

Queen Victoria

Primary School



NEWSLETTER

4th September 2026



Key Dates

15th Sept – International day of democracy

16th & 17th Sept – Y4 Cornet / Violin lessons start

22nd Sept – Coffee Morning: SEND Parents

23rd Sept – Reception Parents' Phonics Workshop

24th Sept – Year 1 Parents' Phonics Workshop

25th & 26th Sept – Harvest Collection

2nd Oct – Y6 screen time workshop

8th Oct- Flu Vaccinations

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

16th Oct – Y3 Bully Busters workshop

23rd October – Kidz Fit Day (Y1-Y6)

Half Term: Monday 26th – Friday 30th October



This Week's News

A very warm welcome back to everyone as we begin a brand-new school year! Following the Bank Holiday on Monday, our staff returned on Tuesday and Wednesday for two busy INSET days, preparing for the year ahead, before we had the most important people back through the doors on Thursday – our children! It has been wonderful to see the school full of children again this week and welcome everyone back after the summer break.

A particularly warm welcome goes to all the children and families who are joining Queen Victoria for the first time. We have lots of new faces beginning their journey with us in Nursery and Reception, as well as several children who have joined classes across the rest of the school. We hope you already feel at home and very much part of the Queen Victoria family.

We have been so impressed with how positively the children have returned – settling into their new classes, reconnecting with friends and getting straight back into the routines of school life.

The children also looked incredibly smart in their uniforms on their first day have shown real pride in being part of Queen Victoria. Thank you to all of our parents and carers for your support in helping us to maintain such high standards – it really does make a difference.

We are really looking forward to everything the year ahead will bring and to working together with our children and families to make it a fantastic one!

WELCOME BACK!

Attendance

Every day counts. Every lesson matters



A Brilliant Start to Attendance!

What an amazing start to the new school year! On our first day back, we achieved 96% attendance—our highest attendance for some time! Thank you to all our families for helping children return to school on time, ready to learn and excited for the year ahead.



Last year, we were incredibly proud to achieve the Bronze Inclusive Attendance Award. This year, we are working towards Silver, and we would love Queen Victoria to become the school with the best attendance in our Trust. With everyone working together, we know we can do it!

Our message remains simple: Miss School, Miss Out. Every day matters—not only for learning, but also for friendships, special events, celebrations and all the little moments that make school such an important part of children's lives.

We kindly ask families not to arrange holidays during term time. We understand that family circumstances can sometimes be complicated, so please come and speak honestly with us if you are considering time away or are experiencing difficulties getting your child into school.

Children are often excited to tell us about their experiences, and being open with school allows us to record absences accurately and offer the right advice or support. We are always much better able to help when families talk to us. All our popular attendance celebrations will continue this year, including:

- Spin the Wheel
- Festival Fridays
- Class attendance trophies
- Weekly praise messages
- HERO celebrations for children achieving 96% or above
- Special challenges, treats and prize draws throughout the year

Let's build on our fantastic 96% start, keep attendance high and make this our best year yet. Together, we can ensure that every child is in school, on time and making the most of every opportunity.

Class Attendance

Class	Attendance %
Nursery	87.5
RD	96
RP	95.7
1J	90
1T	100
2H	100
2M	100
3B	97.4
3C	91.7
4P	96.3
4S	89.3
5BR	96.3
5S	100
6C	95.7
6H	89.1
6M	98.9



School Attendance
This Week

96%



What's New?

Improvements For A Brand New School Year



NEW TOILETS FOR YEAR 2

Over the summer, we have been busy making improvements to our school building. We are delighted to unveil our brand new toilets for Year 2 children.



The new facilities are bright, modern and clean.

Also, the corridor and communal spaces upstairs in year 6 have had a fresh lick of paint.



You may notice some new fencing around our boiler rooms when you are on the school site. This was installed over the summer as part of our ongoing work to improve the safety and security of our school environment. The new fencing helps to keep these areas secure and safely out of bounds for children, while still allowing our site team access when needed.



We've invested in lots of fantastic new books over the summer, and Mrs Reece has been very busy making sure they are ready for our children to enjoy! You'll spot new and refreshed book displays around school, as well as new titles appearing in classrooms and our school library. Reading is at the heart of learning at Queen Victoria. Reading opens doors to learning, imagination and opportunity, so we want every child to find books they love and develop a love of reading that lasts a lifetime.





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



Healthy Snacks

FOR BREAKTIMES

Small
choices make
a big difference!



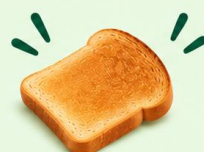
**No sweets,
chocolate bars
or crisps**



**Choose fruit
or a healthy
cereal bar**



No nuts



Free toast
Available every
morning in school.



Free fruit
Available in
every classroom.



Healthy snacks help give our children the energy to **learn**, play and be their best!





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: 09/09/2026



Time: 10am



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. ♥



What Parents & Educators Need to Know about CHARACTER.AI

Character.AI is an entertainment platform where users create and chat with AI-powered characters.

These chatbots can act like existing favourite characters from movies or books, or like friends, mentors, or even romantic partners, responding in an emotional, personally engaging way. Although this can encourage creativity, it can also make a generated conversation feel like a genuine relationship, which is concerning if it takes the place of human relationships.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

AI replies are generated in real time rather than chosen from a fully checked script. Even with safety filters on, conversations can still move into sexual, violent, discriminatory, or self-harm material. These AI characters are often made by users, so a familiar name or child-friendly description does not guarantee that every response from the character will be suitable for a young person.

BLURRED BOUNDARIES

Characters on Character.AI can use the language of friendship, love, and empathy without ever feeling anything. Vulnerable young people may struggle to separate this simulation from genuine understanding. Romantic role-play or a character that demands attention, loyalty, or secrecy could also risk distorting young people's expectations around consent, disagreement, and the give-and-take involved in healthy human relationships.

UNRELIABLE ADVICE

Characters, like other chatbot platforms, are at risk of inventing facts or giving inappropriate advice while sounding completely confident. Characters may also echo a young person's assumptions instead of questioning them. This can become particularly risky when users rely on a character for guidance about health, mental wellbeing, relationships, money, or personal safety instead of checking with a credible source or trusted adult.

EMOTIONAL DEPENDENCY

Character.AI chatbots can appear endlessly attentive, supportive, and affectionate, which is one of the hallmarks of the generative AI models that such companions are built on. A young person may start turning to a character chatbot whenever they feel lonely or upset and believe that it understands them better than the humans in their life. This can become more concerning when chatting starts to replace sleep, schoolwork, hobbies and friendships.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Character.AI chats may feel private, especially when a bot sounds personal and caring, but they take place on a company's online systems. Users could intentionally or unintentionally reveal their name, school, location, routines, images, or intimate concerns. Character.AI says some data may be retained to improve its services and AI models, so young people should never treat a chatbot like a confidential diary.

UNHEALTHY ENGAGEMENT

Be aware of warning signs such as secret accounts, bypassing age restrictions, hiding phone use from adults, chatting late at night, distress when access to the platform or character stops, withdrawal from other people, falling interest in school, or believing the character is conscious. Increased use may also signal that the young person is already lonely, anxious, or seeking help.

Advice for Parents & Educators

KEEP CONVERSATIONS OPEN

Ask what the young person enjoys about Character.AI and invite them to show you how the platform and their favourite characters work. Useful questions include, "Has it ever said something that felt wrong?" and "How can you tell it doesn't have feelings?" Avoid shaming them for using platforms like Character.AI or making them feel there is something wrong with them for doing so.

CHECK AGE, SETTINGS & LIMITS

Character.AI's minimum age is 16 in the UK, but open-ended companion chat is restricted to adults aged 18 or over. Users aged 16 to 17 receive a different experience built around guided 'Stories' and other creative or social features. Check their current settings, never help or encourage a young person to give a false age, and apply the same safety rules to other chatbot apps.

PAUSE, CHECK AND ASK

Teach young people to pause before accepting an answer from characters on Character.AI. Encourage them to check important claims against a trustworthy source and ask a safe adult when the issue matters. Never use a character as the sole source of medical, mental health, legal, financial, or safeguarding advice. Remind them not to share passwords, contact details, school information, live locations, or private images.

NOTICE AND RESPOND

Take action if chats involve sexual content, threats, coercion, abuse, self-harm or danger. Save relevant evidence, report the character and follow the setting's safeguarding process; educators should involve the designated safeguarding lead. If anyone is in immediate danger, contact emergency services. Childline is available on 0800 1111 and the NSPCC Helpline on 0808 800 5000.

Meet Our Expert

Darren Coxon is an educator with almost 30 years' experience across teaching, school leadership and governance. He works internationally supporting schools and colleges with AI leadership and governance and [Insert NC courses I have written].



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