Foundation Stage Newsletter
Friday 20th November 2026

RECEPTION

We have had such a lot of fun this week thinking about bears, bear caves and animals that hibernate. Thank you to all of you who helped the children complete their homework challenge by building a den and sending us a photo – the children always love to share their photos.

Our story this week has been 'Bear Snores On' about a bear who sleeps in his den while other animals creep in, light a fire to keep warm, eat, drink and have a little party whilst the 'bear snores on', until the bear wakes up and is sad that he missed the party! Inspired by the bear in his den, the children helped create a cave/ den role play area, complete with 'fire', blankets and food. They have used some larger boxes to climb in for dens and used felt pens to add drawing and writing. They have drawn maps, written party invitations, made masks, made tea in the water tray and built bear caves in the dough adding sticks, stones and of course some little bears! They have written the password to the den using the phonics/ sounds that they know...and outside the children have used the new shelter that Mr Earp has built us to act out the story of 'Bear Snores On'...it really has been a lot of fun. In Maths we have been thinking about how '3' is made up of smaller parts...it could be 1 and 1 and 1 OR 2 and 1. We talked about how whole things like a completed puzzle can be made up of smaller parts and how 'whole' numbers can be made up of smaller parts too. As well as all of this there has been time go on the Daily Mile, practise our Nativity songs, practise anti-clockwise circles as part of our handwriting (in preparation for forming c,a,o,d,g), learn new sounds in phonics, go to the Hall for rhymes, games and parachute games...and Mr Stevens joined us to see what learning we were getting up to and was very impressed with how well the children joined in with learning on the carpet and when they were joining in with their self-chosen activities. We have also (jointly) written a letter to send to 'Reindeerland' and are really hoping we will get a reply. So the very special resident of Reindeerland would know where to send a reply we had to write the school address on the back and this then to a discussion about knowing our own home address – the street name, house number and town, and how important it is that they know this. This will be part of their homework this week!

Thank you for the boxes you have sent in this week...we'd love more boxes, especially smaller ones that we could use to practise out wrapping skills! Children always love to wrap 'presents' so a good supply of boxes/ tubes would be amazing

VISIT TO LITTLE OWL FARM

You will receive a letter next week with further details of our visit to Little Owl Farm. It will also have the details of the payment plan we have set up and the date that it will go live.

LIBRARY BOOKS

Mrs Botfield from Year 1 came to see us this week with some exciting news about how there are new books going into the Library! She was very impressed to hear the children explain that they replace their books onto the shelf with the spine facing out. We can't wait to visit the Library on Monday to see what new books there are and to choose another book to bring home. Please help the children to remember to bring their book back.

NATIVITY CELEBRATION

The children should have come home with a letter about what they would like to dress up as for our Nativity celebration, it was lovely to see how excited they were to bring their letter to you! Please come and see us if you have any questions. We want the children to be happy and confident as they sing so if they change their mind about what to wear, that is fine! They are practising the songs and picking up the words and tunes really well!

HOMEWORK CHALLENGE

The children have come home with the next phonics newsletter along with letter logs and tricky words. I've challenged them to learn the tricky words and to keep practising segmenting and blending too!

Following on from our letter writing activity, please help the children to learn their home address – the number and street name and town. This is a really important thing for them to be able to recall

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 an 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!

Wednesday 9th December – Christmas Dinner

Thursday 10th December @ 2pm – Reception Nativity Celebration

Thursday 17th December – Christmas Party afternoon

Foundation Stage Newsletter
Friday 20th November 2026

Pre-School

Thank you to those who have brought Junk Modelling in, please bring more as next week we will be continuing building a range of different things related to our topic of Day/Light and Night/Dark such as rockets, spaceships, dens for our nocturnal animals etc. This week we have being talking lots about our topic and asking lots of 'when' questions. For example, when do we have a bath? Day or nighttime (or both) When do we eat our breakfast etc. Thank you to those who sent photos in! The children have absolutely loved our Space Tuff Tray. They were very excited to play with the rocket and astronauts. We made up different stories about going to the moon! We listened to the story Whatever Next. All about a little teddy who went to the moon! Here is the link for an online version Whatever Next by Jill Murphy
We have been enjoying playing with our light board this week and our light up pebbles which change colour. Children have decorated their own Rainbow using different coloured paints. We explained how rainbows appear, mixing the weathers sun/rain. We have been printing with neon paint and black paper and cars!
If your children are coming home singing some unfamiliar songs, we have been practising our Christmas Nativity songs! The children are getting so good at remembering the songs and actions. Don't forget their costumes! Please try these on at home first just in case they need altering.

Phonics – From now on in Phonics, we will be learning a new sound a week. This week has been ttt terrific tiger. Children know when they see the tiger 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 't' this week such as tttttall or ttttwinkle. Please do this at home too!

Maths – In Maths this week, we have been continuing to look at number 2! We have been recapping the numeral 2 and recognising number 2. We have been playing a game where children had to find 2 objects only. This time we had a bunch of items. (5/6) But this time can they give you 2 apples, 2 spoons, 2 peas.

Could we please have some more junk modelling? Just make sure they are empty and clean – boxes, plastic tubs, yogurt pots, plastic bottles, etc. We will be using lots of these over the next few weeks!

Also because the weather is becoming a lot colder, can you make sure your child brings into school hat, gloves, scarf, as you know we are outside in all weathers – snow, wind, cold - so children need to be wrapped up!

REMINDERS – Please always read the main school newsletter too!

- Thank you so much to those who have contributed towards the Dudley Zoo trip, we can confirm this will go ahead.
- Donations for Christmas Inspire will be put on MCAS app next week so if you can please make the donation and this all goes towards our Christmas crafts! (And maybe some biscuits!) Please make sure you tick if you can attend on the list in the corridor. Thank you so much.

EvidenceMe – Please see EvidenceMe for your challenge over the weekend!

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday 4th December – Dudley Zoo trip. Please arrive at school at 9.00am at the usual door. The children can wear their own suitable clothing. Please ensure this includes weather appropriate clothes such as wellies/boots and a waterproof coat. Please remember to bring a packed lunch/drinks for yourself and your child. There is a café on site where you can purchase drinks and food if you wish. You will be given an itinerary and information to read when you arrive that morning.

- **Tuesday 8th December** – Pre-School Nativity at 10.30am
- **Wednesday 9th December** – Christmas Dinner (Wrap around 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**

Foundation Stage Newsletter
Friday 20th November 2026

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