

Foundation Stage Newsletter

Friday 2nd October 2026



Reception

How is it Friday again! Thank you to all of you who came along to Parent's Meetings this week — it has been lovely to be able to meet with you and to share how well the children are adapting to life in Reception, getting to grips with new routines, new friendships...new everything! The next Parent's Meetings will take place in the Spring term, but if you have any questions or queries about your child's progress before that, please drop me a message and we can arrange a time to meet.

We have had another busy week. Our story this week has been The Enormous Turnip. We introduced the words 'enormous' and 'collaborate' and have been 'collaborating' in the classroom, especially at tidy up time! The children have drawn pictures of the characters in the story, sequenced pictures and retold the story. We have ordered turnips in size order and even made our own turnip soup in the water tray! In Maths we have been practising ways to be careful, accurate counters; in Art we have explored using pencils to draw; in PSHE we have thought about our feelings and created 4 feelings jars, associating different feelings with different colours — green for calm, red for angry, blue for sad and yellow for happy and excited. In RE we talked about how we are all special. In Phonics we have learnt the first 4 phonemes s,a,t,p. The children are remembering these brilliantly, recognising them in words all over the place! We have been practising reading and spelling out words using these sounds too — I have sent home some resources for you to support your child continue their learning at home and will upload a short video to EvidenceMe to explain what to do! As well as all of this, we have also been to the Daily Mile track and to the Hall for play ring games and some listening games!

PHONICS SESSION — THURSDAY 8th OCTOBER @ 3.30pm

I will be running another Phonics session next Thursday in the classroom for anyone who was unable to come along last week. It will be around 20 minutes, giving you an overview of the scheme we use and how we will teach your children as they start on their journey to become readers and writers! Mrs Lewis will be on hand to supervise any of the children and siblings. I look forward to seeing you!

LIBRARY BOOKS

Monday afternoons are fast becoming one of my favourite times of the week where I get to take some very excited children to visit our Library so that they can return and choose new books — I think the children are enjoying it too! All those that remembered their books on Monday have earned another stamp on their Library cards and I will have added green 'reading at home' points to their Trackit total! Please help the children to remember their book again on Monday, ready for a new book...3 more sleeps!

HOMEWORK CHALLENGE

The children loved being able to share their photos on the board and had lots of fun trying to work out who was who from the baby photos — thank you to all of you who joined in with the challenge! Next week we are going to start thinking about the wonderful season that is Autumn and how the natural world changes. We are also going to use our drawing skills to make some observational drawings of Autumn treasure — leaves, acorns, conkers, pine cones, sycamore keys. We are challenging the children to find some Autumn treasure ready for their drawing on WEDNESDAY — treasure is welcome before this too! Happy Autumn treasure hunting!

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 I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL AGAIN ON MONDAY!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

THURSDAY 8th OCTOBER — PHONICS MEETING in RB Straight after school

Thursday 15th October — School Autumn Fayre

Friday 23rd October @2.15pm: Autumn Story and Craft session — come along to share a story and join in with some Autumn crafts in the classroom — what a lovely way to finish off the half term! We will have treats baked by our kitchen team!

Foundation Stage Newsletter

Friday 2nd October 2026



Pre-School

Final week of 'All About Me' topic - Thank you to those who sent pictures in through EvidenceMe, we had a lot more this week, which was lovely to see, and the children loved seeing pictures of them when they were babies! We talked about the similarities and differences and how some of our features changed for example hair colour! As well as looking at similarities and differences, we have also been talking and looking at how we look after ourselves for example the importance of washing our bodies and of course brushing our teeth! We used toothbrushes and toothpaste and brushed our pretend teeth!

We met BeatBaby last week and this week as well! He is a special little monkey who encourages listening skills and we sing/dance to his favourite songs! He is extremely special because he changes colour! Ask your child all about him!

Phonics - We have started our little groups of Phonics where we have been using our listening ears and increasing our attention skills. We went on a walk around school to find out what we could hear, see and maybe smell.

Maths - In Maths the last few weeks we have been concentrating on colours! Red, yellow and blue. We have also started to look at purple and green.

And finally Forest School!! A massive well done to all the children, they all did fantastically. They listened and followed all the important rules of Forest School - for example walking around the fire pit, dragging sticks behind them, looking after the minibeasts and much more. 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 -

- 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.
- **Just a reminder** - please let a member of staff know if anyone else is collecting your child and make them aware of the password. Otherwise, we will not let them go unless a message has been received.
- **Please name everything!** This includes spare clothes/shoes/wellies 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 have been getting more pictures being sent in so thank you for these! Keep them up! As we have been looking at colours in Maths - your little challenge this week is to play I spy with your child at home to look for the colour red, yellow and blue - so "I spy with my little eye something that is red?" This may be at home, in a shop, on a walk, anywhere! Send a few different items! Can they spot any other colours? 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

Foundation Stage Newsletter

Friday 2nd October 2026



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.

Foundation Stage Newsletter

Friday 2nd October 2026



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



Foundation Stage Newsletter

Friday 2nd October 2026



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



Foundation Stage Newsletter

Friday 2nd October 2026

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



Foundation Stage Newsletter

Friday 2nd October 2026

