

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Ahead of National Recycling Week in November, we have been talking in our assemblies this week about what recycling is and why it is important. The children also enjoyed listening to and discussing the story 'A Planet Full of Plastic' by Neal Layton.

This week, some of the Year 2 children have brought their favourite books to share with the class for reading week and one of the Year 2 children said 'that was the best maths lesson ever' during a 2D shape, problem solving lesson using matchsticks.

Staying with KS1, Year 1 and 2 are in fine voice and continue to practise their singing ahead of their harvest festival performances next week. We are looking forward to inviting you into school to come and share in our harvest celebrations.

Thank you for your continued support and I hope you have an enjoyable and relaxing weekend.

Ms S Stevens, Headteacher

Solihull College Nurse Students

Thank you to the Solihull College Nursing students for coming into Nursery and supporting our topic all about people who help us. Tommy B said, 'That was good fun!' The children all took part in different activities such as taking their temperature, putting on a bandage and brushing teeth.



Christmas Fair Raffle & Stall Holders

We are already starting to prepare for our Christmas Fair on Friday 29th November. Would you like to donate a prize to our raffle or would you like to run a stall? If so, please contact us via s19fair@damson-wood.solihull.sch.uk
Thank you in advance for your support!



Open Morning

Thursday 7th and Friday 8th November 2024

Our Open Morning for children starting Nursery and Reception in September 2025 will take place on Thursday 7th November and Friday 8th November 2024 at 10:00am. The tour will also include a visit to Woodies; our onsite childcare and wrap around care provider.

We encourage you to ask any questions you may have as we aim to provide a clear and open view of the education and support we offer.

To book your guided tour, please contact us on 0121 705 8652 or office@damson-wood.solihull.sch.uk.

We look forward to seeing you there. Please tell any family and friends that might have children who wish to join our school.

Rags2Riches4Schools
Tuesday 19th November

On Tuesday 19th November, we will be collecting once again for the Rags2Riches4Schools recycling scheme, to help others around the world benefit from our good quality unwanted clothes and shoes. We get money for every kilo of reusable items we collect, which goes towards school projects and we would be most grateful if you could help us with this challenge at home. Bags will be sent home nearer the date and can be dropped off at school **on Tuesday 19th November at 9:00am** and should only include good quality clothes and accessories. Thank you for your support as we fundraise for Damson Wood.



Walk, Scoot or Cycle to School Week

Damson Wood will be taking part in the SMBC Walking, Scooting, Cycling Challenge Week **commencing next Monday 21st October 2024.** It is to encourage more families to travel sustainably to school. Traffic congestion, air pollution and road safety concerns affect most schools and 'The Challenge' is a great opportunity to encourage families to ditch the car when travelling to school. For families that live further away, try parking at least 5 minutes away from school and walking the remaining journey. The more families that travel to school sustainably, the more we will reduce the amount of pollution outside school, meaning that the air that all our children breathe will be cleaner and less damaging to young lungs.



Screen Time Guides

How to manage screen time for under-5s

Top tips to support children in Early Years

At this age, the tech children use is often limited to tablets or streaming services. This introduction to screen use means it's a perfect time to create positive screen time habits that grow with your child.

Explore the guide [here](#) for support.

How to manage screen time for young children 5-7

Top tips to support children in Lower Primary

As screens become a bigger part of young children's lives at home and at school, it's important to put balance and purpose behind screen time.

Learn how to help your child develop key skills and benefit most from their screen use [here](#).

Find out more at

internetmatters.org/resources/esafety-leaflets-resources/



Father Christmas Needs Helpers

We are on the lookout for helpers to man the stalls listed below at our Christmas Fair on Friday 29th November from 3:15pm until 5:00pm. If you or a grandparent or carer are able to help us, please contact us on office@damson-wood.solihull.sch.uk with your preferred stall.

- 2x refreshment (serve hot/ cold drinks)
- 2x chocolate tombola
- 2x bottle tombola
- 2x Father Christmas's helpers outside Santa's Grotto

Of course, your child is also welcome to help you.

Diary Dates



AUTUMN TERM 2024

Monday 21 st October	Morning	Nasal Flu Vaccinations – Reception/Year 1/Year 2 only
Monday 21 st October	Evening	Parents' Evenings – letter to follow 3.30-6.00pm
Wednesday 23 rd October	Evening	
Thursday 24 th October	2:30pm	Harvest Festival Assembly (Year 1 and Year 2)
Thursday 24 th October	Day	Scarecrow Making Competition Entries due in
Thursday 24 th October	All Day	Reception – Pirate Party! – Children only
Thursday 24 th October	Afternoon	Year 2 Fabulous Finale – 'London's Burning' Children only
Friday 25 th October	Morning	Harvest Festival Assembly (Year 1 and Year 2)
Monday 28 th October – Friday 1 st November		HALF TERM
Monday 4 th November		Everyone back to School
Wednesday 6 th November	9:15am	Reception 'Potion Commotion' Workshop for children & parents in Willow & Chestnut
Thursday 7 th & Friday 8 th November	10am until 11am	Open Mornings
Friday 15 th November	All Day	Children in Need
Tuesday 19 th November	9:00am	Rags2Riches Clothing Collection
Monday 11 th - Friday 15 th November		Anti-Bullying Week – 'Choose Respect'
Friday 22 nd November	All Day	Non-uniform for Christmas Fair donations - Chocolate
Friday 29 th November	All Day	Non-uniform for Christmas Fair donations - Bottles
Friday 29 th November	3pm until 5pm	Christmas Fair
Tuesday 10 th December	9:30am	Reception Christmas Celebration – Parents/Carers Welcome
Wednesday 11 th December	9:30am	Nursery Christmas Celebration – Parents/Carers Welcome
Wednesday 11 th December	2:00pm	KS1 Christmas Celebrations – Year 1 & Year 2
Thursday 12 th December	9:30am	Parents/Carers Welcome
Wednesday 18 th December	Lunchtime	Christmas Dinner – Children Only
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 23 rd December until Friday 3 rd January		CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

Damson Wood is part of the Central Schools Trust with 'Outstanding'
Balsall Common Primary School - www.centralschoolstrust.co.uk

