



# DAMSON WOOD INFANT SCHOOL

'Learning and Growing Together'



## NEWSLETTER

27<sup>th</sup> September 2024

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

We began this week with an assembly which focussed on our 'Safe' value where we discussed safe and unsafe situations in and around school.

As you will see elsewhere in this newsletter, Meena Gabbi has now been elected to the role of Chair of Governors. Meena visited school this week and thoroughly enjoyed walking around the school to see what the children were learning. We look forward to inviting many of our Governors into school during this coming year.

Thank you to all of you who supported Age UK today by wearing your slippers to school today. We look forward to presenting the money we have raised to Age UK next week.

I hope you have a lovely weekend.

Ms S Stevens, Headteacher

### Open Morning

We are delighted to invite prospective parents of children starting Nursery and Reception in September 2025 to our open mornings on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November and Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November from 10am until 11am. 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).



### School Photographs

Next Gen School Photography will be in school on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October to take individual and family school photos.

### Governance Update

The Governors would like to welcome everyone for the start of the new school year and they are very much looking forward to working with the school. Just by way of update, after many years of service Lisa Evans steps down as Chair of Governors and we thank her for her many years of service and dedication to the school. Meena Gabbi (Previously Vice Chair) has been elected to the role of Chair with Becca Maxted being elected as Vice Chair. We look forward to hearing from them in the next few weeks.

We also have a new vacancy for a parent governor on the Local Academy Committee (LAC, formerly the Local Governing Board) The LAC's role is to oversee the activities of the school, work in line with the trust's terms of reference, and support the school's leadership team. Governors are also accountable to parents and other stakeholders for the performance of the school. It operates under the DFE statutory guidance and uses the Academy Trust Governance Guide. Enthusiasm and commitment are essential and training and development opportunities will be provided. Currently, the LAC meets six times per year, with meetings held online on Wednesdays from 6:30pm. The term of office is four years. If you wish to nominate yourself for the role of Parent Governor, please contact Alison Lowe, Governance Professional for an application form on [g2alowe-cst@solgrid.org.uk](mailto:g2alowe-cst@solgrid.org.uk) before 4:00pm on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024.

### Walk, Scoot or Cycle to School Week

Damson Wood will be taking part in the SMBC Walking, Scooting, Cycling Challenge Week commencing Monday 21<sup>st</sup> 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. More details to follow next month.



Are you experiencing domestic abuse? You are not alone.

For support, please call the freephone 24-hour Domestic Abuse Helpline on 0808 2000 247



# Diary Dates



## AUTUMN TERM 2024

Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> October	Morning	School Photographs – <b>Individual &amp; Family</b>
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/Carers
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> - Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> October		Walk, Scoot or Cycle to School Week
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> October		Scarecrow Making Entries due in
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	Evening	Parents' Evenings – More details to follow.
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! – <b>Children only</b>
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	Afternoon	Year 2 Fabulous Finale – 'London's Burning' <b>Children only</b>
<b>Monday 28<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November</b>		<b>HALF TERM</b>
<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November</b>		<b>Everyone back to School</b>
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	9:15am	Reception 'Potion Commotion' Workshop for children & parents in Willow
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> November	10am until	Open Mornings
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> November	11am	<b>Please contact the office to book an appointment.</b>
<b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup> - Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November</b>		<b>Anti-Bullying Week – 'Choose Respect'</b>
<b>Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>All Day</b>	<b>Children in Need</b>
<b>Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November</b>	<b>All Day</b>	<b>Non-uniform for Christmas Fair donations</b> <b>Chocolate</b>
<b>Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>All Day</b>	<b>Non-uniform for Christmas Fair donations</b> <b>Bottles</b>
<b>Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>3pm - 5pm</b>	<b>Christmas Fair</b>
<b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	<b>Reception Christmas Celebration</b> <b>Parents/Carers Welcome</b>
<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	<b>Nursery Christmas Celebration</b> <b>Parents/Carers Welcome</b>
<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>2:00pm</b>	<b>KS1 Christmas Celebrations – Year 1 &amp; Year 2</b>
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>9:30am</b>	<b>Parents/Carers Welcome</b>
<b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Lunchtime</b>	<b>Christmas Dinner – Children Only</b>
<b>Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Afternoon</b>	<b>99 Club for children with 99% attendance and above</b>
<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>All Day</b>	<b>Jolly Jumper Day for Solihull Hospital Charity</b>
<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>3:15pm</b>	<b>Last Day of Autumn Term</b>
<b>Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2024 until Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2025</b>		<b>CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY</b>