

We have been wonderfully busy in school...

Nursery

This week, we have been enjoying lots of fun and creative activities based on the story *Pumpkin Soup* by Helen Cooper. We loved reading about the adventures of Duck, Squirrel, and Cat, and it inspired us to make our own colourful paper pumpkin collages. We have also been busy writing recipes for how to make soup, as well as creating shopping lists with all the ingredients we need. On Thursday, during our outdoor day, we even made our very own pumpkin soup! In maths, we have been learning all about 'Freddie Four' during our Ten Town sessions, and our shape of the week is the pentagon. It has five sides and five corners, and we've been spotting it in our classroom and in nature. It's been a busy and exciting week of learning!



Reception



What a fantastic start to the academic year! The children have settled in brilliantly and are now confidently following our daily routines and embracing Reception life. In **Literacy**, we started with a focus on Julia Donaldson's stories, then explored story elements such as characters, settings, problems, and actions. The children have made great progress in hearing initial sounds and are enjoying learning Set 1 sounds through Read Write Inc., especially Word Time with Fred.

In **Maths**, we have worked on recognising, ordering, and matching numbers, subitising to 5, and learning the number bonds for 2 and 3.

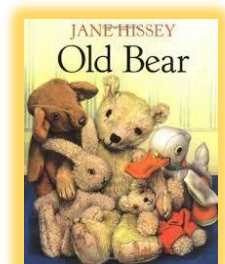
In **Understanding the World**, we have been learning about our families, how we've changed since we were babies, and where we live.

In **Expressive Arts and Design**, the children have loved mixing colours and creating artwork.

We're incredibly proud of how well the children have started their Reception journey—keep up the great work!

Year 1

We are incredibly proud of the progress the children have made during their first half term in Year 1. Last week, we assessed their phonics knowledge and were so pleased with how much they've learned. In English, the children have been retelling the story *Old Bear* by Jane Hissey, using pictures and actions to help them 'hold a sentence' and write in sequence. They especially enjoyed learning about exclamation marks and how these affect expression in reading and writing. In Maths, the children have been identifying and sorting 2D shapes using Venn and Carroll diagrams, showing great enthusiasm and curiosity. In Art, they explored the work of Molly Haslund and created their own spiral artwork using different media such as pencil, chalk, ink, and watercolour. The children are very proud of their sketchbooks and all they've achieved so far. It's been a fantastic start to Year 1!



Year 2



This term has been full of exciting learning across all subjects. In English, we have been reading *After the Fall* by Dan Santat. We have been retrieving information, making predictions, and exploring new vocabulary. We are looking forward to discovering how the story ends next week. In grammar, we have been learning how to use apostrophes for contractions and expanding sentences by adding adjectives to create noun phrases.

In Maths, we have been using our number bond knowledge to solve problems, including adding two-digit numbers. In Science, we have been investigating the properties of everyday materials and thinking about how suitable or unsuitable they are for different jobs.

Our PE lessons have been very active and enjoyable as we have been learning how to throw and catch a rugby ball. In History, we have been learning about significant nurses from the past, such as Florence Nightingale and Mary Seacole, and their impact on healthcare.

Parent Computer Workshop

Thank you to all the parents who attended our Key Stage 1 Computing Parent Workshops!



We were delighted to welcome Nicola Rudge, Online Safety Advisor from Walsall Council, who joined Mrs. Sembhi, our Computing Lead, to deliver online safety training and advice for all our families.

The children enjoyed joining their adults to log in to Google Classroom and complete some fun activities on our learning platform.

The slides from the session will be shared with all Key Stage 1 parents today. We hope the workshops were helpful and will support our families in staying safe online at home.

Black Country Foodbank

We will be collecting donations for the **Black Country Foodbank** to support individuals and families in need during the **October half-term break**.



Please click the link below to view a shopping list of suggested donation items:
<https://tinyurl.com/yy8bddp>

All donations must be brought into school by **Wednesday 23rd October 2025**. Thank you for your kindness and support!

Photographs

If you wish to purchase any of the individual or sibling photographs taken in school last week, please ensure that you scan the QR code on your child's photo proof and place any orders by the 24th October 2025 for free delivery to school.

Parent Consultations

Reception, Year 1 & Year 2– 11th & 13th November



We look forward to welcoming you to the Parent Consultation Evenings on 11th and 13th November, (further information will be sent home with your child today). Appointments with your child's class teacher will last 10 minutes to discuss their progress and expectations for the year. Please book your appointment via Scopay from 7.00pm on 16th October. Your child will bring their books home the day before the meeting—please ensure they are returned on the appointment day.

Access will be through the school hall door. If you have any concerns before the meeting, please contact us.

Numbots & TTRS Launch Day for Year 1 and Year 2



We would like to remind parents that Monday 20th October is the launch day for Times Tables Rockstars for Year 2 children and Tuesday 21st October launch day for Numbots for Year 1 children. For further details please refer to the letter that was sent home with your child on Monday 13th October.



Autumn Festivals: Celebrating Safely

Autumn is a season full of colour, celebration, and excitement — with **Halloween**, **Diwali**, and **Bonfire Night** all taking place within just a few weeks of each other. Whether your family is lighting diyas, dressing up in spooky costumes, or watching fireworks, it's a time for fun — and also for staying safe. Here are some simple ways to help children enjoy these festivals safely:

Fire Safety First

Many autumn celebrations involve candles, diyas, or fireworks. To stay safe:

- Keep all flames well away from costumes, decorations, and loose clothing.
- Opt for **flameless LED candles** or **electric diyas** where possible — especially around young children.
- When using real flames, place them on a sturdy, non-flammable surface and never leave them unattended.

Costume & Clothing Safety

Whether dressing up for **Halloween** or wearing traditional clothes for **Diwali**:

- Be aware that many costumes and fabrics can be **highly flammable**.
- Look for costumes with a **UKCA or CE mark** and layer clothes underneath for extra protection.
- Teach children the **Stop, Drop, and Roll** technique in case their clothing ever catches fire.



Be Bright, Be Seen

As the clocks go back, it gets dark much earlier — just as children are heading out:

- Add **reflective tape** to costumes and outerwear to increase visibility.
- Use **glow sticks, torches, or bright accessories** to help children be seen by drivers.
- Encourage older children to keep phones away while walking near roads, and always cross safely.

Sparklers & Fireworks

Bonfire Night and **Diwali** often include fireworks and sparklers:

- Always supervise children closely and follow fireworks safety advice.
- Sparklers are not suitable for under-5s, and older children should wear gloves and hold them at arm's length.
- Watch fireworks at organised displays where safety measures are in place.



Out and About

Whether trick-or-treating or visiting family:

- Face paint is safer than masks, which can block vision and hearing.
- Stick to well-lit areas and agree on a route if older children are going out without an adult.
- Little ones should always be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Enjoy the Festivities

These festivals are a wonderful way to celebrate culture, tradition, and community. With a few simple precautions, families can enjoy all the sparkle and fun of **Halloween**, **Diwali**, and **Bonfire Night** — safely and happily.

Wishing all our families a joyful and safe festival season!

The Child Accident Prevention Trust website has some useful tips, find out more here:

<https://tinyurl.com/34bhchzy>

Packed Lunch & School Meal Safety for 3–5 Year Olds

In light of the Food Standards Agency's guidance on **early years choking hazards**, we want to remind all parents and carers of some important safety tips to keep mealtimes safe and enjoyable for children aged 3 to 5.

Safe Food Tips

- **Cut food into small pieces:**
 - Cut grapes, cherry tomatoes, and strawberries into quarters.
 - Cut hard fruits and vegetables (like apples and carrots) into thin strips or cook them until soft.
- **Sausages and hot dogs:**
 - Cut sausages and hot dogs **lengthwise, then into thin strips**.
 - Remove the skin if possible to make them easier to chew and swallow.
- **No nuts or nut products:**



- We are a **nut-free school** to protect children with allergies. Please do **not** send any nuts or foods containing nuts.
- **Avoid risky foods:**
 - No popcorn, chewing gum, marshmallows, jelly cubes, or hard sweets.
- **Bread choices:**
 - Soft white bread can be sticky—toast it or choose brown bread instead.
 - Cut all bread into thin strips or small pieces.
- **Supervise mealtimes:**
 - Children should always be seated and supervised while eating.

Thank you for helping us to follow the Food Standards Agency's advice and keep mealtimes safe for all children!

Newsflash! Applications for Nursery September 2026 are welcome



Children born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023 are due to start Nursery in September 2025. Please collect an interest form from the school office to register your child's details.

School Admissions Now Open for September 2026

Applications are now open for children currently in **Nursery** and **Year 2**, starting in **September 2026**.

Please ensure applications are submitted on time:

- Primary School Applications – Deadline: 15 January 2026

All applications must be completed online please see link below.

<https://admissions.walsall.gov.uk/CitizenPortal/en>

Primary School Drop-in Sessions

To support families through the process, our School Admissions Team is hosting a series of drop-in sessions this term. These sessions are a great opportunity to get help with your application or ask any questions.

2 nd December 2025	3 rd December 2025	4 th December 2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Willenhall Library 9:00am - 12:00pm ● Darlaston Library 1:00pm – 4:00pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lichfield Street Hub 9:00am – 5:00pm 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Blakenall Village Centre 1:00pm – 4:00pm



Who are our SUPERSTARS ...

Celebrating the achievements of our children out of school. Lots of children have been busy reading and completing the Summer Reading Challenge. They have also been busy achieving in swimming, dancing, footballing and gymnastics.



Achievements		
Class 4	Jaxson M	Best Behaved Kickboxer Award
Class 4	Reuben N	Achieved Green Grade in Kickboxing
Class 5	Jorah N	Achieved Green Grade in Kickboxing
Class 5	Taranveer S	Karate – Certificate of Recognition
Class 6	Leah D	Best Behaved Kickboxer Award
Class 8	Eesa R	Haven's House of Fun Award
Class 8	Shannanpreet S	Kombat Federation grade of Kyu Award
Class 8	Harcharan R	Swimming – 5 Metres Award
Class 9	Isher S T	Derbyshire Freestyle Wrestling Silver Medal
Class 9	Rubaani D	Swimming – Goldfish 1 Award

Gold Star Assembly Award Winners

In recognition of your learning, progress, attitude, effort and upholding the school learning habits and values.

Congratulations!

Justin V - Class 2	Reuben N - Class 4	Safa A - Class 5
Zara O - Class 7	Idris A - Class 8	

Whole School Attendance

Week commencing Monday 29th September 2025 – 95.7% Highest Attendance Class 4 - 100%

Week commencing Monday 6th October 2025 – 95.2% Highest Attendance Class 9 - 99 %

Well done Class 4 & 9!

Attendance Target 96%

Class	% Attendance w/c 29/09/25	Class	% Attendance w/c 29/09/25	Class	% Attendance w/c 06/10/25	Class	% Attendance w/c 06/10/25
Nur	93.2	5	94.6	Nur	89.5	5	93.6
1	99.3	6	97.4	1	97.5	6	89.6
2	89.7	7	97.7	2	98	7	98.7
3	94	8	98.6	3	94	8	97.9
4	100	9	94.5	4	96.4	9	99

**High focus on attendance. Please ensure your children are attending daily and on time.
Don't miss the phonics learning at 9.00am!**

After School Activities – Autumn Term 1

Every Monday from 15th September 2024 to 20th October 2025	After school Football club for class 7 3:20pm-4:20pm Please collect from the School Office
Every Tuesday from 16th September 2024 to 21st October 2025	After school Football club for class 4 3:20pm-4:20pm Please collect from the School Office

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Monday 20th October 2025 – Year 2 Times Tables Rockstars Launch

Tuesday 21st October 2025 – Year 1 Numbots Launch

Thursday 23rd October 2025 – Last Day of Term

Friday 24th October – Inset Day (School closed to children)

Monday 3rd November – First Day of Term

Monday 3rd November 2025 – Flu Vaccination Catch up session (**parents to complete online form**)

Tuesday 11th November 2025 – Parent Consultation Evening

Wednesday 12th November 2025 – Individual and Sibling Photograph Catch up Session

Thursday 13th November 2025 – Parent Consultation Evening



Inset Days

Friday 24th October 2025

Friday 19th June 2026

Monday 20th July 2026

Term Dates

Please click on the link below for the current academic term dates.

<https://www.parkhall-inf.walsall.sch.uk/term-and-holiday-dates/>

And finally...

We're here to support you and your child every step of the way. If you ever have any questions, concerns, or even the smallest worry — please don't hesitate to reach out. If we don't know about it, we can't help!