

Weekly Newsletter 17th January 2025



HEADTEACHER UPDATE - A Message from Ms Stevens

Dear Parent/Carer

Nursery Class began their week with a road safety talk from Nicky. They talked about the important things to remember about how to cross the road safely and were able to share their learning with me when we discussed it later in the week. Ash class also linked this learning to our Sparks values, 'ready' and 'safe'.

We welcomed one of our governors into school this week. During her visit on Monday, she spoke to children and staff and looked at what the children are/have been learning which the children were proud to share. Governors play a very important role in the leadership of the school and are regular visitors here. They share our passion and together, strive for Damson Wood to be the very best it can be for every child.

Good attendance and punctuality continues to be a high priority in school. Thank you to parents for ensuring your child is in school, on time and ready to learn. We really see the effects of great attendance on their learning each day. In case you don't know already, Damson Wood uses an efficient and secure system for reporting your child's absence due to illness, called Studybugs. Please get the free Studybugs app, or register on the Studybugs website, and use it to tell us if your child's ill and unable to attend school.

I am delighted with the way uniform is being worn – everyone continues to take great pride in making sure they look their best. Thank you for your support in maintaining these high standards.

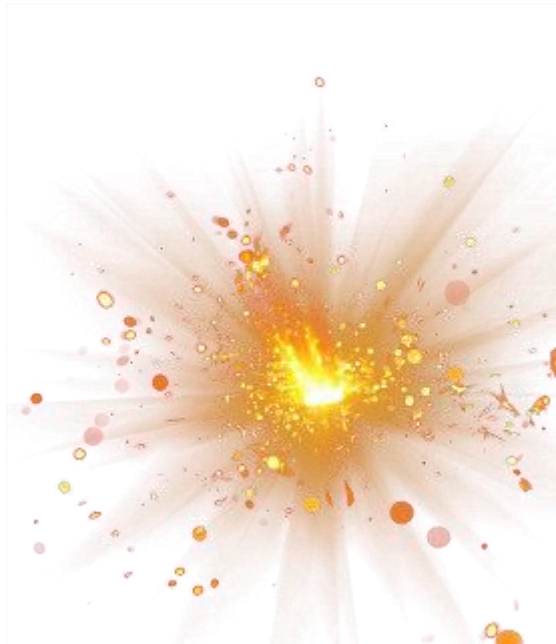
Have a good weekend.

Kind regards.

Sian Stevens

Headteacher

AWARDS OF THE WEEK



Bright Sparks of the Week:

Ash Class - Iylah

Willow Class – Isabella P

Maple Class - Klara

Beech Class – Elliot W-S

Rowan Class – Anabia



Skills Builder of the Week:

Ash Class – Whole Class

Willow Class – Isaac H

Maple Class - Travis

Beech Class – Whole Class

Rowan Class - Paloma



Hot Chocolate Friday Winners:

Ash Class - Nina

Willow Class - Anahat

Maple Class - Phoebe

Beech Class – Charlotte and Isla

Rowan Class – Braydon

NURTURE UK SCHOOL

BECOMING A NUTURE SCHOOL

At Damson Wood, we firmly believe in the importance of providing our children with a nurturing environment to help support their learning and development. This is why we have chosen to become a Nurture UK School, following the six principles of 'Nurture' throughout our daily school lives.

The Nurture Principles are the core principles that individuals base their practice on and are key to any Nurturing school.



The National Nurturing Schools Programme helps schools to develop and embed a nurturing culture, enhancing teaching and learning, and promoting better outcomes for the whole school community. It focuses on pupils' social and emotional needs and development alongside their academic learning and can improve attendance and behaviour. Social and emotional development is how children develop understanding of who they are, their feelings and how to interact with others. It includes learning how to form and sustain positive relationships, how to manage and express emotions and how to explore and engage with the environment.

Some of the Nurturing approaches already in place at Damson Wood:

- Weekly awards to celebrate achievements
- Enrichment opportunities such as clubs and trips
- Pastoral and parental support
- Zones of Regulation
- Sensory spaces
- Use of Skills Builder
- Calm learning environments
- Behaviour policy that supports relational approaches, including whole school relational CPD.

If you are interested in finding out more about Nurture, please visit ¹www.nurtureuk.org^{2 3}

ONLINE SAFETY

Resources for Parents and Carers

¹<http://www.nurtureuk.org/>

²<http://www.nurtureuk.org/>

³<http://www.nurtureuk.org/>

Parents and carers play a vital role in helping children and young people understand how to stay safe online. But online safety can also be a daunting issue, so it's important that parents and carers are supported in keeping their children safe online.

Guides and advice

The NSPCC website has lots of information to help parents and carers feel informed, confident and happy about helping children stay safe online. You'll find advice for parents and carers about online safety⁴ including information about social media, online gaming, parental controls, sharing nudes, livestreaming, harmful content and online reporting.

Parents can also sign up to our online safety newsletter⁵ to get news and advice.



⁴<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

⁵<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-newsletter/>

NURSERY - ASH CLASS



The children in Nursery had a visit from Nicky who works for the Solihull Road Safety team. She talked to the children about how to cross the road safely. The children made us very proud by listening and answering her questions. The children were able to recall their learning throughout the week. The children know they need to, 'Stop, Look, Listen and Think,' before they cross the road.

Nicky also taught us a new song (to the tune of 10 fat sausages):

Stop, Look and Listen before you cross the road,

Stop, Look and Listen before you cross the road,

Use your eyes, use your ears, before you use your feet,

Stop, Look and Listen before you cross the road.

The Nursery Team

RECEPTION - WILLOW CLASS







Reception have been very busy creating **'WANTED!'** posters for the dinosaur who was caught on camera roaming in the forest school area. We were very surprised to see that the event had been reported on the BBC news.





Local resident, Mrs Gallehdar gave an eye-witness account of a dinosaur that she had seen rampaging along Damson Lane. She wondered whether the dinosaur had been lured by the smell of the fish and chip shop. Although naturally very nervous about this sighting, she reported that she had been very excited to see the dinosaur as it was a once in a lifetime opportunity.

The children in Reception are hoping that their '**WANTED!**' posters will ensure that the missing dinosaur is very captured soon.

The Reception Team

YEAR 1 - MAPLE CLASS

This week Maple Class have been exploring foods, finding out where their food comes from and tasting a range of different fruit.

We had a super donation from Morrisons, thanks to Mrs Varga, containing strawberries, avocado, melons, pineapple and olives to taste.

The children were very brave trying new foods and enjoyed exploring - even if they didn't like the taste!

Poppy said:- "I like the strawberries; they are so yummy and taste sweet."

The Year 1 Team



YEAR 2 - BEECH AND ROWAN CLASS

This week, Year 2 have been writing their own versions of the story 'The Bear Under the Stairs.' They have enjoyed writing these stories and using some ideas from the story to inspire their work.

In Maths we have been learning more about fractions and learning the terms 'numerator' and 'denominator' and how to find fractions of different amounts.

In Design and Technology, we have been food tasting in preparation for making our own healthy pizzas. The children have tried different fruits and vegetables to decide what they like and dislike and which ones they might like to include in their own designs.

We would like to thank Tesco in Shirley for supplying the food for our tasting.

The Year 2 Team



ATTENDANCE



Well done Ash 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 to be 95+% in line with the National average.

Class Attendance for last week was:

- Ash - 95.8%
- Willow - 92.1%
- Maple - 95%
- Beech - 89.5%
- Rowan - 95.6%

The whole school attendance for the week was 93.5% and the year to date attendance for the whole school is 91.8%



Attendance Matters

Please remember that every day matters, from the very first day of the term to the last. School attendance is important for your child, both in terms of their education as well as for their well-being and life opportunities. Solihull Attendance and EHE Advisory Team is committed to supporting children to attend school and help them to achieve a successful future.

If your child is unwell and can not attend school, please ensure that you phone the school office on 0121 705 8652, email office@damson-wood.solihull.sch.uk⁶ or message school on Study Bugs by 9:15am, if your child is going to absent.

Attendance where eight school days are missed is a concern. If this continues to increase to 15 - 19 days missed then they are considered as persistently absent and action will be taken.

We strongly recommend that you do not take holidays during term time due to the negative impact it has on your child's learning. If you know your child will be absent from school, please complete a leave of absence form from the office.

Days Missed	Consequences	Support
0 days missed	Excellent attendance	Recognition
1-4 days missed	Good attendance	Recognition
5-8 days missed	Attendance concern	Support
9-12 days missed	Attendance concern	Support
13-15 days missed	Attendance concern	Support
16-19 days missed	Attendance concern	Support

Attendance Level	Consequences	Support
95% or above	Excellent attendance	Recognition
90% - 94%	Good attendance	Recognition
85% - 89%	Attendance concern	Support
80% - 84%	Attendance concern	Support
75% - 79%	Attendance concern	Support
70% or below	Attendance concern	Support

⁶<mailto:office@damson-wood.solihull.sch.uk>

WOODIES CHILDCARE AND HOLIDAY CLUB

WOODIES CHILDCARE – FREE Childcare Spaces Available!

We have spaces available at Woodies Childcare for children aged 2 years old and there is free funding available. Contact us for a visit & application support: woodies@damson-wood.solihull.sch.uk⁷ or 0121 705 8652

Woodies Childcare and Holiday Club can be found within the grounds of Damson Wood Nursery & Infant School.

At Woodies, it is a time for fun and enjoyment in a safe, caring and homely environment. We have access to all the school play equipment, hall, library, playground and Forest School area.

We offer full or part-time day care for children aged 2 years and over.

We are open from 7:45am - 6:00pm.

Caterpillars & Butterflies - Full Day Care sessions are available for children from the age of 2 - 3 years. We offer a variety of options for paying parents from just one or two sessions a week to full time, which are competitively priced.

Conkers Before & After School Club (school aged pupils) is open daily in term time from 7:45am and again our afternoon club starts at 3:15pm.

Included in the price:

- a healthy breakfast
- a light dinner (for children staying until 18:00pm)

Visits are warmly welcomed or for further information please contact us on 0121 705 8652 Ext.3 or via email at woodies@solgrid.org.uk⁸

CHARITY COLLECTIONS

EMPTY CHOCOLATE TUBS!

We are still collecting empty chocolate tubs on behalf of Ryan Hulance, age 11 from Solihull who founded 'We Can Community CIC' two years ago, out of a desire to help others after the challenges of COVID. He wants to carry on helping others by recycling empty chocolate tubs and raise money for his charity. If you have any empty tubs of chocolates; Heroes, Quality Street, Roses, Celebrations etc please can you send them into school so that we can help Ryan in his quest?

⁷<mailto:woodies@damson-wood.solihull.sch.uk>

⁸<mailto:woodies@solgrid.org.uk>



EASY FUNDRAISING FOR DAMSON WOOD

Online Shopping: You spend and shops donate a % to our school.

Most online retailers are part of the Easy Fundraising scheme, meaning if you eg. shop online at Morrisons, Tesco, Amazon, pet shops, clothes shops etc you can support our school for free. You only need to access your 'normal' shop via the Easy Fundraising app and the shop will donate a % to school. This is a simple, yet impactful way you can support our school without spending a penny. A Parent Mail email has been sent with further information, or you can just scan our QR code here to create an account. Thank you!



AMAZON WISHLIST

Amazon Wishlist

With the wetter weather becoming worse through the winter, children increasingly find themselves indoors during break and lunch times. This year, we've created an Amazon Wishlist for each year group. These lists hold ideas identified by your child's teacher to use during the wet break and lunch times. The items are thoughtfully selected to bring joy, inspire creativity, support communication and enhance our shared activities if we are unable to play outside.

Should you wish to support your child's class and Year group in this **optional** opportunity, for those interested, please click on the relevant below link.

Nursery⁹

⁹https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/1C8YNWEAXZ40B?ref=wl_share

Reception¹⁰

Year 1¹¹

Year 2¹²



¹⁰https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/2ZVCQYWPHALYN?ref=wl_share

¹¹https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/2QK4TRGB3J437?ref=wl_share


¹²https://www.amazon.co.uk/hz/wishlist/ls/EP5L2KEXF4VN?ref=wl_share

TERM DATES 2025

	<u>Autumn Term 2024</u>	INSET DAY
Term Commences	Monday 2 nd September 2024 Children start Wednesday 4 September 2024 <i>(Please see personalised induction timetable for children in Nursery & Reception)</i>	Monday 2 nd September Tuesday 3 rd September
Half Term	Monday 28 th October to Friday 1 st November 2024	
Term Ends	Friday 20 th December 2024	
	<u>Spring Term 2025</u>	INSET DAY
Term Commences	Monday 6 th January 2025	
Half Term	Monday 17 th February - Friday 21 st February 2025	
Term Ends	Friday 11 th April 2025	
	<u>Summer Term 2025</u>	INSET DAY
Term Commences	Monday 28 th April 2025	Friday 23 rd May
Half Term	Monday 26 th May to Friday 30 th May 2025	
Term Ends	Friday 18 July 2025	Friday 4 th July

DIARY DATES 2025

Please note all dates are subject to change.

Diary Dates		 SPRING TERM 2025
Monday 6 th January		Everyone back to school
Friday 7 th February		Books Home/Look in school for parents and carers
Monday 10 th February – Friday 14 th February		Ambition Week
Monday 10 th February	3:30pm – 6:00pm	Parents' Evening Parents' Evening
Wednesday 12 th February		Reception 'Stones & Bones' Museum for parents
Thursday 13 th February	TBC	
Monday 17 th February – Friday 21 st February		HALF TERM HOLIDAY
Monday 24 th February		Everyone back to school
Monday 3 rd March – Friday 7 th March		DW Loves Reading or Literacy Tree Whole Class Project
Wednesday 5 th March		Rags 2 Riches Collection
Thursday 6 th March		World Book Day – Dress as your Favourite Book Character
TBC		Bookworms Book Fair TBC
Friday 7 th March – Sunday 16 th March		Science Week – 'Change & Grow'
Friday 21 st March		Red Nose Day
Tues 25 th March & Wed 26 th March	9:15am	Mothers' Day Celebrations – RECEPTION CLASS ONLY
Wednesday 9 th April		Easter Egg Decorating Competition Entries Due In
Thursday 10 th April	9:15am	EYFS (Nursery and Reception) Easter Bonnet Parade
Thursday 10 th April	10:00am	KS1 (Years 1 and 2) Easter Bonnet Parade
Thursday 10 th April	Afternoon	99 Club for children with 99% attendance and above
Friday 11 th April	10:00am	Reception Easter Breakfast - CHILDREN ONLY
Friday 11 th April		END OF TERM
Monday 14 th April – Friday 25 th April		EASTER HOLIDAY
Monday 28 th April		Everyone back to school