



LEARNING AND GROWING TOGETHER

## 09-Newsletter - Friday 7th November 2025

### Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a busy and positive first week back in school, and it's been lovely to see the children settling back into school life so quickly after the half-term break. The classrooms are once again filled with energy, learning, and smiles, which is always wonderful to see.

I would like to share with you a few staffing updates for the coming weeks and months:

Mrs Chidler will be leaving us in mid-November to take on an exciting new role at a secondary school. Mrs Chidler has been part of our school community for 10 years and has supported countless children during that time. Her kindness, dedication, and care for our pupils have made such a positive impact, and she will be greatly missed by staff and children alike. We thank her sincerely for everything she has done and wish her all the very best in her new role. From mid-November, Mrs Brown will be taking on a full-time role in Year 2.

Mrs Rayner will be leaving us at the end of the Autumn Term. Having been at Damson Wood for 15 years, Mrs Rayner has taught across all year groups and has been a much-loved member of our teaching team. Her enthusiasm and creativity have inspired and supported countless children throughout her time here. Her own children have also attended Woodies. Mrs Rayner is moving on to pursue new opportunities closer to home, and while we are very sad to see her go, we wish her every success and happiness for the future. A job advertisement for her role will be going out soon, and I will keep you updated with the recruitment process.

Finally, I would like to share some news. At the end of the Autumn Term, I will also be leaving Damson Wood, as I have accepted a new role at Tidbury Green School. It has been an absolute privilege to work alongside such dedicated and talented colleagues, wonderful children, and supportive families. While I am very much looking forward to the new opportunities and challenges that lie ahead, I will be incredibly sad to say goodbye to a community that has played such an important part in my professional and personal journey. Damson Wood will always hold a special place in my heart.

As we move into the Spring Term, I am pleased to share that Mrs Wright will continue in her role as Acting Deputy Headteacher, ensuring continuity and stability for both children and staff. In addition, Mrs Wright will be undertaking a qualification to become a fully qualified Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO). A thorough handover process will take place over the coming weeks to ensure a smooth and seamless transition for everyone involved.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend. If you are planning to attend any Bonfire Night events, please enjoy yourselves but stay safe.

Miss Hull

## Change of Date

**Please note a change to the diary dates:**

There will now be one Early Years (Nursery and Reception) Christmas performance taking place on Tuesday 9th December at 9:30am.

There will not be a performance on Wednesday 10th December.

## AUTUMN TERM 2025

|   |   |                        |
|---|---|------------------------|
| <b>Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 31<sup>st</sup> November</b>   | <b>HALF TERM HOLIDAY</b>  |                        |
| <b>Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November</b>   | <b>EVERYONE BACK TO SCHOOL</b>  |                        |
| Friday 7 <sup>th</sup> November<br><b>Celebration Assembly</b><br><b>All Parents/Carers Welcome</b>                           | Celebrating children's achievements in the Main Hall  | 9am - 9:30am           |
| Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> November<br><b>Anti-Bullying Week</b>                                       | Anti-Bullying Week with the theme of 'Power for Good'   |                        |
| Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> November <b>Odd Socks Day</b>   | Children to wear Odd Socks to raise awareness for Anti Bullying Week  |                        |
| Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> November<br><b>Celebration Assembly</b><br><b>All Parents/Carers Welcome</b>                          | Celebrating children's achievements in the Main Hall  | 9am - 9:30am           |
| Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> November <b>Children in Need</b>  | Children to bring a £1 donation for Children in Need.   | All Day                |
| Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> November <b>Potion Commotion</b>  | Potion Commotion for Reception Children   | 9am – 10am             |
| Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> November<br><b>Chocolate Donation</b>   | Children to wear bright socks for Christmas Fair donations – Chocolate.   |                        |
| Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> November<br><b>Celebration Assembly</b><br><b>All Parents/Carers Welcome</b>                          | Celebrating children's achievements in the Main Hall  | 9am- 9:30am            |
| Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> November <b>Flu Vaccinations</b>  | Nasal Flu Vaccinations for: -<br><b>Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 Only</b>   | Morning                |
| Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> November<br><b>Bottle Donations</b>   | Children to wear Christmas Accessories for Christmas Fair donations: – Bottles.   |                        |
| Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> November<br><b>Celebration Assembly</b><br><b>All Parents/Carers Welcome</b>                          | Celebrating children's achievements in the Main Hall  | 9am- 9.30am            |
| Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December <b>Year 2 Trip</b>   | Children in Year 2 will be visiting Elmdon Church to learn about Christmas.   | Morning                |
| Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> December<br><b>Christmas Fair</b>  | Mr and Mrs Father Christmas visiting school and children taking part in activities.<br>Parents welcome to join in the hall at 2:30pm-5pm. | All Day<br>2:30pm- 5pm |
| Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> December<br><b>Celebration Assembly</b><br><b>All Parents/Carers Welcome</b>                           | Celebrating children's achievements in the Main Hall  | 9am- 9:30am            |
| Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December<br><b>Nursery &amp; Reception Christmas Celebration</b><br><b>All Parents/Carers Welcome</b> | Nursery and Reception Christmas Celebration in the hall.  | 9:30am                 |
| Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December<br><b>KS1 Christmas Celebrations</b><br><b>All Parents/Carers Welcome</b>                 | Year One and Two Christmas Celebration in the hall.   | 2:30pm                 |
| Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> December<br><b>KS1 Christmas Celebrations</b><br><b>All Parents/Carers Welcome</b>                  | Year One and Two Christmas Celebration in the hall.   | 9:30am                 |
| Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> December<br><b>Celebration Assembly</b><br><b>All Parents/Carers Welcome</b>                          | Celebrating children's achievements in the Main Hall  | 9am- 9:30am            |
| Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December<br><b>Christmas Dinner</b>  | Children to enjoy a Christmas Lunch in the hall.  | 12pm – 1pm             |
| Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> December<br><b>99% Attendance Celebration for Children</b>  | 99 Club for children with 99% attendance and above  |                        |
| Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December <b>Jolly Jumper Day</b>  | Children to wear a Christmas Jumper for the Solihull Hospital Charity<br>Suggested donation of £1.00.                                     |                        |
| Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December<br><b>Celebration Assembly</b><br><b>All Parents/Carers Welcome</b>                          | Celebrating children's achievements in the Main Hall  | 9am- 9:30am            |
| <b>Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December - Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2026</b>   | <b>CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY</b>  | <b>3:15pm</b>          |

## Children in Need

Next Friday, we will be taking part in Children in Need. Children are invited to come to school in their usual uniform, but they may wear Children in Need accessories (such as Pudsey ears, badges, or socks) for a £1 donation.

There is a special promotion lunch on Friday: Jacket Potatoes with a choice of fillings (Chicken Tikka or Tuna or Cheese or Beans) and a Pudsey Biscuit for dessert.



## Ash Class - Nursery

Last term in Nursery we practised lots of movements linked to our handwriting scheme. We learnt to go up, down, push, pull, slide down, slide up and flick. This week we have been using those skills to write the first letter of our name using our finger in glitter.

Mrs Morris





## Willow Class - Reception

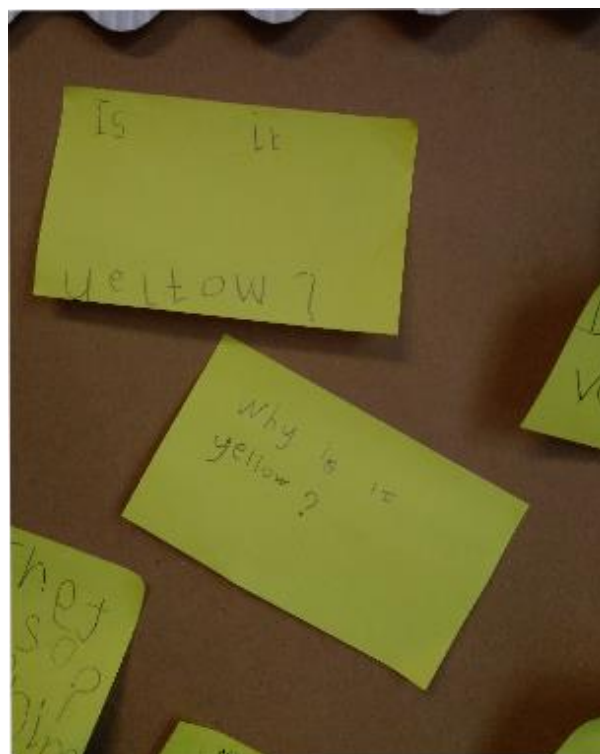
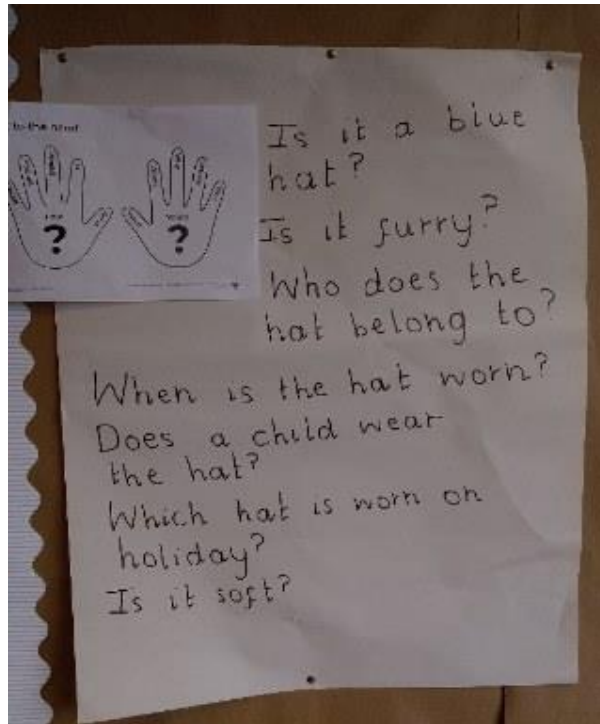
Reception have had a very busy time this week with the introduction of our Potion Commotion topic. There was lots of excitement and learning relating to 5th November. The children enjoyed learning a little about Guy Fawkes, created some wonderful firework pictures and even put together their very own Firework dance in PE. They are all very well up on the Firework Safety Code ready for some firework watching this weekend!



## Maple Class - Year 1

This week, in English, Year 1 arrived to school to find a load of hats! We then played a game, whereby the children had to ask questions in order to find out which hat Mrs Rayner/Miss Amies was thinking of! We wrote our questions on post it notes and used question marks at the end of our sentences. We then began to read 'I want my hat back' by Jon Klassen.

Mrs Rayner and Mrs Amies



## Beech Class - Year 2

This week in Beech class, we have been starting out new topic in history and English. In history, we have been exploring the poppy and its significance and understanding why we see and wear poppies for Remembrance Day. To do this, we created collages of poppies, which are now on display in our classroom. In English, we have been learning about animal

footprints, trying to guess which animal they belong to. We have investigated extinct animals and have now created a fact file on the Dodo.

In maths, we have continued with counting in 2s, 3s, 5s and 10s and in PE, with have started learning dances to different types of international music.

Mr Wilcox



## **Anti-Bullying Week - 10th November to 14th November**

Next week, our school will be taking part in Anti-Bullying Week!

We'll begin the week with Odd Socks Day on Monday to celebrate individuality and remind everyone that it's okay to be different. This will be followed by an assembly led by our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors.

Throughout the week, children will take part in a range of activities focused on celebrating the power of kindness.

A big thank you to everyone who created anti-bullying posters — they have been displayed around school and look fantastic!



## Mary's Planter

We have a new planter on the playground which has been built by our Site Manager; Mr Mayall and is in memory of Mary Wakeman, member of staff who worked at Damson Wood. The planter has been made out of the reclaimed timber from the Woodies building where Mary worked.



## POPPY APPEAL 2025

We have started selling Poppies on behalf of the Royal British Legion.

In addition, a range of other items — such as Snap Bands and Reflector Poppies — are available to purchase from the school office.

Please refer to the message sent via Studybugs for details and prices of the items. We will be selling them till the 11th November.



## Author of the Month - November

The author of the month for November is Julia Donaldson.

Julia Donaldson was born on 16th September 1948, in London. She lived with her large family – Mum, Dad, Granny, Aunt, Uncle, sister Mary and their cat called Geoffrey.

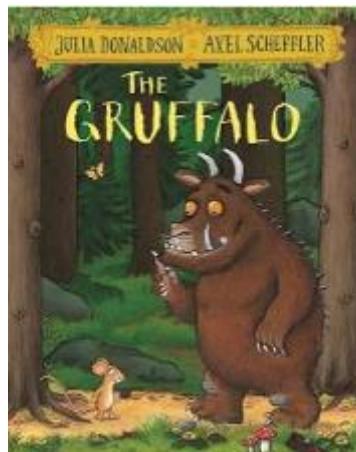
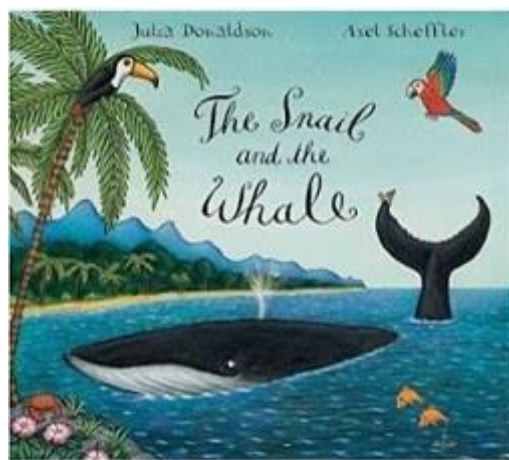
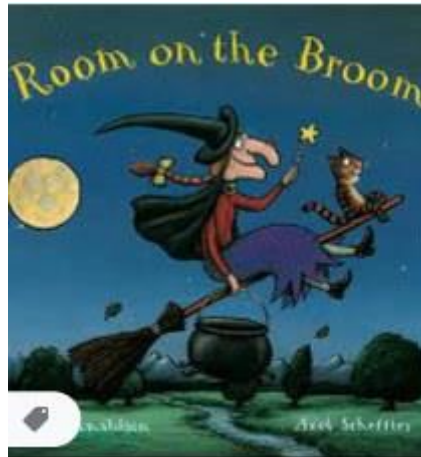
When they were young, Julia and Mary used to think that Geoffrey was a prince in disguise! For her fifth birthday, Julia was given a book of poems and began to make up her own.

One of Julia's first jobs was writing songs for children's TV. One called 'A Squash and a Squeeze' became her first book in 1993.

Julia was awarded the 'Children's Laureate' between 2011 and 2013 to celebrate her wonderful writing and was given an CBE by the Queen in 2011!

You will have heard of lots of Julia's books – the most famous ones have been made into short films for Christmas TV. The Gruffalo, Stickman, Room on the Broom, Zog and Highway Rat are just a few.





## Composer of the Month - November

### Alan Menken

Alan Irwin Menken (born July 22, 1949) is an American composer, songwriter, conductor, [music director](#) and record producer. Menken is best known for his scores and songs for films produced by [Walt Disney Animation Studios](#). His scores and songs for [The Little Mermaid](#) (1989), [Beauty and the Beast](#) (1991), [Aladdin](#) (1992), and [Pocahontas](#) (1995) have each won him two [Academy Awards](#). He also composed the scores and songs for [Little](#)

[Shop of Horrors](#) (1986), [Newsies](#) (1992), [The Hunchback of Notre Dame](#) (1996), [Hercules](#) (1997), [Home on the Range](#) (2004), [Enchanted](#) (2007) and [Tangled](#) (2010), among others. [His accolades](#) include eight [Academy Awards](#), a [Tony Award](#), eleven [Grammy Awards](#), seven [Golden Globe Awards](#) and a [Daytime Emmy Award](#).

### Did you know?

Menken developed an interest in music at an early age, taking piano and violin lessons. He began to compose at an early age. At age nine, at the New York Federation of Music Clubs Junior Composers Contest, his original composition "Bouree" was rated Superior and Excellent by the judges.

### Check out....

<https://www.alanmenken.com/>- Watch Disney clips, alongside his music.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Syzw3znAW7o>- Alan performing his music on the piano.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4DcTslRznWU>- Alan talking about writing 'A Whole New World'



## Attendance

Well done to Willow Class for such amazing attendance this week! Thank you to parents/carers for ensuring your child is in school, on time ready to learn. We really see the effects of great attendance on their learning each day.

The expectation is attendance should be 95% or above in line with the National average.

Class Attendance for last week was:

Ash - 92.7%

Willow - 95%

Maple - 82.8%

Beech - 86.5%

The whole school attendance for the week was 87.6% and for this academic year so far is 94.3%.

## Clothes Bank

We are pleased to let you know that a Star Foundation Clothes Bank is now permanently located on our school premises, by the Stockwell Rise entrance.

The Star Foundation works to support local communities and raise funds for schools and now you can help by donating a lot more items than previously possible and at any time during drop off/ or collection times.

What you can donate:

- Toys
- DVDs, CDs and Videos
- All types of clothing (dressing up clothes: outgrown clothes; damaged clothes; any school branded items; rags)
- Paired Shoes
- Bags and belts
- Bed linen and towels (No duvets or pillows).

By donating, you're not only supporting a great cause but also helping the environment by reducing waste. The damaged clothes and rags will be recycled into a new product. Thank you for your continued support!



## Build a Brick

### Leave a Legacy at our School!

Our personalised Wall of Fame brick display, on the outside wall of the playground, offers a unique way to celebrate your connection to our school. Whether you choose to feature your name, your child's or grandchild's name, or a heartfelt message, each brick will serve as a lasting tribute to those who are part of our school's story, past or present all for £27.00. Payment can be made through ParentPay.

### Order Deadlines:

**Spring:** Thursday 26th March 2026

**Summer:** Thursday 21st May 2026

Please pick up an order form from the reception area and send to [s19brick@damson-wood.solihull.sch.uk](mailto:s19brick@damson-wood.solihull.sch.uk) or hand in to the office. More information on: <https://www.damson-wood.co.uk/buy-a-brick/>



## Term Dates 2025 - 2026



|                | AUTUMN TERM  | INSET DAY   |
|----------------|--|---|
| Term Commences | Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2025<br><b>Children start Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2025</b><br>(Please see personalised induction timetable for children starting in Nursery & Reception Class) | <b>Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025</b><br><b>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025</b> |
| Half Term      | Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> October to Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2025  |   |
| Term Ends      | Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> December 2025  |   |

|                | <b>SPRING TERM</b>  | <b>INSET DAY</b>                          |
|----------------|---|---|
| Term Commences | Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> January 2026                                       | <b>Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026</b> |
| Half Term      | Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> February to Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> February 2026 |   |
| Term Ends      | Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March 2026  |   |

|                | <b>SUMMER TERM</b>  | <b>INSET DAY</b>  |
|----------------|---|---|
| Term Commences | Monday 13 <sup>th</sup> April 2026                              | <b>May Day Bank Holiday:<br/>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2026</b> |
| Half Term      | Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May to Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> May 2026 |   |
| Term Ends      | Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> July 2026                               | <b>Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2026</b>                          |