

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

It's been another busy week in school and lovely to see the weather become drier as the week has progressed. We began with an assembly on Monday about the importance of understanding what kindness is and the different ways that you can show kindness.

Reception have been visited this week by Pirate Simon. The children in Reception thoroughly enjoyed the visit and the fantastic photos show that this really brought their 'Ahoy There' topic to life. Thank you Pirate Simon.

Thank you again to all of you who supported Age UK last week. Rebecca Jacob came to school on Monday to collect our donation and thanked the children for participating in Slip into Slippers on behalf of this very worthwhile charity.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Ms S Stevens, Headteacher



#### Slip into Slippers

A big thank you to everyone who donated to Slip into Slippers Day last Friday. Rebecca from **Age UK Solihull**, visited school and spoke with our pupils on how the £65.00 Damson Wood raised during the Slip into Slippers event will be invested in supporting our mature residents to ensure they have the support needed. For more information or how to get involved, please visit:

<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/solihull/>



#### Ahoy Me Mateys!



Our Reception pupils had a fantastic pirate and navy morning when **Simon from Solihull Sea Cadets** visited. Plenty of engaging activities kept our pupils' fully focused in their pirate and navy roles. This workshop links well to their learning where they have done plenty of descriptive drawings and readings. Thank you Simon for giving us a fantastic workshop!



#### Parents' Evening Appointments

##### Monday 14<sup>th</sup> (Rowan Only)

##### Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October & Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2024

Parents' Evening appointments are now available to book with your child's class teacher to discuss how they have settled into their new class.

We would like to offer Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 parents an opportunity to sign up for an appointment time on either Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October (**Rowan only**), Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October or Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October between 3:30 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. Please note:

**Nursery parents evening is Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October from 3.30 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. and Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October from 2:30 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.**

**Rowan parents evening is Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October and Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October – NOT Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October.**

Appointments will be booked on a first come first served basis so please respond as soon as possible. Your appointment will last no longer than 10 minutes. If there is anything you would like to discuss at greater length with your child's class teacher, please let them know and they can arrange an appropriate alternative time to do this. Appointments should be booked via the online portal Parents Evening System, which you can access here: <https://damsonwood.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

Please enter school via the main office (Stockwell Rise) and make your way to your child's classroom. We will do our best to carry out appointments to time and therefore ask that you arrive promptly.

We will ask you to check your child's red collection form and your child's data collection form, in order to ensure our records are up-to-date. Therefore, it would be helpful if you could have with you any updated telephone numbers, addresses or email addresses for contacts we hold in anticipation of your appointment.



### Online Safety

With so many websites and apps targeting young children, you can find out the simple steps you can take to protect your child / children at [internetmatters.org](http://internetmatters.org).

The early use of digital technology can boost language skills, social development and creativity in children.

However, it also carries risks like exposure to inappropriate content, sharing personal information, or imitating older kids online.

Find out how to stay safe and positive online with advice by age, setting controls and resources, together with lots of useful checklists at [internetmatters.org/advice](http://internetmatters.org/advice).



### Open Morning

We are delighted to invite prospective parents of children starting Nursery and Reception in September 2025 to our open mornings on either Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November or Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November at 10:00am. Throughout the morning, you will have the chance to tour our facilities, observe lessons and engage in discussions with our Headteacher and Senior Leadership Team.

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.

Please spread the word on how to book your guided tour, by contacting us on 0121 705 8652 or [office@damson-wood.solihull.sch.uk](mailto:office@damson-wood.solihull.sch.uk).



### Shopping at Asda and Support School

Until 30th November 2024, every time a customer shops with Asda using their Rewards App, they can choose to reward our school. Asda will also donate £1.00 to our school's Cash Pot, plus a further £50 when our first customer shops. Will you be the 1<sup>st</sup> customer supporting us? Please spread the word.



### School Photographs

Just a reminder that Next Gen Photography will be in school on **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024** to take individual and family photographs.



### Woodies Holiday Club – October Half Term

This October half term, Woodies Holiday Club will be open from Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October to Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October for children aged 3 - 11 years old, from 8:00am until 3:15pm. There are still a few places available so do book your place as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.



### Harvest Collection

In preparation for our Harvest Food & Hygiene Products collection from **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> to Friday 18<sup>th</sup> 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 during our collection week.**

# Diary Dates



# AUTUMN TERM 2024

Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> October	Morning	School Photographs – Individual & Family
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> October	Evening	Rowan Class Only - Parents' Evening 3:30pm – 6pm
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> October		Helping Hands Harvest Collection
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> – Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> October		Damson Wood Loves Reading Week
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> October		Books Home/Look in school for parents and carers
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> October		Scarecrow Making Competition Entries due in.
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	Evening	Parents' Evenings
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Evening	3:30pm -6:00pm
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	9:15am	Harvest Celebration – KS1 (Year 1 and Year 2)
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	All Day	Reception – Pirate Party! – Children only
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	Afternoon	Year 2 Fabulous Finale – 'London's Burning' – Children only
Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> October – Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> November		<b>HALF TERM</b>
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November		<b>Everyone back to School</b>
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	9:15am	Reception 'Potion Commotion' Workshop for children & parents in Willow & Chestnut
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> November	10am until	Open Mornings – Please contact the school office on 0121 705 8652 to book an appointment
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> November	11am	
Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> November	All Day	Children in Need
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	9:00am	Rags2Riches Clothing Collection
Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> November		Anti-Bullying Week – 'Choose Respect'
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> November	All Day	Non-uniform for Christmas Fair donations - Chocolate
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	All Day	Non-uniform for Christmas Fair donations - Bottles
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> November	3pm 5pm	Christmas Fair
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	9:30am	Reception (Willow Class) Christmas Celebration- Parents/Carers Welcome
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	9:30am	Nursery (Ash Class) Christmas Celebration- Parents/Carers Welcome
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	2:00pm	KS1 Christmas Celebration – Year 1 & Year 2
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	9:30am	Parents/Carers Welcome
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Lunchtime	Christmas Dinner – Children Only
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> December	Afternoon	99 Club for children with 99% attendance and above
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	All Day	Jolly Jumper Day for Solihull Hospital Charity
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December 2024 until Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2025		<b>CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY</b>

Damson Wood is part of the Central Schools Trust with 'Outstanding'  
Balsall Common Primary School - [www.centralschoolstrust.co.uk](http://www.centralschoolstrust.co.uk)

