

Foundation Stage Newsletter

Friday 13th February 2026



RECEPTION

We have had lots of fun this week finding out about Chinese, or Lunar, New Year. The children enjoyed listening to the story associated with this celebration – The Great Race. It's the story of how the years in the Chinese Zodiac got their name and order. Our Art this week has been all about making things with paper. We have practised our cutting skills by cutting out pictures to make puppets, masks and making slits for a lantern. I think the favourite this week was making the 'dancing dragons'! Not only was there some careful cutting, but folding the strip of paper into a zigzag concertina took a lot of practise! On Wednesday afternoon, we had an exciting session in the hall where we got to try out some simple circus skills – hula hooping, scarf juggling, 'tightrope' walking...we have talked a lot this half term about persevering when things get tricky, and all of the children persevered with these activities, even when they were finding it a bit difficult – well done! In Music we put actions and instruments together to tell the story of our morning routine – getting up and getting ready to come to school – we have some great performers!

In Maths this week we have recapped on number bonds to 5 – this is pairs of numbers that go together to total 5: 1 and 4, 2 and 3. We use number rhymes to help with this: 5 Little speckled frogs, 5 currant buns – there are loads! Here is a link for a BBC radio website with lots of number rhymes, [An A to Z of Nursery Rhymes and Songs - BBC Teach](#) scroll down until you read 'Five...' ducks, frogs, monkeys, currant buns, spacemen...lots!

This morning we had some very special visitors! Firefighters from the Fire Station in Stourbridge came to talk to us! They told us all about what they do when they are work, they showed us some of the equipment they use and some of the special clothing they have to wear. They had even brought an engine for us to look at, and because we listened so well, they let us sit inside! And as if that wasn't exciting enough, we then got to help out spraying the hose! What an incredibly exciting morning – our thanks go to Station Officer Massey for coming and Mrs Randle for organising the visit. [Bing Videos](#) this is a link to a video clip of the number rhyme '5 Little Firemen' – a great way to reinforce different ways to make 5!

REMINDER - FOREST SCHOOL

After the half term break, we will start some Forest School sessions. We will alternate this with a PE session so one week will be Forest School, the following week will be PE. PE/ Forest School will happen on a **Thursday morning**. On the day that is the Forest School session, your child can come to school dressed in clothes appropriate for being outdoors, no uniform is required. Forest school clothes **MUST** include long trousers/ leggings, a long-sleeved top and a waterproof coat. Layers are best for cold days. If your child does not already have a puddle suit in school, please send one in. They are a great way to protect coats from muddy splatters!

The first Thursday after the half term break (26th February) will be a FOREST SCHOOL session.

VISIT TO WILD

Many thanks to everyone who responded to the letter last week. We are able to confirm that the visit **WILL** go ahead on **WEDNESDAY 20th MAY**. There will be a letter with more details of the day after the half term break including lunch arrangements and how you can make payment as instalments or as a single payment.

LENDING LIBRARY

Our library will open again on Friday 27th February – we will open the doors a few minutes early so you can come in and choose a book with your child.

READING BOOKS – reading books are available through the Collins Hub website. Please let us know if you are still having difficulty logging on. We have also sent home phonics reading books which should be returned on a Friday. If last week's book has been returned today, your child will be bringing home a different book, along with a certificate to say Well Done for practising reading at home!

PRAISE ASSEMBLY

Our first Praise Assembly will take place on 27th February in the Lower Hall. We look forward to welcoming you all to celebrate the learning of all of the children as well as saying a few extra Well Done's to some!

EVIDENCE ME/ HOMEWORK CHALLENGES –

Look out for another homework message this week. As it is half term next week, please feel free to upload a few photos of what the children are up to – this might be baking, crafting, a visit to the park...we love to see what they are doing!

Above all, enjoy the half term break – recharge batteries ready for another busy half term.

REMINDERS

Friday 13th February – break up for half term holiday

****Thursday 26th February, 12th March, 26th March – FOREST SCHOOL sessions**

Tuesday 17th March – Parents meetings

Thursday 19th March – Parent meetings

Contact us If you have any questions, please ask or you can email us: kburns@bromhills.dudley.sch.uk rlewis@bromhills.dudley.sch.uk
ellayd@bromhills.dudley.sch.uk (Mrs Smallman's email)

Please see the last page for important information

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Pre-School

That's it! Another half a term complete. Not sure where this half term has gone but let's hope next half term, we have some nicer weather (especially for Forest School!)

We have continued our topic of 'Traditional Tales' and this week we have been listening to Jack and the Beanstalk and Goldilocks And The Three Bears. Some of our favourite stories. We have again listened to the story a few times and then the children helped join in with the well-known phrases and used puppets and pictures to help. The children have loved painting the three bears on our easel, Daddy, Mommy Bear and of course Baby Bear.

We have been practising our cutting skills this week in Pre-School. Please can I encourage you to let your children use scissors at home! They could cut paper, leaves, playdough and of course paper. This helps their finger muscles which is then essential for doing buttons, holding a pencil and of course writing.

After listening to The Three Billy Goats Gruff, the children have also used their fine motor skill (finger muscles) by building bridges. We used wooden blocks and lollipop sticks to see if we could balance goats on top and under the bridges we had made. Outside children have been weighing porridge, just like Goldilocks! Children experimented with different weighing scales to see if we could make one side heavier/lighter than the other. As well as all of this, we have also took part in Mental Health week. Thank you to those who brought and donated cakes. We took part in some colouring and drawing pictures this week and some Cosmic Yoga (YouTube) which is also brilliant for our minds.

And finally, our visit from the Firefighters!! The children absolutely loved this visit. We listened to the firefighters explaining what they do and what they must wear and what equipment they might need! We then had an amazing time looking around and inside the fire engine! Every single child was amazing. They listened and behaved extremely well. We are very proud of them.

Maths AM — We have continued looking at 5! We always recap 1-4 and counting first. We have looked at having 5 blocks, 5 pigs etc and counting them to make sure we have the correct number. We have been also looking at numbers around the setting.

Maths PM (New children) — We have continued matching this week. Matching 2 socks together, 2 cows, 2 circles. Seeing what we match are the same.

Phonics AM — We have continued alliteration and this week Listening Len (who is our phonics character) was extremely hungry this week. We had to fill his plate with the same sound items. For example, he has sandwiches, sausages, soup, salad and squash! The next day he has potatoes, pineapple, peas, pizza and pears!

Phonics PM (New children) — This week with our new children, we have had lots of fun experimenting with musical instruments. This is where we play instruments, loud or quiet. And can they stop when asked!

EvidenceMe Challenge — Hope you enjoyed the photos from the last few weeks. No challenges for half term but if you do go anywhere special or do anything different, please feel free to send in some photos for us to look at with the children.

Have a lovely half term! 😊

REMINDERS —

- **Half term** — Break up 13th February. — Return to school Monday 23rd February
- Please can you make sure that your child has a spare change of clothes including underwear/socks as we now have no spares. Thank you
- Forest School starts after half term — **Fridays!** Please see the original email for the dates!

There are spaces available for Pre-School starting September 2026! If you have any family members or friends who's child is 3 years old and would like to start Preschool in September please let them know to click on the link to [Bromley Hills Primary School - Pre-School - Register Your Interest](#)

Please see the last few pages for important information Any questions or if you need support please just ask or email me on epowis@bromhills.dudley.sch.uk

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Important Information

- Please read the attached information about the consumption of slush ice drinks and the effect that they can have on younger children under 7 years and the limit for children under 10 years <https://www.food.gov.uk/safety-hygiene/glycerol>
- **From Public Health** – Please click on the link for nutrition guidance for healthy lunchboxes <https://www.dudleyhealthylunchbox.org.uk/>
- Please see the next few pages regarding 'HENRY' Henry supports families to build healthier habits and routines that support children's physical and emotional wellbeing, right from the start and as they grow. A range of free, friendly and practical sessions are available to parents and carers in Dudley with children aged 0-12, as well as those expecting a baby.

Winter

WELLBEING

Keep warm

Get advice on staying warm at home. Contact Dudley Energy Advice Line (DEAL) during weekdays on 01384 817086
www.dudley.gov.uk/energyadvice



Get money advice

Services that provide free advice, information and support with managing your finances if you are struggling
www.dudley.gov.uk/costofliving



Look after yourself

Take a daily vitamin D supplement of 10 micrograms. If you are eligible, get your free flu and Covid-19 vaccines
Visit your local pharmacy for minor ailments



Stay connected

Check on people who may need more support in winter. Find out what's happening in your local area, from groups, clubs, events, and much more www.dudleyci.co.uk



www.dudley.gov.uk/winterwellbeing

Black Country Healthcare
NHS Foundation Trust

Black Country Children's

Speech & Language Therapy
www.blackcountrychildrens.nhs.uk



Scan the QR code to watch our videos

Watch our YouTube videos for helpful examples of activities you can try with your child

BLACK COUNTRY CHILDREN'S
SPEECH & LANGUAGE THERAPY

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Healthy Families: Growing Up



Healthy, thriving children and families



HENRY's free **Healthy Families Growing Up** programme is for parents and carers of primary-school age children – it will help you develop a healthier, happier lifestyle that the whole family can enjoy

The programme covers these 5 themes across 8 sessions and provides everything you need to help your children flourish.

- Feeling more confident as a parent
- Physical activity for the whole family
- What children and the whole family eats
- Family lifestyle habits
- Enjoying life as a family

Get
in touch
to sign up
now!

"This was the best thing I could possibly have done to help me be a better mum"



Programme details

For parents or carers with children aged 5 - 12 years

Day/time: Wednesday, 09.30 - 11.30

First session: 28 January 2026

Last session: 25 March 2026

Length: 8 sessions

Optional session on 14 January to learn more about the course and meet the facilitators.

Venue: Brierley Hill Family Hub, 18 Parkes Street, DY5 3DY

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



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Preparation for Parenthood



Are you pregnant?

A FREE 6-session programme helping you prepare for the arrival of your baby. Partners, friends or family are encouraged to attend alongside expectant mothers.

- Practical, evidence-based information to support you as you prepare to become a parent
- A great opportunity to meet other expectant parents and build friendships within your community
- Join the thousands of families across the country who have benefitted from a HENRY programme

Session 1

Becoming a parent

Session 2

A healthy pregnancy

Session 3

Bonding

Session 4

Caring

Session 5

Giving birth

Session 6

Life after birth

"Exceeded my expectations!"

Expectant parent



Day/time: Mondays, 12.30pm - 2.30pm

First session: 9 February 2026

Last session: 23 March 2026

Length: 6 weeks

Optional session on 2 February to learn more about the course and meet the facilitators.

Venue: The Source Youth Centre,
Barnett Lane, DY8 5PY



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

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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

Programme 1: Day/time: Tuesday, 09.45 - 11.45

Start date: 20 January 2026, End date: 24 March 2026

Length: 9 sessions, Venue: Lye Family Hub, Lye By-pass, DY9 8HT

Programme 2: Day/time: Thursday, 09.45 - 11.45

Start date: 22 January 2026, End date: 26 March 2026

Length: 9 sessions, Venue: Stourbridge Family Hub, Forge Road, DY8 1XF

Visit

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

