

Queen Victoria

Primary School



NEWSLETTER

9th October 2026



Key Dates

12th Oct–1J Library visit

13th Oct– Year 2 Local Walk

15th Oct–Reception Phonics Workshop

16th Oct – Y3 Bully Busters workshop

16th Oct – Black History Day

19th Oct– 1T Library visit

21st Oct –Parents' Evening

23rd Oct – Kidz Fit Day (Y1-Y6)

Half Term: Monday 26th – Friday 30th October

16th Nov – Odd Socks Day (Anti-Bullying Week)

20th Nov – Children in Need

20th Nov – Year 4 SPARKs visit

27th Nov – Flu vaccine catch-up session

2nd Dec – Year 3 children's Iron Age workshop

3rd Dec– Year 1 Black Country Museum

4th Dec – INSET Day

10th Dec – Christmas Disco



This Week's News

Flu Vaccinations

On Thursday, children across school received their flu vaccinations. Thank you to all parents and carers who completed the consent forms and helped us to make the process run smoothly.

A particularly big well done to all the children who had their vaccinations, especially those who were feeling a little nervous! We were really proud of how brave they were.

Year 1 Phonics Workshop

Thank you to all the parents and carers who joined us for our Year 1 Phonics Workshop on Thursday. It was lovely to see families taking the opportunity to learn more about how we teach phonics and how they can support their children with reading at home. Reading regularly at home is one of the most important things you can do to support your child's learning. Little and often really does add up!

Hello Yellow – World Mental Health Day

On Friday, we brightened up the school by wearing yellow in support of YoungMinds' Hello Yellow campaign, marking World Mental Health Day. Thank you to everyone who joined in and helped us to raise awareness of the importance of children's mental health and wellbeing.



Hello Yellow



World Mental Health Day

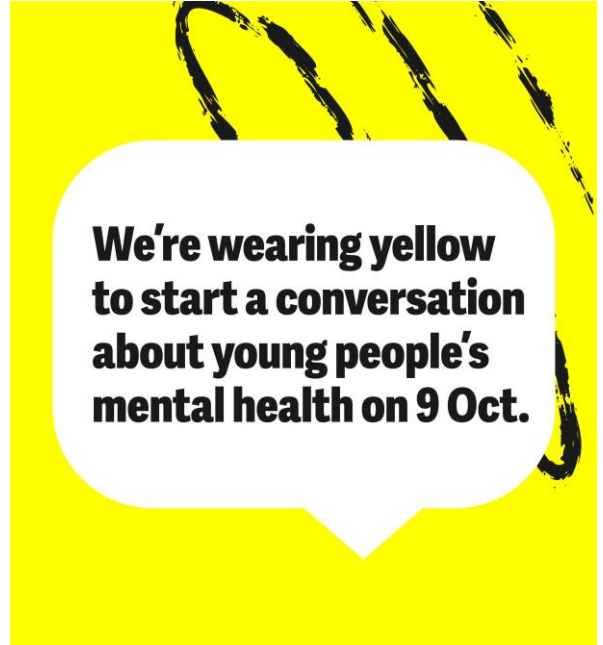
At Queen Victoria, we want every child to feel happy, safe, valued and supported. Hello Yellow is a great opportunity to remind children that everyone has feelings, that it is okay not to feel okay sometimes, and that there are always trusted adults they can talk to if something is worrying them.

We haven't asked families for cash donations this year, but anyone who would like to support the work of YoungMinds can do so through their Hello Yellow website.

We have a Queen Victoria fund raising page: <https://fundraise.youngminds.org.uk/fundraise/rs/QueenVic/hello-yellow> follow the link or scan the QR code to donate.



Thank you for helping us to spread a little sunshine and an important message about looking after our mental health!



**We're wearing yellow
to start a conversation
about young people's
mental health on 9 Oct.**

#HelloYellow

M&S | YOUNGMINDS

At lunchtime, lots of children enjoyed a yellow treasure hunt, looking for hidden yellow stars around the playground.

Each star had a letter printed on and the children had to find all the letters to spell out the secret word: kindness.

We have encouraged the children to support each other's mental health through treating each other with kindness and care.

YOUNGMINDS

**Hello
Yellow**



Hedgehogs



We just had to share the cuteness of these wonderful hedgehogs that our 30-hours nursery children have made this week! They even made small hedgehog bred rolls too!



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

Willow

Year One

Harrison

Lily

Year Three

Splendor

Isabelle

Year Five

Oliver

Liberty

Reception

Abigail

Nancy

Year Two

Irsa

Carter

Year Four

Alfie

Lilly-Mae

Year Six

Joshua

Millie

Riley



Attendance

Every day counts. Every lesson matters



Our October attendance challenge is underway! A huge well done to **5BR**, who are topping the leaderboard this week with a fantastic **98.4% attendance**, closely followed by **5S (97.2%)** and **2M (96.8%)**.



School Attendance
This Week

94.18

Class Attendance

Class	Attendance %
RD	92
RP	88.8
1J	89
1T	91.6
2H	96.4
2M	96.8
3B	92.9
3C	96.1
4P	94.8
4S	95.2
5BR	98.4
5S	97.2
6C	95.4
6H	90
6M	94.4



TIMES TABLES ROCKSTARS

Ready

Respectful

Safe

How to use Times Tables Rockstars A guide for parents

Times Tables Rockstars (TTRS) is a fun, online platform that helps children learn and practise their times tables. It builds confidence, speed and accuracy – skills that support maths across the curriculum.

1 Log in

Go to www.ttrockstars.com and log in with your child's school username and password.



2 Choose a mode

Your child can practise in different ways, including:



Garage

Learn the tables at your own pace.



Studio

Quick fire practise with a focus on speed.



Soundcheck

Answer questions in a set time.



Jamming

Play against other children and earn coins.

3 Track progress

You can check your child's progress on the parent page. See how many coins they earn, which tables they're practising and celebrate their achievements!



4 Make it part of your routine



Aim for short, regular sessions

Just 5–10 minutes a day can make a big difference.



Choose a good time

e.g. after school, at the weekend or before bed.



Encourage and praise

Celebrate effort and progress, not just scores.

Top tips for success

- ★ Let your child choose their own times tables to practise.
- ★ Try the different game modes to keep it fun and fresh.
- ★ Look for their coins and certificates – they love them!
- ★ Encourage them to challenge friends and classmates.
- ★ Remind them that 10 minutes a day really does make a difference!

Aspiration, Excellence
and Responsibility!





Notices

We need Lego

Can you
help?



We are asking for donations
of Lego for our school.

We would love any good condition
Lego sets or loose bricks to add to
our collection.



Used at
playtime and
lunchtimes



Used during
before and
after school club



Helps children
to be creative,
work together
and have fun!



Thank you for your support!



Last week, we
have introduced
a new Lego table
onto our
playground,
available at
lunchtimes for
the children to
enjoy.

We would
appreciate any
donations of
unwanted Lego
that you may
have at home to
help increase our
supply of building
bricks.

Please bring any
donations to the
office.





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



Polite Notice

Children should not bring personal hand sanitiser into school unless this has been agreed in advance with the school office to meet an individual need. Handwashing facilities are available in school.

Sanitiser bottles must not be clipped to clothing or worn as accessories. Any unapproved bottles brought into school will be held safely by staff and returned to parents or carers.

Where an exception is agreed, suitable arrangements for storage and supervised use will be put in place.



10 Top Tips for Parents and Educators

SAFETY ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Currently, children are growing up in an immediate and throwaway culture when it comes to content that's consumed online. So much material is now deliberately created to be shorter in nature – and may often contain hidden elements such as advertising, or extreme political and cultural views. With complex algorithms built to keep people on their phones and engaging with social media content, it's becoming increasingly difficult to reduce time spent on these platforms.

1 REDUCE DOOMSCROLLING

It's concerning how common for young people to spend hours 'doomscrolling': trawling through social media and aimlessly viewing every post they see, many of which might make them feel sad or anxious. Social media can be useful for keeping in touch with friends and family, as well as staying up to date on current events. However, it's important to use it with a clear purpose, instead of endlessly scrolling through content, which could lead to young people accidentally discovering harmful material.

2 TALK ABOUT THE CONTENT

It's important to keep apprised of the kind of content that a young person is being exposed to. Discussing what they're watching online can help you understand why they're using social media in the first place. Furthermore, ensure that children are aware of hidden content, such as advertising of a product – and that they know how to spot that the creator is being paid to talk about it.

3 FIND POSITIVE ASPECTS

Despite all the concerns, there's plenty of wholesome content on social media. It's worth spending time with children to help them find something suitable and enjoyable. Perhaps you'll even discover a joint interest, and you can enjoy the content alongside the child. As part of this, you should also point out why certain things shouldn't be given attention, explaining why it isn't suitable and why it's been created in the first place.

4 REDUCE SCREENTIME

Young people can sometimes be unaware of the exact amount of time they spend looking at social media. Smart phones don't just have the capacity to monitor screentime; they also record how much time is spent on each app. Consider setting targets to reduce this and support children to meet these goals, gradually reducing the amount of time spent on different apps.

5 FILL THE VOID

Monitoring and reducing screentime can create a lot of free time to fill, and young people can even face withdrawal symptoms when made to step away from their phones. To mitigate this, consider what offline activities you could introduce the child to, and what they would enjoy. This can ensure that young users will permanently cut down on their screentime, rather than temporarily doing so while they know it's being monitored.

6 REDUCE NOTIFICATIONS

One way in which social media platforms keep people coming back is through notifications. The algorithms behind these apps track people's daily habits, including the times of the day where they're most likely to engage with the platform. This data is then used to deliver specifically timed notifications to draw them back in. To avoid young users being exposed to this tactic, simply turn off notifications for the app in their phone's settings.

7 LIVE IN THE REAL WORLD

Overexposure to social media can distort someone's perception of the real world – from body norms to social conventions. This filtered environment can make it hard for young people to distinguish reality from online content, which is now becoming even more difficult with the rise of AI. To mitigate this concern, take time to teach young people how to discern truth from fiction, both on and off social media.

8 DIGITAL DETOX

Encouraging young people to take a 'digital detox', from even just a couple of the apps that they use, can result in an overall reduction of screentime and less exposure to potentially harmful content. Alternatively, rather than avoiding the app entirely, encourage children to take a 'digital detox' from content creators and influencers, and instead, keep in touch with friends and family – which is generally a far healthier use of these platforms.

9 MODEL GOOD BEHAVIOUR

Consider the habits that you're demonstrating to your children. How much time do you spend on your phone? How much do you 'doomscroll'? Comparing your own usage with the child's could put things into perspective for them – or if it turns out that you're also overusing social media, it can turn screentime reduction into a joint mission, which you and the child can work on together.

10 BE CLEAR ON THE "WHY"

Research shows that young people can become addicted to social media. There are many schools that are moving towards being 'phone free' due to the negative impacts of using social media and phones continuously. It's important to explain to young people why managing screentime is important. Set out the benefits and ensure they have all the relevant information, so it's not just seen as a punishment.

Meet Our Expert

John Insley is a senior leader in a Birmingham secondary school and has vast experience in leading schools over the past 15 years – including the development of computing curriculums across primary and secondary schools, writing e-safety policies and supporting schools with computing and e-safety advice.



The National College®

Source: See full reference list on guide page at: <https://nationalcollege.com/guides/top-tips-for-safety-on-social-media>

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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.



Great holidays can be affordable!

TOP 10 MONEY SAVING TIPS FOR CHEAPER HOLIDAYS



- 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.
- TRAVEL MID-WEEK**
Flights on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays are often cheaper than weekend departures.
- COMPARE PRICES**
Use comparison websites such as Skyscanner, Google Flights or Kayak to compare prices and set up price alerts.
- CONSIDER DIFFERENT AIRPORTS OR DESTINATIONS**
Flying from a nearby airport or choosing a less popular destination can sometimes save hundreds of pounds.
- THINK ABOUT SELF-CATERING**
Apartments and holiday parks can often be more affordable than hotels, especially for families.
- USE LOYALTY POINTS AND CASHBACK**
Supermarket reward schemes, cashback websites and credit card rewards can all help reduce the overall cost.
- COMPARE ALL-INCLUSIVE WITH SELF-CATERING**
Depending on your family's needs, either option could offer the best value.
- 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.
- TRAVEL WITH FRIENDS OR FAMILY**
Renting a villa together or splitting costs (car hire, food, pool) can work out much cheaper than booking individually.
- WATCH OUT FOR HIDDEN COSTS**
Check baggage charges, transfers, resort fees and airport parking before booking so there are no surprises.

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.



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.

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. ♥