Foundation Stage Newsletter
Friday 23rd October 2026

RECEPTION

And just like that, the first half term in over! The children have made a great start to their Reception year, learnt so many new things and have had lots of fun along the way! All the adults who have worked with us this half term have commented on the kindness the children show towards each other and how helpful they are too! We are incredibly proud of them all! This week has taken a Halloween turn as the children enthusiastically talk about costumes, parties, decorations at home and pumpkin carving. Our story from the Story Cupboard has been 'What's in the witch's Kitchen?' which they have just loved...finding nice and nasty things to eat! They drew what they thought the witch looks like and created their own dish to serve, drawing and writing their ingredients – a mouse, spider, skeleton, bat or teeth! We have had lots of fun in the home corner which we turned into the witch's kitchen. The pumpkins have been great fun, thank you for your contributions! We've been excavating them, using the pulp and seeds to make soup, covering them in play dough, making crazy elastic band patterns and so much more! In Maths we have used the mathematical language of 'more than' and 'fewer than', noticing out of two groups of items which had 'more' than or 'fewer than' the other. 'Fewer than' is a more unusual phrase, so we will keep noticing and practising over the year! We've been on the Daily Mile, been to play games in the Hall, smiled our best smile for school photos, drawn spiders and webs, mixed potions, thought about what we might we might want in a calm corner...and on Tuesday we had a special visitor come to story time– Mr Stevens came to read us another Kipper story. He was also impressed with how well the children sat and listened. He was also very please to be able to present Bronze Certificates to children who have earned 100 green Trackit points – well done! We have another special visitor to come and read a story after half term but the children will have to wait to see who walks through the door!

AUTUMN STORY CAFE – FRIDAY 23rd OCTOBER @ 2.15pm

Thank you for signing up to our first Story Café! As I write this (Thursday!) I'm anticipating we will have a lovely afternoon of story sharing and come Autumn/ Halloween crafts. The kitchen are busy baking us flapjacks and Miss May, Miss Kazakova and I are looking forward to seeing you all!

LIBRARY BOOKS

WOW!! We had everybody bringing back their Library book ready for their final swap of the half term. The children have been reminded that they can keep this book for two weeks. Some children have earned their first 'Book Worm' certificate this week too for 5 swaps! Please help the children to remember to bring back their book on the first day back!

HOMEWORK CHALLENGE

The main homework this coming week is to have lots of rest and relaxation, with a good helping of fun too! The children have worked so hard over the last 8 weeks, they more than deserve some time to reset and catch their breath before the next half term starts! I have sent home their phonics sheets covering the 4 sounds that we have learnt. Lots of the children are still practising blending a word together once they have heard the sounds (without looking at the letter shapes) and segmenting a 3 sound word that they hear – again, not reading. These are vital 'pre-reading' skills that need mastering in order to segment and blend written words. Please listen to the video clip on EvidenceMe so you can support their learning at home too – just a little each day!

As part of our RE learning next term we are thinking about 'special times' and the celebrations we take part in as a family – birthdays, religious festivals, Halloween, weddings. Please upload a photo of a family celebration so that your child can show it to the rest of the children and give us a good understanding of what 'special times' are and how they differ from family to family. We will do this on FRIDAY 6th NOVEMBER.

We'd love to see what adventures the children get up to over the half term break, whether this is days away, quiet days playing at home, baking, trips to the park, or trying something new! Remember you can upload photos from your half term break, clubs, achievements to EvidenceMe.

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 HALF TERM BREAK AND WE CAN'T WAIT TO WELCOME YOU BACK ON MONDAY 2nd NOVEMEBER

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

Friday 20th 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

That's it!! We cannot quite believe our first half term is over and we are so proud of all the children! I said this last week, but 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 we have been looking at and celebrating Halloween! The children have been decorating pumpkins with faces. They chose 2 eyes, nose and a mouth to stick on. Also, they have been using paint and fairy liquid to create their own cauldron bubbles! We have been exploring pumpkins using magnifying glasses. We cut them in half and used the tweezers to pick out the seeds. Thank you so much to those who brought a pumpkin in to explore, we appreciate your support! We enjoyed more messy play this week making potions! We used water and chia seeds again to make slime and different potions in our cauldrons! As well as looking at Halloween we also has our weekly visit from Catherine from Dudley Performing Arts teaching us some new songs about Autumn/Halloween and also our school photos! All the children were brilliant. It can be a scary thing going somewhere we haven't been before (top hall) and having different faces telling us to smile!

Phonics – Listening Len has been very impressed with our listening skills over the last few weeks! After half term we will be concentrating on our sounds. I will update you weekly with the sound we are learning about. I will also upload some videos of how to continue this at home! We have continued 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 continuing to sort! But this time we have been sorting toys into groups. So we may have teddies and cars, or toys with wheels and toys with no wheels, or blocks and musical instruments. This is just to encourage children there are more than 1 way of sorting items.

We were very lucky we managed to get out this morning due to Storm Austin. We were lucky to have missed the storm this morning so we managed to have a fun/muddy and wet time! We tried hard to remember our important rules – dragging sticks, not going through the fire pit and no running when it is extra muddy! Children made clay faces this morning! Children used balls of clay to push onto trees and then they had to find natural resources for eyes, nose, hair, ears etc. They looked fab!

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.
- A letter will be sent out after half term about a Christmas Inspire session so please keep your eyes open for that.

EvidenceMe – Half term challenge!! Your child has been sent home with a Treasure Hunt Autumn Bag!! This is for when you are out and about, collect some lovely Autumny items. Conkers, acorns, different coloured leaves, pinecones etc. Have lots of fun and have a lovely half term! ☺ . Any questions or if you need support please just ask or email me on epowis@bromhills.dudley.sch.uk

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Monday 2nd November** – Back to School
- **Friday 20th 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)
- **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

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**.

Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council

one click . . . makes it quick

www.dudley.gov.uk/admissions