



LEARNING AND GROWING TOGETHER

28 - Newsletter - Friday 1st May 2026

Headteacher Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

In our assemblies over the past couple of weeks, we have been looking at the 'Ambitious' SPARKS value. We looked at the achievements of the Artemis II crew, travelling further into space than anyone has ever done before. As a crew, they worked together to carry out tests and experiments that would pave the way for other astronauts to do and achieve even more in the future.

We also thought about the Kenyan marathon runner Sabastian Sawe and his phenomenal world record breaking run of 1 hour, 59 minutes and 30 seconds. It was an achievement that

people wondered whether it was in fact impossible. But Sabastian's hard work and focus meant he was able to break that magical 2 hour barrier.

In both cases, the Artemis II crew and Sabastian Sawe, they were backed by dedicated teams who were determined to see them succeed. At Damson Wood we truly believe that the children can aim as high as they can dream in life. They can set ambitious targets for themselves every single day and every single year. As a community of children, parents and staff, we provide the children with a team that wants the absolute best for them and are determined to see them achieve their goals. This is why our school values, and our school community, are so important.

Enjoy the extended weekend and hopefully we will see some good weather! We look forward to seeing you all back in school on Tuesday.

Kind regards

Mr K Prescott

Ash Class - Nursery

This week in Nursery we read the story, 'The Little Red Hen Makes a Pizza.' We talked about the food we eat and how it's made and where it comes from.

On Tuesday, Tracey from Cookstars came in to class and all the children made a pizza with their parent/carer.





We also played a game where the children had to write three clues about an animal, and we had to guess what it was. Oliver said, "I go woof, I like to go for walks and I have a baby called a puppy" Can you guess what it is???

Mrs Morris



Willow Class - Reception

In Willow Class this week we have had another busy week. We have started a new book called 'Weirdo' by Zadie Smith. The story is about a guinea pig called Maud who finds herself in a bit of a confusing misunderstanding where she feels like she doesn't fit in. The book teaches some powerful messages about embracing your individuality and how we should never feel afraid to be ourselves.

In English the children have been making 'Be yourself' badges and thinking about the special qualities that make them feel proud to be who they are. Our Literacy fits in really nicely with our PSHE theme of Relationships where we have been thinking about friendships and what we can do to help others and show kindness if we see someone looking lonely or sad.

In Maths we have been using our knowledge of numbers 0-10 to do some calculations. We have been using these sentences to support our learning; First we had.....Thenwas added/taken away and Now we have altogether.

In P. E we continued our Sports Day Practise, we tried dribbling a ball around cones. The children tried really hard and showed great control.

In Forest School we continued to create our own Andy Goldsworthy inspired artwork using blossom, leaves and twigs.

In Topic this week we thought about some more unusual, exotic pets which some people have as pets such as tarantulas and snakes and what they need in order to stay happy and healthy such as the right food and being kept somewhere safe which is not too hot and not too cold. Well done Willow for all your hard work!

Mrs H Amies and Mrs J Wright





Maple Class - Year 1

Everyone has worked so hard in Maple class this week!

In English, we started the week by planning our own stories and coming up with two characters. The children have then spent the rest of the week writing their stories based on their plan. It has been great to hear so many brilliant ideas and to see the children working independently to write their stories.

In Maths, we have been learning about directions, turns and ordinal numbers. There has been lots of new learning this week and the children have worked very hard.

We have begun learning all about Shabbat in RE and in History we have been looking at toys from the past, comparing them to new toys we have now.

In Science, we have been learning all about the life cycle of a bean and we even planted our own bean seeds! We really enjoyed this activity and are looking forward to watching the beans grow.

Have a lovely bank holiday weekend and see you all next week!

Miss Mammett

Beech Class - Year 2

Can you believe we are already halfway through Summer 1? We have been very busy exploring our new topics!

In Maths, we have been recapping how to tell the time on an analogue clock. We have focused on quarter past, quarter to and telling the time in 5-minute intervals. The children have enjoyed using their own clocks to show different times.

In PE, we have had lots of fun developing our golf skills, practicing how to use putters with control and accuracy. In History, we explored the hierarchy within castles from the 9th to the 15th centuries and the children wrote about which role they would most like to have.

In English, we continued our learning on '*Toys in Space*', planning a party and writing invitations for our new toy, Hoctopize.

In Science, the children have been carrying out an experiment to investigate what plants need to grow. We planted cress and placed some in the light with water and some without, as well as placing others in the dark to compare how different conditions affect growth.

Mr Wilcox



Thursday 30th April
SC: I can use commas in lists to write an invitation

You're invited to a fantastic party.

We have lots of plans to make the party incredible. The party starts at 10:30 am at our house. Don't worry if you're hungry we have lots of snacks. We have fanta, quavers and cake. If you're bored you can play one of our games that is Kirby, laser tag and pass the parcel. The decorations are balloons and bunting.

Thursday 30th April
SC: I can use commas in lists to write an invitation

It's celebration time!
We have planned a amazing party with excellent games and the best juu for you!

You should come the party is at 9:10 am tomorrow at the space ship. It's okay if you get hungry we've got yummy food. There will be doritos, popcorn and sweets.

Also we will play a brilliant games of tag, hide and seek and musical chairs. To make it look beautiful a disco ball, multi-coloured sparkles and amazing balloons. Please come.



Stand up To Cancer Bake Sale



SAVE THE DATE - TUESDAY 5th MAY 2026

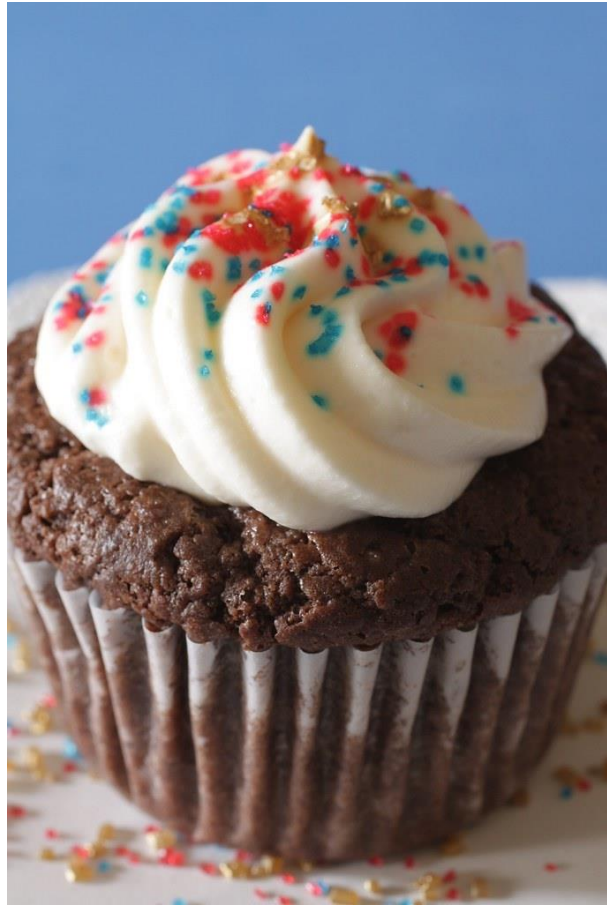
Stand Up To Cancer takes developments in the lab and turns them into new tests and treatments for people who need them. Since it began in 2012, Stand Up To Cancer has funded nearly a million hours' worth of pioneering research.

To raise money for this very worthy cause, staff will be baking and bringing in their tastiest showstoppers and battling it out for Star Baker. There are guest judges invited to sample the entries.

Cakes will be sold on Tuesday 5th May 2026 from 3:00pm from the playground. Please bring plenty of cash!

Thank you for your support with this worthy cause.





Thank You to The Damson Pub

We would like to say 'Thank you' to the Landlord at The Damson Pub, for very kindly donating a Picnic Bench to school.

Mr Mayall will paint it and then put it in the Nursery garden for Ash Class to enjoy.



Woodies Explorers May Half Term Holiday Club



Monday 25th May	BANK HOLIDAY CLOSED	
Tuesday 26th May	<p>Outdoor Fun & Games Traditional outdoor games Tennis, Badminton & Ball Games Outdoor team races and sport games Parachute Games</p>	
Wednesday 27th May	<p>Outdoor Crafts Nature cards Flower crafts Sun Catchers Continuous provision</p>	
Thursday 28th May	<p>Make your own Picnic Lunch Free play Messy play Choice of make your own sandwiches Picnic Lunch & Ice Cream</p>	
Friday 29th May	CLOSED	

For all enquiries regarding bookings please contact Woodies on 0121 705 8652 EXT 1 or email: woodies@solgrid.org.uk

	FULL DAY	SCHOOL DAY	MAKE & DO ACTIVITY
CLOSING DATE: FRIDAY 15TH MAY	8am - 3:15pm	9am - 3:15pm	9:15am - 11:45am or 12:30 - 3pm
COSTS PER DAY: 1st CHILD 2nd CHILD	£28.95 £26.05	£26.50 £23.85	£11.80 FLAT RATE
Date & Activity			
Monday 25th May	BANK HOLIDAY CLOSED		
Tuesday 26th May Outdoor Fun & Games			
Wednesday 27th May Outdoor Crafts			
Thursday 28th May Make your own Picnic Lunch			
Friday 29th May	CLOSED		

For children 3 – 11 years' old.

Please collect your child prompt at the end of a session, late collection fees will apply.

Parents must provide a full packed lunch box if attending a morning session, additional snacks and drinks will be provided throughout the day.

PLEASE NOTE: Whilst all precautions are taken, Woodies Childcare cannot take responsibility for loss or damage to clothing or equipment brought from home.

As many of our fun activities are messy, please **DO NOT** send your child in their best clothes.

Mobile phones and electronic devices are **NOT** allowed at Woodies.

Contact: woodies@solgrid.org.uk Tel: 0121 705 8652 EXT 1

Thank You To Birmingham Airport

We would like to extend a huge thank you to Birmingham Airport for their generous support in funding our new outdoor resources, including two wooden tepees and much more. Their support is making a real difference to our pupils by improving opportunities for outdoor learning, play and wellbeing. We are extremely grateful for their support.



Attendance

Well done to Beech Class for such amazing attendance this week! Thank you to parents and 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 - 88,2%

Willow - 96%

Maple - 96%

Beech - 97%

The whole school attendance for the week was 94.5% and for this academic year so far is 93.6%.



Star Foundation Clothes Bank

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 **(PLEASE NO DUVETS OR PILLOWS)**

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



Diary Dates - Spring/Summer 2026



Please note that, though we will try to avoid changing any dates, some may have to if specific circumstances require it.

SUMMER TERM 2026

Monday 13th April 2026	EVERYONE BACK TO SCHOOL	
Tuesday 14 th April Phonics Screening Check Information Session Year 1 Parents	An opportunity for parents and carers to find out more about the Phonics Screening Check and how best to support your child.	2:30pm-3pm
Friday 17 th April Celebration Assembly All Parents/Carers Welcome	Celebrating children's achievements in the Main Hall	9am-9:30am
Friday 24 th April Celebration Assembly All Parents/Carers Welcome	Celebrating children's achievements in the Main Hall	9am-9:30am
Friday 1 st May Celebration Assembly All Parents/Carers Welcome	Celebrating children's achievements in the Main Hall	9am-9:30am
Monday 4th May 2026 MAY DAY BANK HOLIDAY	SCHOOL CLOSED	
Tuesday 5 th May Stand Up To Cancer Bake Sale	Bake Sale – Stand Up To Cancer Please bring cash with you.	3pm-3:30pm
Friday 8 th May Celebration Assembly All Parents/Carers Welcome	Celebrating children's achievements in the Main Hall	9am-9:30am
Friday 15 th May Celebration Assembly All Parents/Carers Welcome	Celebrating children's achievements in the Main Hall	9am-9:30am
Tuesday 19 th May Reception Sports Day All Parents/Carers Welcome	Children to take part in Sports Day on the school playground.	9:15am
Wednesday 20 th May Nursery Sports Day All Parents/Carers Welcome	Children to take part in Sports Day on the school playground.	9:15am
Thursday 21 st May KS1 Sports Day All Parents/Carers Welcome	Children to take part in Sports Day on the school playground.	9:15am
Friday 22 nd May Celebration Assembly All Parents/Carers Welcome	Celebrating children's achievements in the Main Hall	9am-9:30am
Monday 25th May 2026 – Friday 29th May 2026	HALF TERM HOLIDAY	
Monday 1st June 2026	EVERYONE BACK TO SCHOOL	
Friday 5 th June Celebration Assembly All Parents/Carers Welcome	Celebrating children's achievements in the Main Hall	9am-9:30am
Monday 8 th – Friday 12 th June Phonics Screening Check for YR 1	Year 1 children to complete the Phonics Screening Check.	
Friday 12 th June Celebration Assembly All Parents/Carers Welcome	Celebrating children's achievements in the Main Hall	9am-9:30am
Friday 19 th June Celebration Assembly All Parents/Carers Welcome	Celebrating children's achievements in the Main Hall	9am-9:30am
Friday 19 th June Chocolate Donation	Children to wear trainers for Summer Fair donations – chocolate.	
Monday 22 nd June Nursery & Reception New Parents' Evening	Information evening for parents and carers whose children are joining Nursery and Reception September 2026.	5:30pm
Friday 26 th June Bottle Donation	Children to wear an accessory for Summer Fair donations – Bottle	
Friday 26 th June	Celebrating children's achievements in the Main Hall	9am-9:30am

Celebration Assembly All Parents/Carers Welcome		
Tuesday 30 th June Nursery Graduation All Parents/Carers Welcome	Parent/Carers to join in the hall to see their children graduate from Nursery.	9am-9:30am
Thursday 2 nd July Summer Fair	Children taking part in activities. Parents welcome to join in the hall at 3.15pm-5.00pm.	All Day
Friday 3rd July 2026 INSET DAY	SCHOOL CLOSED FOR PUPILS	
Wednesday 8 th July Year 2 Leavers' Assembly All Parents/Carers Welcome	Parent/Carers to join in the hall to celebrate Year Two.	2:30pm-3pm
Thursday 9 th July Year 2 Leavers' Assembly All Parents/Carers Welcome	Parent/Carers to join in the hall to celebrate Year Two.	9am-9:30am
Friday 10 th July Celebration Assembly All Parents/Carers Welcome	Celebrating children's achievements in the Main Hall	9am-9:30am
Friday 10 th July Reports Home	End of Year Reports home to parents/carers.	
Thursday 15 th July 99% Attendance Celebration for Children	99 Club for children with 99% attendance and above	
Friday 17 th July Celebration Assembly All Parents/Carers Welcome	Celebrating children's achievements in the Main Hall	9am-9:30am
Friday 17th July 2026	Everyone in School - Last Day before Summer Holiday	

Term Dates 2025 - 2026



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

	SPRING TERM	INSET DAY
Term Commences	Monday 5 th January 2026 Children start Tuesday 6th January 2026	Monday 5th January 2026
Half Term	Monday 16 th February to Friday 20 th February 2026	
Term Ends	Friday 27 th March 2026	

	SUMMER TERM	INSET DAY
Term Commences	Monday 13 th April 2026	May Day Bank Holiday: Monday 4th May 2026
Half Term	Monday 25 th May to Friday 29 th May 2026	
Term Ends	Friday 17 th July 2026	Friday 3rd July 2026