

Foundation Stage Newsletter

Friday 9th October 2026



RECEPTION

We have had a lovely week, starting to find out about all things Autumn! The children have been very excited to share their Autumn treasure finds. They have made some careful observational drawings of some of the items they have found and are now turning their sketches into a piece of artwork which we will look forward to showing at our Story Café afternoon! Our story this week has been 'the Leaf Thief' where we met a very confused squirrel who couldn't work out where all the leaves were going. On our visit to the Daily Mile we collected lots of leaves and then used them to decorate a squirrel. We have also thought about the Autumn colours of the leaves and used red and yellow paints to add leaves to a tree, quickly realising that, mixed together, they made orange. The children used cotton buds to dot the leaves on – this is great for getting those fingers working reading for forming letters. We have started letter formation, starting with the family of letters that start with a straight vertical line...i,t,l. In Maths, we have been 'unpacking' the numbers 3 and 4, finding out that they can be made of 3 or 4 ones. The children have been making collections of 3 or 4 things from around the classroom – I wonder where they can notice 3 or 4 things at home or out and about – 4 plates set at the table, 4 tyres on the car, 3 wheels on a trike. In RE we have thought about people who are special to us and in PSHE we explored the emotions of 'excited' and 'calm'. We have visited the Hall for ring games, songs and listening games and in Phonics have met the letter 'i'...i,i,i...in the igloo! We have also looked at 3 tricky words: 'I', 'is' and 'the': these are words that need to be learnt by sight as they cannot be sounded out.

Next week we will be sharing the NSPCC 'PANTS' message – this is an important message to help children understand that their bodies are private. Here is the link to the song we will share <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/advice-for-families/pants-underwear-rule/> and you will find further information on the page which may support conversations at home. If you have any questions, please do come and ask.

AUTUMN STORY CAFE – FRIDAY 23rd OCTOBER @ 2.15pm

This will be the first of our Story Café's across the year. We are inviting you to come along into the classroom where we will share a story and then there will be crafts and activities linked to the story for you to join in with. Our story for this session will link to Autumn. In true café style, the kitchen team will be supplying us with some baked goodies! So that they know how many treats to bake, we will need to know how many of you are able to make it. We would ask, if possible that each child has a maximum of 2 'guests' with them. We will put out a signing up sheet from Monday where you can indicate how many 'guests' each child will have. It's going to be a lovely afternoon and a great way to finish off the first half term!

LIBRARY BOOKS

3 more sleeps until it is time for us to visit our Library again! There is such a buzz of excitement as the children return their books, choose their stamp and most importantly, browse the shelves for their next read! Please help the children to remember to bring their book back and earn a 'reading at home' green Trackit point!

HOMEWORK CHALLENGE

We loved looking at the baby photos last week and this week's homework challenge is another 'baby' related task. Next week, we will be thinking about the toys that we played with as babies – maybe there was a particular favourite, maybe there's a favourite cuddly. Please talk to the children about what you remember them playing with and if you have photos of the children playing with those toys, we'd love to see them on EvidencME! We will also be finding out about toys from the past, so maybe you could talk to them about the toys you remember playing with or even ask grandparents great grandparents! We will look at the photos on WEDNESDAY so please upload any photos by then.

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

Thursday 15th October – School Autumn Fayre

Friday 23rd October @2.15pm: Autumn Story Café

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Pre-School

This week in Pre-School we have been looking at the lovely topic of 'Autumn!' We love this topic as there are such a lot to do! We looked at some Autumn pictures on the whiteboard which includes different coloured leaves, conkers, acorns, some animals such as hedgehogs, badgers, bats and foxes! We enjoyed playing in Autumn tuff tray with deer's, moose's, squirrels, and hedgehogs. We have been strengthening our finger muscles by wrapping elastic bands around the pinecones and using scissors to cut the leaves outside. We have been painting Autumn trees by using stampers and autumn-coloured paints to decorate our tree!

Please see these on our lovely Art Display in the classroom.

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 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!

Maths – In Maths we are now concentrating on matching so matching items which are the same. For example, making 2 towers that are the same, matching gloves and shoes that are the same.

Another lovely Forest School session!! We tried hard to remember our important rules – dragging sticks, not going through the fire pit and no running when it is extra muddy! We did some mud painting and because of the weather we built some dens to keep dry! And of course lots of bug hunting. 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.

Next week we will be sharing the NSPCC 'PANTS' message – this is an important message to help children understand that their bodies are private. Here is the link to the song we will share <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/advice-for-families/pants-underwear-rule/> and you will find further information on the page which may support conversations at home. If you have any questions, please do come and ask.

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 –

- 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.
- **You should of all had a Christmas Trip letter about our visit to see Santa! How exciting!** If you have not please get it touch with the office immediately. Any problems please come and speak to a member of staff. **04/12/2026**
- ***Please could we have some junk modelling!*** Children love to build/make/model This is anything that can be recycled – cardboard boxes/yoghurt pots/plastic tubs/tubes etc. We just ask they are washed/dried thoroughly when you bring them in so we can build with them straight away. Thank you.

EvidenceMe – We didn't have many photos from last week's challenge so please continue to do these challenges! Children love to see their pictures on the whiteboard and will have a sticker for completing the challenge! If you haven't completed the I Spy challenge, then can you complete this this weekend. (I Spy with colours) If you have already done this, can you find something that matches around your home. This could be Daddys socks, Mommys gloves, 2 apples which are the same, 2 towers made with blocks that are the same. Send a few different items! 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

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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



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Important Information

A great start in life Do you have a child under 5? Would you like to:

- feel more confident as a parent?
- reduce mealtime stress?
- enjoy being active as a family more often?
- encourage your child away from screens and TV?
- see your child eat more fruit and vegetables?
- gain ideas to help with family routines?

"I will be recommending this course to everyone. Thank you for this life changing opportunity."

Free Healthy Families Right from the Start programmes

Day/time: Thursday, 9:30-12:00pm

Start date: 8th October 2026

End date: 3rd December 2026

Length: 8 sessions

An optional session will take place on the 1st October for participants to learn more about the course and meet the facilitators.

Venue: Woodside Primary School, Highgate Rd, Dudley DY2 0SN



How to book a place

Visit www.dudleyparents.co.uk or scan the QR Code and click on the HENRY tile to book your place