



Dear Parents, Carers and Children,
It has been a fun and busy first full week back in school. For SPARKS week this week, we began with an assembly to think about our SPARKS values and how important it is for us to be safe, proud, ambitious, ready, kind and successful all of the time.

It was also lovely to see so many of you in school on Tuesday afternoon for the reading workshop. Thank you Mrs Wright for organising this event.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend and thank you for your continuing support.

Ms S Stevens, Headteacher



Studybugs – Absence Reporting App

Damson Wood uses a secure system for reporting your child's absence due to illness, called Studybugs. If you haven't already, please get the free Studybugs app, or register on the Studybugs website, and use it to tell us whenever your child's ill and unable to attend school. The benefits of this app are that it is integrated with our systems so we know right away if your child is unaccounted for and it is quick and easy to register and use and automatically reminds you to keep us posted regarding your child's absence. If you have any questions about Studybugs, please contact the school office. Thank you.

Composer of the Month - September

Every month, we listen to music by a popular composer and learn about the composer and their music. This month's composer is Lin-Manuel Miranda (born 16th January 1980) who is an American actor, rapper, composer and film maker. He is known for creating Broadway musicals Hamilton (2015) and In the Heights (2005). He also composed the soundtrack to Disney's Moana and Encanto (2021) He has won three Tony Awards, three Grammy Awards, two Laurence Olivier Awards, two Primetime Awards, an Annie Award, a Kennedy Center Honor and a Pulitzer Prize.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=46eAjHm77_Q-



Headteacher's Welcome & Meet the Teacher

Monday 16th September – 5.00pm

On Monday 16th September, we are welcoming **all** parents and carers into school for a valuable information evening. This is a chance for you to find out more about school life, your child's learning and how best to support them at home. The evening will begin with a welcome from Ms Stevens, our Headteacher, in the hall and will be followed by a chance to 'Meet the Teacher' in your child's classroom. Teachers will give you more specific information regarding the upcoming curriculum for your child this school year. These sessions are for all parents and carers and there will be separate presentations for each year group. If you have more than one child in school, we would recommend parents/carers either split up to visit different classes or visit your youngest child's classroom first, followed by your older child.



Slip Into Slippers

On Friday 27th September, we will be supporting Age UK Solihull once again by taking part in Slip into Slippers. Please help us to raise as much money as possible for Solihull Age UK by sending your child into school with their slippers to wear during the day for a suggested cash donation of £1, which can be sent into school with your child. They will also need to wear/bring outdoor shoes for playtime please. Thank you for your support.

Author of the Month - September

Every month, we celebrate a popular children's author. For September, our author of the month is Nick Butterworth. Nick was born on 24th May, 1946 and is a British author and illustrator of children's books. His picture book 'The Whisperer' won the Nestle Smarties Book Prize in 2005. His 'Percy the Park Keeper' books became an animated television series of the same name starring Jim Broadbent. You can find some of these stories on YouTube [here](#).



Diary Dates



AUTUMN TERM 2024

Monday 16 th September	5.00pm	Headteacher's Welcome in hall followed by Meet the Teacher in classrooms – <i>All Parents/Carers Welcome</i>
Friday 27 th September	All Day	Slip Into Slippers Day for Solihull Age UK <i>Children to wear slippers for a suggested £1 donation</i>
Monday 14 th – Friday 18 th October		Helping Hands Harvest Collection
Wednesday 9 th October	Morning	School Photographs – Individual & Family
Monday 14 th – Friday 18 th October		Damson Wood Loves Reading Week –
Friday 18 th October		Books Home/Look in school for parents and carers
Monday 21 st October		Scarecrow Making Competition Entries due in.
Monday 21 st October	Evening	Parents' Evenings – <i>letter to follow</i>
Wednesday 23 rd October	Evening	3.30-6.00pm
Thursday 24 th October	9.15am	Harvest Celebration – KS1 (Year 1 and Year 2)
Thursday 24 th October	All Day	Reception – Pirate Party! – <i>Children only</i>
Thursday 24 th October	Afternoon	Year 2 Fabulous Finale – 'London's Burning' – <i>Children only</i>
Monday 28th October – Friday 1st November		HALF TERM
Monday 4th November		Everyone back to School
Wednesday 6 th November	9.15am	Reception 'Potion Commotion' Workshop for children & parents in Willow & Chestnut
Thursday 7 th and Friday 8 th November	10.00-11.00am	Open Mornings
Friday 15 th November	All Day	Children in Need
Monday 11 th - Friday 15 th November		Anti-Bullying Week – 'Choose Respect'
Friday 29 th November	All Day	Non-uniform for Christmas Fair donations - Chocolate
Friday 6 th December	All Day	Non-uniform for Christmas Fair donations - Bottles
Friday 6 th December	3pm-5pm	Christmas Fair
Tuesday 10 th December	9.30am	Reception Christmas Celebration – <i>Parents/Carers Welcome</i>
Wednesday 11 th December	9.30am	Nursery Christmas Celebration – <i>Parents/Carers Welcome</i>
Wednesday 11 th December	2.00pm	KS1 Christmas Celebrations – Year 1 & Year 2
Thursday 12 th December	9.30am	<i>Parents/Carers Welcome</i>
Wednesday 18 th December	Lunchtime	Christmas Dinner – <i>Children Only</i>
Thursday 19 th December	Afternoon	99 Club for children with 99% attendance and above
Friday 20 th December	All Day	Jolly Jumper Day for Solihull Hospital Charity
Monday 23rd December – Friday 3rd January		CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY