

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,
It has been another busy week at Damson Wood and it was so lovely to see so many smiles for the school photos on Wednesday.

You will have seen from my previous letter that we will be making some small changes to some aspects of our provision after the half term break. With the small drop in pupil numbers recently, we must provide a reasonable and pragmatic response and we will therefore be changing the afternoon provision for some groups of children from Monday 4th November. This response will ensure the ongoing delivery of a great education to all of our children whilst maintaining financial sustainability for the school.

If you have any questions about this, or require further information, please do not hesitate to contact me via the school office.

I hope you have an enjoyable weekend.

Ms S Stevens, Headteacher



What are the Internet Safety ABCs?

Activate parental controls

Use the controls and tools available from broadband providers, online platforms and apps to install safe search settings, block inappropriate content and prevent contact from strangers.

Balance screen time

Agree a good balance for your children's screen time, taking education and leisure content into account. Encourage active screen time over passive and consider setting limits for the total hours spent online each day.

Check and Chat

Check which apps your children use and the relevant age limits for each platform. And talk regularly about online safety and what they might come across so you can work together to manage any risks and keep online experiences positive.

For my internet safety advice please visit:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/abc-online-safety-checklist/>



Composer of the Month Fact File

October's Composer of the Month is: Taylor Swift



Tell me more about the composer: -

Taylor Alison Swift (born December 13, 1989) is an American singer-songwriter. Taylor Swift is one of the world's best-selling music artists, with a record seven albums that sold over one million copies in the first-week. She is the highest-grossing female touring act and the richest female musician ever. She has been listed amongst history's greatest artists by publications such as *Rolling Stone*, *Billboard*, and *Forbes*, as well as being the only individual from the arts to have been named the Time Person of the Year (2023). Her accolades include: 14 Grammy Awards, a Primetime Emmy Award, 40 American Music Awards, 39 *Billboard* Music Awards, and 30 MTV Video Music Awards; she has won the Grammy Award for Album of the Year, MTV Video Music Award for Video of the Year and the IFPI Global Recording Artist of the Year at least four times each.

Check out the link below for a compilation of her songs:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e-ORhEE9VVg&list=RDEMb1vAi4rwXXeDlr7NZ68C_w&start_radio=1-

Key Questions:

How does this music make you feel?

What instruments can you hear being played?



Harvest Collection

Our Harvest Food & Hygiene Products collection starts on **Monday 14th October** and as part of our ongoing effort to support those in our community facing difficult times, we are organising a donation drive to collect non-perishable food items and hygiene products for households in need. Every contribution, no matter how big or small, will make a difference and help families in our community get through tough times.

Please send your donation into school with your child any day next week.



Open Morning

Our Open Morning for children starting Nursery and Reception in September 2025 will take place on Thursday 7th November and Friday 8th November 2024. 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.

APPOINTMENT



Parents' Evening Appointments Monday 14th October (Rowan Only)

Monday 21st October & Wednesday 23rd October 2024

Don't forget to book your Parents' Evening appointment, if you have not already done so. Your appointment will last no longer than 10 minutes. Appointments should be booked via the online portal Parents Evening System, which you can access here: <https://damsonwood.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

Photographs from Willow Class's Pirate Morning



Diary Dates



AUTUMN TERM 2024

Monday 14 th October	Evening	Parents' Evening – Rowan Class Only 3:30pm – 6pm
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
Wednesday 23 rd October	Evening	3:30-6:00pm
Thursday 24 th October	2:30pm	Harvest Celebration – KS1 (Year 1 and Year 2)
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	9:30am	Harvest Festival – KS1 (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 and Friday 8 th November	10am - 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

