a voice, listening to the views of others and taking an active part in our community. We look forward to introducing our new School Council soon!



Let's Celebrate!

Celebrating effort, achievement and success



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
Jaxson

Year One
Osasere
Caleb

Year Three
Yarlini
Ronnie

Year Five
Nameh
William

Reception
Saylor
Andonea

Year Two
Archie-Aaron
Toby

Year Four
Destiny
Kai

Year Six
Harvie-Jai
Millie
Thalia



Attendance

Every day counts. Every lesson matters



Another Fantastic Week for Attendance!

Well done, Queen Victoria—we have had another really positive week for attendance! Thank you to all our families for helping children arrive at school every day, on time and ready to learn.

We have set ourselves an ambitious goal: to achieve the best attendance in our Trust. We know we can do it, but we need everyone to keep up this fantastic start and work together throughout the year.

Our message remains simple: Miss School: Miss Out! Every day at school brings new learning, special experiences, important friendships and opportunities that cannot always be repeated.

Let's keep building on our brilliant start and show the rest of the Trust what Queen Victoria can achieve!

Every child, every day, every opportunity.



School Attendance
This Week

94.64 %

Class Attendance

Class	Attendance %
RD	98
RP	95.7
1J	90
1T	98.1
2H	99.6
2M	97.1
3B	96
3C	90
4P	96.2
4S	90.7
5BR	92
5S	93.7
6C	97.4
6H	94.3
6M	96.1





Notices

Parking Outside School

Let's keep
everyone safe!



No parking on yellow lines

They keep our
children safe.



Be considerate to our neighbours

Please park
respectfully.



Drive slowly

Especially at drop
off and pick up times.



Consider alternative options

Where possible, walk,
cycle or park a short
distance away.

Kind streets • Safer children • A stronger community

Stay Connected with Arbor

Make sure you don't miss important
information from school!



Everything
you need,
in one app!



School
messages



Dates and
events



Letters and
notices



Update your
details



Download the Arbor app today
and make sure you don't miss a thing!





Notices

Year 6 Thinking about Secondary School?



Applications now open

for September 2027
Year 7 intake.



Visit open evenings

Look out for advertised
open evenings at local
secondary schools.



Up to six preferences

You can name up to six
schools. Dudley Council
advises including more
than one preference.



Closing date

31 October 2026

Make sure your application
is submitted by this date.



Find out more at:

www.dudley.gov.uk/secondary-admissions



PE Kits Wear to School

Children should come to school wearing their PE kit
on their PE day.

Please make sure
your child wears their
PE kit to school
on their PE day.



**Plain white
T-shirt**
(with school logo
or plain)



**Plain black
shorts**
(no stripes or logos)



**Plain black
jogging bottoms**
(no stripes or logos,
for colder weather)



Trainers
(no fashion boots
or shoes)



Our PE days

EYFS

Friday

Year 1

Friday

Year 2

Friday

Year 3

Monday

Year 4

Wednesday

Year 5

Thursday

Year 6

Tuesday



For full uniform details, please visit our website:

www.queenvictoriaprimary.com/parents/uniform





Notices

Parents
supporting
parents
♥

SEND Parent Coffee Morning

A chance to meet, chat and share experiences
with other parents and carers.

Everyone
welcome
♥



Date:

22/09/2026



Time:

9:30am



Chat • Support • Belong

☀ Come along for a cuppa and a friendly, informal chat. ☀



E-scooters are not permitted on school premises.

Privately owned e-scooters cannot be legally used on public
roads, pavements or other public places, and must not be
ridden, brought onto or stored at school.



Under no
circumstances
should e-scooters
be charged on site.

Thank you for your support. ♥



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

CONNECTING CHILDREN WITH NATURE

Spending time outdoors plays a vital role in children's health, happiness, and development. This guide explores why nature matters, the barriers families may face, and practical ways to help children reconnect with wildlife and the outdoors. Here we highlight simple activities, creative ideas, and safe approaches to encourage exploration, confidence, and a lasting love of nature in everyday life.

1 TIME OUTSIDE MATTERS

Evidence shows that time in nature can benefit children's mental and physical health, learning, social development, and overall wellbeing. Nature does not need to be rare, grand, or far away to matter. Common, small, and local spaces can offer valuable opportunities too. Despite competing demands on children's time, many say being in nature makes them happy.

2 UNDERSTAND THE BARRIERS

Children's outdoor play has reduced significantly in recent generations, with independent play and roaming also becoming less common. Reasons can include alternative play options, worries about safety and risk, fewer suitable play spaces, busier roads, and increasingly structured routines. Understanding these barriers helps adults respond with practical, realistic ways to make outdoor time easier and more appealing.

3 TAKE ACTIVITIES OUTSIDE

Children can benefit from being in natural spaces even when engaging with nature is not the main activity. Think about everyday pursuits that could be moved outdoors, such as reading, playing cards and board games, arts and crafts, hide and seek, exercising, eating, or chatting. Involve children and young people in creating their outdoor space – for example, an upturned box can become a table, while cushions wrapped in strong bags can make temporary outdoor seating.

4 USE TECHNOLOGY POSITIVELY

Too much screen time can be unhelpful, but technology can also support nature connection, particularly for older children and young people. They can use a camera to document the wildlife they find, create art projects, or record natural sounds. Apps can help identify birdsong, plants, insects, or stars. Older children and young people may also enjoy citizen science projects, where their observations contribute to real environmental research.

5 CREATE MINI ADVENTURES

Green spaces are brilliant for exploration, adventure, creativity, and problem-solving. Adventures can be small and local, such as hunting for insects, looking for natural colours, or spotting patterns. They can also be bigger, including hill walks, den building, rock pooling, or watching the sunset. These experiences can create moments of awe and leave lasting memories.

6 BUILD NATURE AT HOME

Even small spaces can help children connect with nature through play and creativity. Seeds can be grown in windowsill boxes or hanging baskets, while herbs, strawberries, flowers, and cherry tomatoes often thrive in containers. Bird feeders, nest boxes, and insect hotels can support local wildlife. Indoors, garden magazines, leaves, and natural textures can inspire imaginative art, storytelling, and play.

7 EXPLORE FURTHER AFIELD

Holidays and weekends can offer children and young people the opportunity to visit country parks, nature reserves, waterways, woods, and the coast. These places may create memorable "Wow!" moments, such as rock pooling, exploring forests, pond dipping, or simply visiting somewhere new. Local activity centres may also offer taster sessions in canoeing, climbing, or archery, helping children and young people try outdoor activities safely.

8 ENGAGE OLDER CHILDREN

Teenagers may be less interested in adult-led activities designed for younger children. They often respond better to challenges, independence, skill building, and meaningful responsibility. Wildlife surveys, photography, outdoor cooking, whittling with safe tools, den building, or conservation tasks can feel more purposeful. Allowing controlled risks can support confidence, judgement, and a stronger connection with nature.

9 NOTICE LOCAL NATURE

Natural spaces enable unstructured play and exploration. Adults don't need specialist knowledge to help children enjoy nature and wildlife. Start by noticing what can be heard, smelled, and seen in a garden, school grounds, local park, or on the way to the shops. Encourage walking at a slower pace, looking for birds, leaves, insects, clouds, colours, and patterns, so that nature becomes part of daily living.

10 MANAGE SENSIBLE RISKS

Taking certain small risks in nature can in fact be valuable for children. Getting wet, muddy, or even stung by a nettle can help them understand the consequences of nature, cope with discomfort, build confidence outdoors, and assess situations more safely in future. Adults can support them in these moments by setting clear boundaries, supervising appropriately, teaching safety, and preparing children for all sorts of weather and natural spaces, while still allowing their curiosity, independence, and resilience to grow.

Meet Our Expert

Kate Whitehead leads on Connecting Children with Nature for Natural England, the government's adviser for the natural environment. With a background in ecology and sustainable development, and a passion for education, Kate works to facilitate between the environmental, education, and health sectors, collating research and best practice to support schools to unlock the multitude of benefits nature can offer.



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See full reference list on our website

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