

Foundation Stage Newsletter

Friday 1st May 2026



RECEPTION

We have had a busy week this week continuing our learning about creatures great and small. At Forest School we enjoyed looking for minibests (always a favourite) but this time we could draw and label what we found. This then helped us in our art session where we planned what minibest or creature we would like to try and make using clay! We've had lots of fun exploring clay over the past couple of weeks, learning how to smooth it to get rid of little cracks and how we can use water to stick it together. In Science, we thought about larger animals that might live on a farm. We described them and sorted them, noticing similarities and differences. We have used the story A Squash and a Squeeze by Julia Donaldson for our writing work, a story where a lady thinks her house is too small so is encouraged to take in her farm animals (hen, cow, pig and goat!) only to discover that this really is a squash and a squeeze! In Maths we have been using our subitising skills to notice when a group of objects is 6. Subitising is knowing how many in a group without needing to count the objects – it is a great skill for the children to practise before their move to Year 1. Our PSHE has been about tasks that the children can now complete themselves and those which still need to be practised – zips and buttons being more tricky tasks to master! We encourage the children to try to cut up their food at lunchtime and some of them manage brilliantly – please encourage them to do the same at home, it all helps with their independence. We have also revisited the NSPCC's PANTS message about looking after our body and keeping it safe.

We have enjoyed a warm and sunny week – a real taste of summer! Your child needs a refillable bottle in school every day – they can then take this on the Daily Mile, to PE, Forest School and out on the playground. Remember to send in sunhats (named) and apply suncream **before** the children come into school. They can bring in their own suncream for a top up at lunchtime. This needs to have their name on and be handed to an adult to avoid suncreams being shared between children. An adult will supervise them applying their suncream.

FOREST SCHOOL

THURSDAY 14th MAY WILL BE A FOREST SCHOOL DAY – the children can wear clothes appropriate for Forest School – even on a warm day this **must** include long trousers/ leggings/ joggers and a long-sleeved top. They also need their waterproof coat in school. If they have a puddle suit, please make sure this is in school too.

LENDING LIBRARY

Library will be open again next week. Please return this weeks books (and any others you might find at home!) ready for a new book.

READING BOOKS

Phonics reading books have been swapped today if your child returned the book issued last week, and they will have received their certificate! We have also made many of the titles on Collins Hub available so that there is a bank of books to read at home. Spending just a few minutes a day reading or practising segmenting and blending words makes a huge difference to the children's confidence during phonics and reading.

HOME CHALLENGE

REMINDERS

MONDAY 4th MAY – school will be closed for the bank holiday

THURSDAY 7th MAY – SCHOOL WILL BE CLOSED DUE TO POLLING FOR LOCAL ELECTIONS

WEDNESDAY 20th MAY – visit to Wild Zoological Park

FRIDAY 22nd May – Praise Assembly @ 2.45pm...all welcome!

Contact us If you have any questions, please ask or you can email us: kburns@bromhills.dudley.sch.uk rlewis@bromhills.dudley.sch.uk ellayd@bromhills.dudley.sch.uk (Mrs Smallman's email) **Please see the last page for important information**

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Pre-School

It has been a lovely week – sunny and warm! It has been another busy week in Pre-School carrying on our learning about minibeasts. We have been closely watching our caterpillars and were very excited to notice that the caterpillars had all moved to the lid of their containers and spun their cocoons! This meant it was time to move them from the pot into the tall net. We noticed that the cocoons were moving and found out that the caterpillars do this to stop the birds trying to eat them...I think they will be safe in Pre-school though! We know that now we will have to wait for quite a while to see the next stage. Whilst we wait, we painted and printed a butterfly picture using our handprints to create the wings – it was such fun having paint on our hands, choosing the colours and even exploring what new colours we could make by mixing two colours together. Our paintings are hanging in the gallery. Outside we used rollers and stampers with paint to create different patterns on a very large butterfly. We have also enjoyed looking for minibeasts and found that there were lots of ladybirds. We used our best noticing skills to see when a ladybird had more or fewer spots than others – a perfect way to practise our maths learning! We have also enjoyed using the 'car wash'. We've had lots of soapy fun using the sponges to clean the muddy trucks – they are all now clean and sparkling!

Maths – In Maths this week we have been learning about 'more' and 'fewer'. We have been looking at the number of objects in groups and saying which group has 'more' objects and which has 'fewer'.

Phonics – In Phonics we have continued to practise our segmenting and blending with Segmenting Seb and Blending Ben! They have challenged us to segment (sound out) and blend action words...we tried 'p-a-t' pat your head and 't-a-p' tap your knee. I wonder what other actions you could segment and blend...maybe 'h-o-p' hop or 'm-ar-ch' march!

Forest School – We have had another lovely session at Forest School. We used double sided tape wrapped around a stick to create a journey stick. We found lots of flowers and leaves to stick onto the tape which then showed the journey/ path we had taken around Forest School – it was a bit like telling a story of a walk around Forest School. We have also had great fun using our new water butt to fill jugs, pots and pans and transport the water to where we wanted it – making puddles and 'cooking' in the mud kitchen! 😊

EvidenceMe Challenge – A maths challenge this week...collect some objects together – this could be toys cars, colouring pencils, grapes...anything. Split them into two groups – can the children say which group has more and which has fewer?

During the summer term there will be fewer observations being sent home. We have a lovely but extremely busy Summer Term with all the exciting things we have to do for example Share A Story, Sports Days, report meetings, transition days and much more!! Please keep sending in your lovely pictures because we love to see these on a Monday morning.

A reminder that Mrs Randle will not be available for the next few weeks so if you have any questions/queries please speak to the Pre-School staff or email info@bromhills.dudley.sch.uk and someone will get back to you as soon as possible. If it is not urgent, Mrs Randle will reply to your queries when she returns. Thank you for understanding.

REMINDERS –

- Please check previous Forest School letter/email regarding dates
- *****Share A Story *** WEDNESDAY 6th MAY @ 11am**
- **Voting day – Thursday 7th May – School is closed for Voting.**
- Please make sure you read the school newsletter from Mr Stevens as there is important information on there too.
- **Please see the last few pages for important information** Any questions or if you need support please just ask or email me on epowis@bromhills.dudley.sch.uk

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Important Information

- **From Public Health** – Please click on the link for nutrition guidance for healthy lunchboxes <https://www.dudleyhealthylunchbox.org.uk/>
- **From Public Health** – MMR / MMRV vaccination is vital because measles is highly infectious and can lead to serious complications, including pneumonia, meningitis and, in rare cases, long-term disability. Both vaccines are safe and the MMR provides effective protection against measles, mumps and rubella, and the MMRV vaccine also includes protection against chickenpox (varicella), helping to keep children, staff and the wider community safe.

From Lead For Childcare - It is always important for parents and carers to make sure that children stay up to date with all their routine vaccinations, as these offer important protection against infectious disease outbreaks. Parents and carers should also be aware and alert to the signs and symptoms of invasive meningococcal disease. For more information, visit the NHS website <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/meningitis/> or see the information available from two charities who offer free support via their websites and helplines [Meningitis B outbreak: what you need to know](#) – UK Health Security Agency

The Meningitis Research Foundation www.meningitis.org

Helpline UK 080 8800 3344

Meningitis Now www.meningitisnow.org

Helpline 0808 80 10 388 or helpline@meningitisnow.org

UKHSA blog post



Types of MMRV vaccine

The MMRV vaccine contains weakened versions of living measles, mumps, rubella and chickenpox viruses. Because these viruses are weakened, they do not spread easily to other people.

There are 2 MMRV vaccines which work equally well: **ProQuad** and **Priorix Tetra**. ProQuad contains porcine gelatine (gelatine from pigs) and Priorix Tetra does not. If you want your child to have the vaccine without gelatine, talk to your practice nurse or GP.

Further information is available in the patient information leaflets.

ProQuad

www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/101444/pil

Priorix Tetra

www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/101321/pil

More information on vaccines and porcine gelatine is available on GOV.UK.

