Foundation Stage Newsletter
Friday 6th November 2026

RECEPTION

I hope you all enjoyed the half term break, it has been lovely to welcome the children back to school– they have enjoyed catching up with their friends and sharing their news. We have loved looking at photos on EvidenceMe too – thank you to all of you who shared photos.

This week we have started some new learning about Autumn celebrations starting with Bonfire Night and found out why we remember 5th November. We have talked about how this happened a long time ago or 'in the past' which is a phrase that we are finding out about through our History. The children enjoyed helping to make a 'guy' and have created firework artwork by printing with kitchen foil and then adding the all important sparkles! We have listened to part of the story 'The Owl who was afraid of the Dark' where the little owl found out that dark is exciting because you get to see fireworks. They drew some of the characters from the story and had a go at adding labels for who they had drawn. The children have shared their experiences of seeing fireworks already, needing to wrap up warm and eating treats and toffee apples! We used our hall time to play some listening games before using ribbons and scarves to join in with a firework dance. In RE we talked about family celebrations, there was lots of chat about how they celebrate their birthdays! In Maths, we have thought about the number 5, noticing that there are 5 fingers on one hand, noticing the pattern of 5 on a dice and some children noticed that 5 and another 5 is 10. We talked about how '5' could be made up of 5 lots of ones. We used the rhyme 5 Little Peas in a pea pod pressed – I'll upload a short clip to EvidenceMe in case the children want to show you at home. In Phonics we have sung lots of Nursery Rhymes listening out for the rhyming words as well as practising segmenting and blending using the letters we learnt before half term. Next week we will meet a few new letters – 'g' and 'o'...I wonder what the children can find at home that start with those sounds – glasses, grass, go-kart, orange. And of course as well as all of this we have been on the Daily Mile, played hide and seek games indoors and outside, enjoyed obstacle courses, exploring making prints in the playdough with pumpkins, selling ice-creams and wondering when we can decorate the home corner ready for Christmas! Mr Earp, popped in to read us a story on Wednesday and was impressed with how well everyone listened...I wonder who will come to read a story next week! As always we have been incredibly busy!

Next Tuesday and Wednesday, Miss Rubery will be with the children as I will be on home visits with Mrs Randle visiting the new children joining Pre-School in January. Please can you let her know who will be picking up your child at the end of the day if it will not be you...and bear with her as she puts names and faces together! Miss May and Miss Kazakova will be there too

VISIT TO LITTLE OWL FARM

Thank you for returning the slips on the 'letter of intention' regarding our proposed visit to Little Owl Farm Park in April. We have had a positive response and I'm happy to say we can proceed with confirming our booking. 21st April is our proposed date and I will confirm a date later on. After the Christmas break I will send further details of the trip as well as how to make payment, which you will be able to do through the My Child at School app as a one-off payment or in instalments.

LIBRARY BOOKS

It was brilliant to see how many children had brought back their library books after two weeks – well done everyone! We were able to award more 'Book Worm' certificates for returning their books 5 times. Please help the children to remember to bring back their book on Monday.

CHILDREN IN NEED

Please see the main school newsletter for what events and activities our School Council have got planned to raise money for the BBC's Children in Need appeal – I think it might involve cakes and pyjamas!

HOMEWORK CHALLENGE

In Science, the children have been talking about different types of weather and starting to make a weather chart – they are bringing one home to complete over the next week – happy weather watching!

You can 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. **HAVE A LOVELY WEEKEND, SEE YOU ALL AGAIN ON MONDAY**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY – please check Mr Stevens' Newsletter too!

Friday 13th November – Children in Need
Wednesday 9th December – Christmas Dinner
Thursday 10th December @ 2pm – Reception Nativity Celebration
Thursday 17th December – Christmas Party afternoon
Friday 18th December - Christmas Jumpers SCHOOL CLOSES AT 2pm.

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Pre-School

I hope you all had a lovely half term. And thank you for all the lovely Autumn bags! We had lots of different Autumny items which was brilliant!! We have put them into a little tuft tray which I hope you have all seen. It's also been lovely to hear what the children have been up too especially dressing up for Halloween. This half term is going to be an extremely busy one so please keep an eye out on the dates below as there is a lot happening in and out of school. This week we have enjoyed celebrating Bonfire. We have watched some firework displays on the whiteboard and shouting out what colours we could see. Outside we painted one hand red, and one hand yellow. We had to mix them together to see what new colour we made! Once we had the colour orange, we used our handprints as fire on the bonfire picture! Some children drew fireworks on black card with different coloured chalks. We even did this outside on the playground! We have used a tray with paper, marbles and paint to create our own fireworks in a different way. Children had to carefully roll the marbles through the paint to cause a firework affect!

Finally, Forest School. As we have been celebrating Bonfire this week, children were able to make their own sparklers using sticks, leaves and glitter. In the mud kitchen children were making their own Autumn soup using lentils/carrots! And finally, we had our first fire in our fire pit. The children were amazing. They all sat beautifully around the fire pit whilst Miss Hawthorne lit the fire. We used the Kelly Kettle to boil some water for us to have some yummy milk/ hot chocolate. We were very proud of each and every one of them as they listened brilliantly! Well done Pre-School.

This was our last Forest School for this term. A new letter will be sent out after Christmas with new dates on.

Phonics – From now on in Phonics, we will be learning a new sound a week. This week has been ssssss squishy strawberry! Children know when they see the strawberry to make the correct sound. Please see Evidence Me on the sound, picture and sign we are learning. We will constantly emphasis initial sounds of words beginning with s this week such as sssssand, sssstar etc. Please do this at home too!

Maths – In Maths this week, we have been looking at number 1! We have been learning how number 1 is always on its own. 1 apple, 1 table, 1 pen etc Also learning to give just 1 item. Can you give me 1 cup, 1 orange etc.

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.

REMINDERS – Please always read the main school newsletter too!

- IMPORTANT – **We are still missing quite a few volunteer forms for the adult who is coming on the Dudley Zoo trip. Please can these be returned on Monday at the latest. This is so we can sort all paperwork.**
- Contributions are now available on your My Child At School app. Please remember if we do not have enough donations, we will have to cancel our lovely trip. Any problems please come and speak to a member of staff.
- Christmas Inspire letter has now been sent! Please make sure you tick if you can attend on the list in the corridor. Donations will be made available nearer the time. Thank you so much.

EvidenceMe –. As we are looking at number 1 in Maths, can you go on a little number hunt, either around home, out in the shops, out for a walk and try and find the number 1. This could be on a clock, a road sign, or in a shop! How many can you find? Have a lovely weekend. 😊 Any questions or if you need support please just ask or email me on epowis@bromhills.dudley.sch.uk

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Friday 13th November** - Children In Need
- **Friday 4th December** – Dudley Zoo trip 9.00am
- **Tuesday 8th December** – Pre-School Nativity at 10.30am
- **Wednesday 9th December** – Christmas Dinner (Wrap around children only)
- **Tuesday 15th December** – Inspire 10.45am
- **Thursday 17th December** – Christmas Party day
- **Friday 18th December** – Christmas Jumper day and HALF DAY. Pre-School finishes at 11.30am – **NO WRAP AROUND**

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Important Information

- **From Public Health** – Please clink 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.



Please see next page.

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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**.

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

one click . . . makes it quick

www.dudley.gov.uk/admissions

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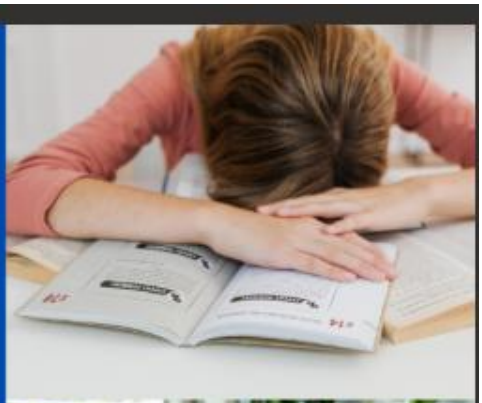
Are you seperated or divorced ?

WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS / CARERS

If you are struggling with managing Seperation / Divorce and coparenting, then Family transitions is for you. You do not have to attend together with your ex. You are welcome to bring a friend / relative for support

Workshop Highlights:

- Relaxation techniques
- Reduce conflict
- How to talk to children about seperation / divorce
- How to support children through their emotions / behaviour
- Coomunication with ex - if applicable
- Manage stress, anxiety and a new way of life







COME & GET YOUR FREE GOODY BAG & VOUCHER

WE MEET EVERY WEDNESDAY 12: 30 - 2: 30 PM

AT DUDLEY FAMILY HUB - DY2 8LJ

STARTING 28TH OCTOBER 2026 FOR 5 WEEKS

YOU CAN ALSO ATTEND VIA TEAMS : EMAIL PARENTING@DUDLEY.GOV.UK

YOU CAN BRING A FRIEND/RELATIVE FOR SUPPORT

BEST START IN LIFE

Dudley family hub network

Triple P

