Foundation Stage Newsletter
Friday 16th October 2026

RECEPTION

Can you believe we have only one week until the first half term is over! This week has flown by...full of lots of learning and lots of fun too! We have continued learning about all things Autumny with a bingo game and a pumpkin story for Drawing Club – The Roll Away Pumpkin! It has a similar structure to the Gingerbread Man where the characters chase after the giant pumpkin which ended up in a giant cooking pot! The children quickly remembered the order of the chasers and drew and labelled things from the story. Many of them were able to segment and spell 'pot' which was brilliant to see! We have been working on our Autumn treasure artwork adding paint and pastel, and some glitter too – we can't wait to show you next Friday. We have also tried a different way to mix autumn colours by rolling conkers through paints! In Maths we have been thinking about the numbers 3 and 4, trying to recognise when there are 3 or 4 items without needing to count each item – this is called 'subitising' and is a skill that we will keep practising throughout the year. In Phonics we have been learning 2 new sounds – 'n,n,n...naughty nose' and 'm,m,m...marvellous mouse'. We've talked about how you have to have lips together for 'm' but your tongue has to touch the top of your mouth for 'n' and 'push' the sound out of your nose! They are very tricky to differentiate!

We loved our History session this week, talking about the toys the children played with 'in the past' – when they were babies! Thank you to those of you who sent in photos, the children love to share these. As well as all of this we talked about people who help us, thought about noticing different emotions in other people and what we might say to them, especially if they looked sad or lonely, we have been on the Daily Mile and played games in the hall. And on Wednesday we had a special visitor come to story time– Mrs Rogers, our Deputy Head came to read us a Kipper story. She was very impressed with how well the children sat and listened and said she would definitely like to come back for another story time! We have another special visitor to come and read a story one day next week but the children will have to wait to see who walks through the door!

A PUMPKIN PLEA

As many of the children are talking about pumpkins, we will be exploring and investigating pumpkins in our indoor and outdoor play. We have a few in school ready, but if you feel you could donate a pumpkin (all shapes and sizes welcome!) or any of the smaller 'munchkins' to add to the fun, that would be brilliant. It means we get to have more pumpkin fun! Any donations can come in from Monday morning and will be much appreciated ...thanking you in advance.

AUTUMN STORY CAFE – FRIDAY 23rd OCTOBER @ 2.15pm

We are looking forward to you joining us next Friday afternoon for story sharing and crafts...and of course sweet treats! The children will have their drinks bottles in school with them. If you have a lidded cup, bring it along, we will have a tea/ coffee station where you can help yourself to a hot drink. The last day to sign up will be TUESDAY, If you are unable to make it due to work commitments, another family members (up to 2) are more than welcome to join us!

LIBRARY BOOKS

I am so impressed with the number of children who remember to bring back their Library book every week. It is 3 more sleeps until our last visit of the half term – this time you will be able to keep the books over the half term holiday, but please remember to return them on MONDAY 2nd NOVEMBER. For children who will have earnt their 5th stamp, there will be a little certificate coming home during the week too!

HOMEWORK CHALLENGE

It's a Maths challenge this week – the children are bringing home a spotted piece of paper. The idea is that if you say 3, they have to draw round a group of three dots; if you say 4, they have to draw round a group of 4 dots. Keep going with the 3 or 4 until they have grouped as many as they can! We have had a go in school, so they should be able to tell you how to play, but I'll upload a short video to EvidenceMe too!

Remember you can upload any photos from your weekend, clubs, achievements – we love to see and hear about what the children get up to!

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.

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday 20th October – School photos

Friday 23rd October @2.15pm: Autumn Story Café

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Pre-School

We cannot quite believe our first half term is nearly over, and we are so proud of all the children of how well they have settled in or settled back into Pre-School. Independence is a massive thing at this age so over half term just try and continue to encourage your child to get dressed themselves, put their own coat/shoes on etc. This helps their confidence and self-esteem!

This week in Pre-School we have enjoyed another week of Autumn! Next week will be finishing our Autumn topic and briefly touching on Halloween! As we have been looking at nocturnal animals, we made a hedgehog. We made a hedgehog out of clay, we had to mould the clay into a ball, made a nose and put lots of spikes on our hedgehog with 2 googly eyes! They looked brilliant! We had a messy tuff tray outside with some cornflour and chia seeds which made a slime! We enjoyed exploring this and using describing words such as cold, sticky, slimy and bitty!

Phonics - We have started our little groups of Phonics where we have been using our listening ears and increasing our attention skills. We have introduced Listening Len who is a character in Supersonic Phonics (the scheme we follow) We played the same game as last week where we have had a box of different items and we have had to use our listening skills to see if we can guess what it is! For example, it has 4 legs, it can be black and white and lives on a farm – what is it? A Cow! We are also playing memory games. We have a tray of 4/5 items, children close their eyes while one item is taken away. Can they guess correctly!

Maths – In Maths this week, we have been sorting! We have been sorting objects in colours – all red items together/blue items together and sorting them into sizes – big, medium and big.

A PUMPKIN PLEA: Next week we would like to do some pumpkin investigating. We have a few in school already but if you are able to contribute a pumpkin to help us with this, (ANY COLOUR ANY SIZE!) please bring one along on Monday – This would help hugely – Thanks in advance!

Another lovely Forest School session!! Again we enjoyed the den building and making camp 'fires' under the shelters. And of course, lots of bug hunting. Children made their own journey stick! This is finding different items around Forest School. Then using these and double sided sticky tape to attach this onto a stick! Encourage your child to talk about their journey stick! Where did they find that leaf/flower/etc. Please continue to 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.

REMINDERS –

- **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.

EvidenceMe – We are having a few more challenges being completed at home so please keep these up! This weekends challenge is another Maths challenge! Can your child find 2 items (similar items as 2 teddys, 2 dinosaurs, 2 pens – but one must be small and one must be big, can they identify which is biggest? And which is smallest? And please use the correct mathematical language when doing this. Small, smallest, big/large, biggest/largest. 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

Tuesday 20th October – Individual school photos
Back to school - Monday 2nd November
Friday 4th December – Dudley Zoo trip
Beak up for half term - Friday 23rd October
Friday 20th November - Children In Need
Tuesday 8th December – Pre-School Nativity at 10.30am

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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



Please see next page.

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.

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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/



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