

Foundation Stage Newsletter

Friday 25th September 2026



Reception

This week has whizzed by, I can't believe we are at the end of another week! This week we have enjoyed another new story from our Story Cupboard...Not a Stick! The children have used their imaginations to think about the endless possibilities of a stick...it could be a fishing rod, a sword, a broom, pencils and paintbrushes to name a few! They have used sticks in their play, in the dough, in the sand, decorated them with paper and ribbons, raced them down water chutes. As part of our Geography learning we have created a 'journey stick', collecting things from our walk around school, sticking them on our stick to help us remember where we had been and what we had seen! In Art, Mrs Lewis showed us how we could use our sticks to be paintbrushes. We used sticks as beaters in Music to discover the different sounds we could make tapping sticks onto different surfaces. We have talked about our feelings and emotions, joined in Phonics and Maths sessions and even a handwriting session yesterday. As well as all of this, we have been for our first run on the Daily Mile track, played inside, completed phonics challenges, maths challenges, drawing and plenty of story telling and enjoyed water play and building obstacle courses outdoors. It really has been a busy week!

PHONICS SESSION

Thank you to those of you who were able to join us yesterday to find out what our phonics learning looks like. If you were unable to attend this session, I will offer another session. As soon as I have a date and time confirmed, I will let you know! It is so important that you understand how to support your child as they start on their more formal journey towards becoming a reader and writer.

LIBRARY BOOKS

We were so pleased to see that EVERYONE brought their Library book back on Monday ready to change it for a new one! We will visit the Library again on Monday, so please help the children remember to bring back their bag and book. The children will have stamps added to their library card and they will also get a 'green point' on our 'Track it' traffic light behaviour chart! Unfortunately, we cannot lend books unless the book is returned.

HOMEWORK CHALLENGE – an EvidenceMe challenge!

Next week as part of our History learning, we will be thinking about the children when they were babies as well as the sorts of toys they liked to play. Please could you upload a photo of your child as a baby on to EvidenceMe. Please choose this with your child so they know which to look out for when we look through them, they sometimes don't recognise themselves! We will look through a few each day so please upload these by Monday – thank you! You can also upload photos of things the children have been getting up to away from school. We love to see what they have done over the weekend, celebrate achievements in swimming, gymnastics, football or any other club or simply having fun at home!

If you are having any problems accessing EvidenceMe, please come and see me, I will do my best to sort out any problems.

You can pass on quick messages at the gate in the mornings, but if you have questions or queries that need a bit longer, please wait at the end of the day and I can talk to you once all the children have been dismissed. You can also email me at kburns@bromhills.dudley.sch.uk and I will get back to you, although it may not be the same day. If you have a more urgent message or more general query, the office will be happy to help.

ENJOY THE WEEKEND AND I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL AGAIN ON MONDAY!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 29th Sept and Thursday 1st October – parents' meetings

Thursday 15th October – School Autumn Fayre

Friday 23rd October @2.15pm: Autumn Story and Craft session (details to follow)

Friday 23rd October is also the last day of the half term!

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Pre-School

These weeks do fly by!! We have continued our topic of "All About Me" Thank you to those who sent pictures in through EvidenceMe. The children loved telling their peers who lives in their house. If you do need any support, please just ask. The children love it when they see their own pictures on interactive whiteboard! This week we have been using building blocks to build houses. We talked about features that a house may have! Windows, doors, roof, garden and maybe a garage! We have also been doing the same with magnetic shapes. We have looked at different multi-cultural books/stories and pictures and discussed how some people have different hair colour/skin colour and different homes!

Children have also drawn who lives in their house! Please see these pictures on our lovely Art Gallery! I hope you have all received a Forest School letter — **Please let me know if you have not!** As we are starting Forest school next week — for the next few days, please can you encourage your child to be more independent when getting changed, putting their own coats on, putting their shoes on! Being independent and learning these crucial skills are very important at this age.

It seems too early to be discussing Reception and Primary Schools but from the 1st of October you will be able to apply for your child's Primary School. You must apply by 15th January Please see the last page of this newsletter for all the details.

Please make sure you check your child's drawer as it will have moved and see what group they are in, and who their key person is too.

Please bear with us when dismissing the children. We are learning all about the children as well as who comes to collect them. We are teaching them to sit on the carpet and not to get up until they are called by a teacher and walking to their parent/carer so thank you for your co-operation with regards to this! Please make sure you check your child's drawer daily.

REMINDERS —

- We do have wrap around spaces available for your child to stay all day so if this is something you would like please speak to myself and we can look at availability for you and talk about costs/times etc.
- Please can you make sure your child has a coat, a bag of spare clothes and a pair of wellies in school as we go outside daily in all weathers!
- **Just a reminder** — please let a member of staff know if anyone else is collecting your child and make them aware of the password. Otherwise, we will not let them go unless a message has been received.
- **Please name everything!** This includes spare clothes/shoes/wellies etc!
- In the main office on Granville Drive, there is our spare uniform, which is free to all parents/carers, so please just help yourselves!
- Don't forget to like our Facebook page to find out all the exciting things we do across school!
- Pre-School don't do a parents evening at the start of term. Ours will be in the Summer Term. Any questions or queries about your child, please just ask a member of staff and once all the children have been dismissed we are happy to answer any questions.

EvidenceMe — As I have said above thank you to those who sent in pictures over the weekend. If you are struggling or unsure on how to upload pictures, please just ask! Your little challenge this week is — Can you send a picture of your child as a baby? We will be looking and comparing how and why we are different! Any questions or if you need support please just ask or email me on epowis@bromhills.dudley.sch.uk Many Thanks — Have a lovely weekend!

IMPORTANT DATES

Thursday 15th October — Autumn Fayre

Tuesday 20th October — Individual school photos

Break up for half term - Friday 23rd October

Back to school - Monday 2nd November

Friday 20th November - Children In Need

Tuesday 8th December — Pre-School Nativity at 10.30am

Christmas trip to be confirmed at a later date

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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 0800 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.



Please see next page.

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Important Information

Dudley Parent Carer Forum Annual Survey 2026



We are currently running our annual survey and need your help!

- ⇒ Are you a parent / carer / guardian?
- ⇒ Do you have a child/young person with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND) between the ages of 0-25?
- ⇒ Do you live in Dudley?

If so, we need your views!

Our survey takes around 10-15 minutes to complete. We ask questions regarding a range of services within the local area to help us to capture the true feelings of parent carers in the borough.

The results are independently evaluated by the parent carer forum.

Scan the QR code to complete:



Survey open between 1st September - 1st November 2026



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Important Information

The closing date for Reception 2026 applications is approaching. Therefore, if you have a child born between 01/9/2021 – 31/8/2022, an application form for Reception September 2026 needs to be completed by **15th January 2026**. Parents can make their application via the following link: www.dudley.gov.uk/residents/learning-and-school/school-information/school-admissions/primary-reception-intake/

Starting primary school in September 2027

Why not apply for a place online?

If your child was born between 1 September 2022 and 31 August 2023 they will be due to start primary school in September 2027.

You **MUST** complete an application form either online at www.dudley.gov.uk/admissions or by completing an application form from your home local authority by **15 JANUARY 2027**. You can include five school preferences on the application; there is nothing to gain by only putting one preference.

Applications will be available from **1 October 2026**.

Benefits of applying online

- E-mail decision received by 2pm on day of offer
- It's quick and easy to use
- You can apply 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- There's no risk that your application will be lost in the post
- You will get email confirmation that your application has been received
- It's safe and secure

The online system will be available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week from 1 October 2026 until the closing date for applications on **15 January 2027**.

Please note: Even if your child already attends a school nursery or has an older sibling at school, do not assume that your child will automatically gain a place at that school. This is a common misconception and often the biggest cause of disappointment for parents who believe otherwise.

For further information please contact Dudley School Admissions Service on **0300 555 2345**.



one click ... makes it quick
www.dudley.gov.uk/admissions

