

Dear Parents and Carers,

Events after Half-Term

I am writing to let parents / carers know about some events which will be taking place straight after half-term and to share a few helpful reminders!

The pool is back!



We're very excited to announce that the swimming pool will be back! We have been able to secure funding to be able to hire a pool for 6 weeks. The pool will be set up on the bottom playground and we will be able to offer intensive swimming lessons to children during the 6-week period. The pool comes with its own staff, including a qualified lifeguard and swimming teacher. The swimming pool will have a canopy to protect it from the rain

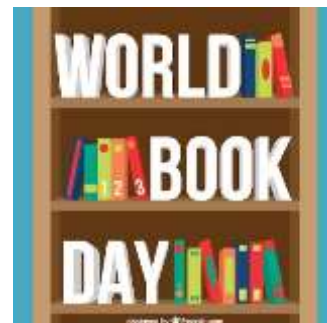
and pop up changing tents for the children!

From parent feedback last year, we have created a timetable that specifies which classes have swimming on which day each week – the day remains the same. Please let us know if your child does not have suitable swim wear and a towel as we may be able to help.

| | | |
|------------------|-----------|--------|
| Monday | Year 1 | Year 6 |
| Tuesday | Year 2 | Year 5 |
| Wednesday | Year 3 | Year 4 |
| Thursday | Reception | |
| Friday | Nursery | |

World Book Day

World Book Day will be celebrated on Thursday 2nd March. Children are invited to come to school as their favourite book or comic character on this day. If children do not wish to dress up they can come to school in their own clothes. During the day the children will be taking part in online book quizzes and other exciting book related activities!



The Holy Season of LENT



Lent begins during the half-term break with Ash Wednesday on 22nd February. During this season of Lent we are reminded of the time Jesus spent in the desert being tempted to make wrong choices and turn away from God the Father. Jesus kept his faith, stayed strong and did not give into temptation. He did this for 40 days and 40 nights. In solidarity with Christ we are asked to pray, fast and give alms during Lent and there have been opportunities for the children to do this in school throughout Lent including a series of special

assemblies culminating with the Stations of the Cross. Throughout Lent the children also have the opportunity to pray the Stations of the Cross both in extra assemblies and in their own classrooms. In addition, during Lent we will be taking part in CAFOD's Big Lent Walk sponsored event – more details after half term.

We will also be taking part in CAFOD's Lent Fast Day on Friday 3rd March. Children are asked to give up their playtime snack to help them understand what it feels like to be a little bit hungry for a short time. We ask if the money saved from buying a snack could be donated to CAFOD. No matter how small the donation every contribution helps to make a difference to our brothers and sisters around the world.

Free School Meals and Pupil Premium Funding – Please help us to access precious government funding

For every child that is eligible for free school meals – we receive very valuable funding from the government called ‘Pupil Premium Funding.’ This funding is very precious and valuable and is always spent on improving the provision in school for the children.

If you successfully apply for free school meals you not only have the option to choose free school lunches for your child but you also bring in very precious funding for the school for the next 6 years.

Who should apply? Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 and Year 6!

We only get pupil premium funding if you **apply for free school meals**. Even though all pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 receive free school meals – you still need to **make an application** in order for us to access **pupil premium funding**.

If you are eligible – whether your child is in Reception, Year 1, Year 2, Year 3, Year 4, Year 5 or Year 6, you will receive food vouchers to use during school holidays so it’s really important that you apply for free school meals.

AM I ELIGIBLE FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS?

If you receive the following benefits you can apply for free school meals:

- Universal Credit (monthly net earned income of less than £616.66, after tax and not including any benefits)
- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker’s Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guarantee element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (you’re not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit Run-On – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit

How do I apply?

Online: Using a PC, tablet or phone

<http://www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/your-council/council-tax-and-benefits/benefits/free-school-meals/>.

Safeguarding: Keeping Children Safe

Our school is committed to safeguarding and safe practices and you can read our policy on our website. **The designated safeguarding lead is myself, Mrs Chapman and Mrs Cheema, Miss Oakley and Mrs Buckley are the deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads.** If you are concerned about your own child or any other child, please speak to one of our safeguarding leads straight away.



Donations for Refresh Food Bank in Dudley

Thank you for your continued support of the Refresh Food Bank in Dudley. Our Mini Vinnies are regularly visiting the food bank to learn more about their work and how they help people along with taking our donations.

Please, if you can, continue to send donations in to school for the Foodbank our collection ‘bin’ is at the front of the school by the school office, this is very much appreciated – thank you.

Parking outside school

Please can we remind parents not to wait and / or park on the yellow zig zag lines at the front of school. Parking on the yellow lines is dangerous and could cause a serious accident. Please can parents who are using the services of a taxi ask the driver not to drop off and wait on the lines too. West Midlands Police have provided us with referral forms, which can be collected from the office, to report people who are persistently waiting / dropping off on the yellow lines. Please help us by parking sensibly on Hillcrest Road.

Attendance and Punctuality

Any one of us can be running late from time to time for good reasons – but children must ordinarily arrive at school at the correct start time – and as per school registration rules – they will be marked late if they arrive after the start time. We reserve the right to unauthorise persistent lateness and this will be recorded as unauthorised absence which can ultimately lead to intervention from the Education Investigation Service and possible penalties. Please support regular attendance and regular good timekeeping. Thank you for your support.



We are here to help you – keep in touch



The learning, safety and happiness of your child/ren are our top priority – that is why we are all here. We try our best to be the most effective school we can be but it is inevitable that things will go wrong from time to time. The important thing is that you know we will always try our best to sort out any problems or difficulties as quickly as possible. Everyone is on hand to help you. You can see your child's teacher after school and you can always leave a message for them as well. Mrs Chapman (Principal) will always try to see you immediately – never hesitate to come and see me. The Assistant

Principals are Mrs Cheema (Year 6 Teacher) and Mrs Buckley (Year 4 Teacher) who are both also available to help you as is Mrs Oakley (EYFS Leader and SENCO) our Senior Teacher.

It is very important if you have any worries or niggles – however small – to let us know straight away. We will do everything we can to help and we have an excellent track record of being able to sort things out. Never let anything fester – it's always best to sort things out and it's our pleasure to help you. All you ever have to do is LET US KNOW!

Take care,

Mrs S Chapman
Principal