

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

Here we are, already at the end of our third week back at school, and we have already packed so much into this time.

Thank you to all of you who gave up your time to meet the teachers on Monday evening.

This event was very well attended and we thank you for your continuing support. There is still time to contact the school office if you are interested in supporting the school by joining the school PTA. Thank you to those who have already been in touch.

I hope you all have a lovely weekend.

Ms S Stevens, Headteacher

Playground Safety



Thank you to all parents and carers for continuing to encourage the children to keep off the play equipment before and after school and for encouraging the children to walk their bikes and scooters through the site. This helps us to ensure that all of the children are safe at all times whilst on the school site. Please note that this expectation also extends to the play equipment in the Nursery outside area. Thank you for helping us to keep the children safe.



Woodies Childcare

Places Available for 2 Year Olds!

Do you have a child who is 2 years old? Do you know someone who may be looking for childcare for their 2 year-old? If so, they can attend Woodies Childcare for funded or paid places. We currently have places available and offer a range of flexible childcare options. If you would like to find out what you are entitled to, please visit: www.childcarechoices.gov.uk and contact Nicola or Stella in Woodies to find out more. Please call 0121 705 8652 option 3.

Skills Builder

At Damson Wood, we use an initiative called 'Skills Builder' to build essential skills into the everyday curriculum. Essential Skills are those Skills that are absolutely necessary to success in all aspects of life. Being confident in all eight essential skills can support your child's social and wellbeing and learning outcomes. Skills Builder has developed a Universal Framework that breaks each of these essential skills down into 16 teachable steps. We use this framework to teach and practise each of the eight skills at the appropriate level throughout school life. We also incorporate skills into other areas of the curriculum for example, problem solving in maths. Skills Builder has many resources to use at home on the Skills Builder Home Learning Hub: <https://www.skillsbuilder.org/homezone>



Damson Wood has been awarded a Silver Skills Builder award in recognition of all the hard work and commitment we have shown towards this programme. A huge thank you to all the staff who have been using it so extensively when teaching pupils.



Friday Celebration Assembly

Every Friday we have a Celebration Assembly which is open to parents, carers, grandparents, aunties, uncles and siblings. Please join us at 9:10am any Friday morning to celebrate children's achievements and birthdays from the week and hear us sing. If your child is receiving an award, our child's class teacher will let you know via Class Dojo. Thank you and we look forward to seeing you there!



Thank You!

Thank you to all of the parents attending our **Welcome and Meet the Teacher Evening**. It was lovely to see so many parents and carers there. We hope you find our curriculum engaging - we believe in creating a positive, engaging and inclusive environment where everyone can succeed.



Open Morning

We are delighted to invite prospective parents of children starting Nursery and Reception in September 2025 to our open mornings on Thursday 7th November and Friday 8th 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.



New Start Assembly

Reverend Bekah Clark from Elmdon Church visited us this week and presented an engaging 'New Start' assembly by using print outs of a person in a starting block; kittens, chicks, butterflies in different stage of maturing to mention a few, linking to how we all are to embrace a new start and in our case a start to a new academic year. Thank you Reverend Bekah for your inspirational and engaging presentation that linked so well to our SPARKS values.

For more information about the Church please follow the link below.

<https://facebook.com/ElmdonChurch>



Harvest Collection

In preparation for our Harvest Food & Hygiene Products collection from **Monday 14th to Friday 18th 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.**



Harvest food & hygiene products collection 14 - 18 October

We will conduct a Harvest food & hygiene products collection supporting the **Helping Hands** charity in Solihull that in return also supports some households in Damson Wood with food and hygiene product parcels.

To allow for a varied item collection, we ask our pupils and staff to bring in **1 item** from below list:

- dental products
- hygiene products (not dental)
- tinned food
- cereals
- long lasting milk
- pot noodles, instant mash, microwave rise, couscous sachets
- coffee, tea, squash

During this week, tables will be set up in the front of our Hall, where our pupils can place their donated item.

Together, we can make a positive impact and support those who need it most.

Diary Dates



AUTUMN TERM 2024

<i>Friday 27th September</i>	<i>All Day</i>	<i>Slip Into Slippers Day for Solihull Age UK Children to wear slippers for a suggested £1 donation</i>
<i>Monday 14th – Friday 18th October</i>		<i>Helping Hands Harvest Collection</i>
<i>Wednesday 9th October</i>	<i>Morning</i>	<i>School Photographs – Individual & Family</i>
<i>Monday 14th – Friday 18th October</i>		<i>Damson Wood Loves Reading Week –</i>
<i>Friday 18th October</i>		<i>Books Home/Look in school for parents and carers</i>
<i>Monday 21st October</i>		<i>Scarecrow Making Competition Entries due in.</i>
<i>Monday 21st October</i>	<i>Evening</i>	<i>Parents' Evenings – letter to follow</i>
<i>Wednesday 23rd October</i>	<i>Evening</i>	<i>3.30-6.00pm</i>
<i>Thursday 24th October</i>	<i>9:15am</i>	<i>Harvest Celebration – KS1 (Year 1 and Year 2)</i>
<i>Thursday 24th October</i>	<i>All Day</i>	<i>Reception – Pirate Party! – Children only</i>
<i>Thursday 24th October</i>	<i>Afternoon</i>	<i>Year 2 Fabulous Finale – 'London's Burning' – Children only</i>
<i>Monday 28th October – Friday 1st November</i>		<i>HALF TERM</i>
<i>Monday 4th November</i>		<i>Everyone back to School</i>
<i>Wednesday 6th November</i>	<i>9:15am</i>	<i>Reception 'Potion Commotion' Workshop for children & parents in Willow & Chestnut</i>
<i>Thursday 7th & Friday 8th November</i>	<i>10am until 11am</i>	<i>Open Mornings</i>
<i>Friday 15th November</i>	<i>All Day</i>	<i>Children in Need</i>
<i>Tuesday 19th November</i>	<i>9:00am</i>	<i>Rags2Riches Clothing Collection</i>
<i>Monday 11th - Friday 15th November</i>		<i>Anti-Bullying Week – 'Choose Respect'</i>
<i>Friday 29th November</i>	<i>All Day</i>	<i>Non-uniform for Christmas Fair donations - Chocolate</i>
<i>Friday 6th December</i>	<i>All Day</i>	<i>Non-uniform for Christmas Fair donations - Bottles</i>
<i>Friday 6th December</i>	<i>3pm until 5pm</i>	<i>Christmas Fair</i>
<i>Tuesday 10th December</i>	<i>9:30am</i>	<i>Reception Christmas Celebration – Parents/Carers Welcome</i>
<i>Wednesday 11th December</i>	<i>9:30am</i>	<i>Nursery Christmas Celebration – Parents/Carers Welcome</i>
<i>Wednesday 11th December</i>	<i>2:00pm</i>	<i>KS1 Christmas Celebrations – Year 1 & Year 2</i>
<i>Thursday 12th December</i>	<i>9:30am</i>	<i>Parents/Carers Welcome</i>
<i>Wednesday 18th December</i>	<i>Lunchtime</i>	<i>Christmas Dinner – Children Only</i>
<i>Thursday 19th December</i>	<i>Afternoon</i>	<i>99 Club for children with 99% attendance and above</i>
<i>Friday 20th December</i>	<i>All Day</i>	<i>Jolly Jumper Day for Solihull Hospital Charity</i>
<i>Monday 23rd December until Friday 3rd January</i>		<i>CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY</i>

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

