Weekly News

2nd Nov – 6th Nov 2026



ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

Children in Need

Non Uniform Day – Friday 13th November



More information on next week's news about how you can donate to this amazing charity. **Thank you.**



KS2 Danceathon Friday 13th Nov

We will be hosting a KS2 DANCEATHON from 4.30-5.45pm in the KS2 Hall

- KS2 children are invited to dance nonstop to their favourite tracks
- Tickets are £5 and will include a glitter ball biscuit and drink. Allergies catered for. **No other money needed.**
- Ticket sales will go live after half term and can be purchased via parentpay.
- Children at Darby's who wish to attend will be offered an early tea
- Children attending After School Clubs can go straight from the club
- Children going to the Danceathon can come disco ready as it's a non uniform day
- Children should be dropped off at the main KS2 entrance at 4.30pm
- Children should be collected from the rear hall doors on the KS2 playground at 5.45pm

Endeavour w/b 12th Oct

Rec: Josh, Curtis, JJ
Yr 1: Malen, Saffia
Yr 2: Rosie, Grace, Malachi
Yr 3: Mia-Mei, Rosie, Hajra
Yr 4: Neve, Charlie, Archie
Yr 5: Sienna, Darcy, Poppy
Yr 6: Elliot, James, Louis, Felicity

Thank you

We have had an amazing response to the Black History Month homework.



Individual and Sibling Photographs

The proofs will go directly to the primary parent by email, rather than hard copies being sent to the school. If you have not received an email, check with your partner or in your trash.
If you didn't receive your proof via email, or have any queries, please contact Holly, Astracolour's Administrator, admin@astracolour.com – including your child's name and class when you email.
Please note that Astracolour no longer send separate proofs for sibling photos and parents will be able to view these once you log in with your children's individual codes.

The cut-off date for free delivery to school is **30th October 2026.**



Solihull faces climate challenges

including,rising temperatures, increased flooding and biodiversity loss. **The Climate Change Action Plan** explains what needs to happen in Solihull to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare for the impacts of climate change. It sets out the actions the Council will take between 2026 and 2030 to make the borough cleaner, greener and more resilient https://www.solihull.gov.uk/your-future-solihull/climate-change-action-plan

The DPS Eco Council are supporting the 'Engines off, No Idling' Campaign and children will be introduced to the 'Cut Your Carbon this November' drive during assemblies after half term.



Fee paying After School Clubs Autumn 2

Please refer to your booking confirmation for more information.There will be **no** After School Clubs during the last week of term due to all the Christmas events.

Teacher Led Clubs dates Autumn 2

Mr Coley's Boys and Girls Football on Tuesday nights and Mrs Barker's Netball on Thursday nights will continue until the end of November. The last week for these clubs is w/b 23rd November.

Mrs Brookson and Mrs Perkins' Year 4&5 Art Club will run for 6 weeks from Tuesday 3rd November – Tuesday 8th December.

PTA Christmas Fair – Golden Tickets!

In preparation for the Christmas Fair we are asking each child to return to school after half term with **just one filled and decorated jar in return for a golden ticket**. To make things interesting, jars don't have to contain edible items, they could be:

Toy & Activity Jars

- Mini Builders: Small Lego bricks, mini figures, or a Hot Wheels die-cast car.
- Craft Corner: Googly eyes, pipe cleaners, stickers, mini stampers, and temporary tattoos.
- Dinosaur or Jungle World: Plastic toy animals or tiny dinosaurs nestled in green paper shreds.
- Fidget & Fun: Marbles, a mini slinky, bouncy balls, or a pop-it keychain

Beauty & Pamper Jars

- Spa Day: A mini bath bomb, face mask sachet, nail polish, and an emery board.
- Hair Accessories: Bright scrunchies, colourful hair clips, and stretchy hair bands.
- Lip Balm & Bling: Flavoured lip balm, cute keychains, and kid-safe costume jewellery.

Stationery & Back-to-School Jars

- Mini Desk Kit: Tiny notebook, patterned pencils, a cute eraser, and mini paper clips.
- Colouring Pack: Mini crayons or chalk sticks rolled up with a small notepad.

Sport News

The school football teams had a brilliant evening on Tuesday, with both the boys' and girls' teams coming out victorious against Knowle. Despite the extremely soggy conditions, they all wanted to play (making their feelings very clear throughout the day!), and it was great to see how much they love representing the school. Thanks too to the parents who also braved the wet weather to come and support!

The boys secured an excellent 3–0 win, with brilliant football on show throughout the match. It was a real team effort from start to finish, as the boys worked incredibly hard both in attack and defence. They achieved a hard-fought clean sheet, demonstrating great teamwork, as well as scoring great goals.

Not to be outdone, the girls' team also had a fantastic evening, showing real determination and resilience to come back from two goals down to secure an incredible 4–2 victory. It was brilliant to see the girls keep their heads up, support one another and continue to work hard right until the final whistle. This was especially pleasing as, for some of the girls, it was their very first competitive football match.

Well done to all involved!



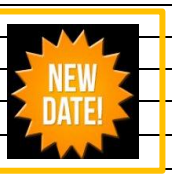


Autumn 2 is super busy and fun filled!

Please work with us by making a note of the dates below and keeping up with news and reminders in the Weeklies. We look forward to welcoming parents into school for the Christmas productions, Walkabout and Christmas Carols towards the end of term.

Date	Time and Venue	Autumn 2 Dates
22&23.10.26		**INSET DAYS – School closed to pupils**
22&23.10.26		Darby's Holiday Club Open
26th-30th Oct		**HALF TERM and Darby's Holiday Club**
26th-30th Oct		Darby's Holiday Club Open
Autumn 2		
November		**ECO Council Cut Your Carbon Campaign**
02.11.26		**Creative Arts Week**
04.11.26		**Year 3 Egyptian Workshop**
10.11.26	1.30pm The Hub	Parent Council Meeting
11.11.26		Remembrance Day
11.11.26	9am Learning Support Room	Pastoral and SEND Coffee Morning
13.11.26		**Non Uniform Day – Children in Need**
13.11.26	4.30pm – 5.45pm KS2 Hall	**KS2 DANCETHON**
16.11.26		**Road Safety Week** – Safe Vehicle, Save Lives
16.11.26		**Anti-Bullying Week** – Break the Silence
16.11.26		**Odd Socks Day – Wear odd socks with uniform**
16.11.26		**Year 4 SPARK Workshop – visit from Solihull Fire Service**
17.11.26		EYFS Road Safety Talk
23.11.26		Year 1 - 5 Assessment Fortnight
23.11.26	Times TBC	Book Fair Week
23&24.11.26		**Year 2 Let's Animate**
27.11.26		Reception – Year 6 Flu Vaccinations Mop Up
December		
03.12.26		Rev. Duncan Hill-Brown Christmas Assemblies
03.12.26	3.15-4pm	Walkabout **EYFS&KS1** 3.15-3.45pm and **KS2** 3.30-4pm
04.12.26	**Beauty and the Beast**	Year R to Year 6 Panto Trip – **Christmas Jumpers with Uniform**
04.12.26	**AM**	**Nursery Major Mustard's Travelling Show - Christmas Jumpers**
04.12.26	3.15-5pm	PTA Christmas Fair
07.12.26		Dress Rehearsal and Recording Reception, Year 2 & 4 Plays
08.12.26	AM	Reception Christmas Play (1)
08.12.26	7pm KS2 Hall	Year 4 Christmas Play
09.12.26	AM	Reception Christmas Play (2)
09.12.26	PM	Year 2 Christmas Plays (1)
10.09.26	AM	Year 2 Christmas Plays (2)
10.12.26		Year 6 Christmas Party
11.12.26		Year 5 Christmas Party
11.12.26	PM	Year 4 Arden Football Festival
14.12.26		Year 4 Christmas Party
15.12.26		Reception and Year 3 Christmas Parties
16.12.26	AM	Nursery Christmas Party
16.12.26		Whole School Christmas Lunch
16.12.26	KS1 AM & KS2 PM	Talent Show KS1 & KS2
17.12.26		Year 1&2 Christmas Parties
17.12.26		PTA Christmas Shopping Day EYFS/KS1 – KS1 Hall
18.12.26	10am	Whole School Christmas Carols
18.12.26		**Christmas Jumper with Uniform**
18.12.26		TERM ENDS
21-31 Dec	Dates TBC	Darby's Christmas Holiday Club
04.01.27		**INSET DAY – School closed to pupils**
05.01.27	**Spring 1**	**BACK TO SCHOOL**











This is a computer generated image of the proposed Year 2 outdoor reading area – thank you in advance for your support.



Creative Arts Week
w/c 2nd November -
See attached flyer for more information

Weekly Celebration

Include others when working or playing

Nursery

This week, we've enjoyed lots of Halloween themed activities, including learning about spiders, creating spooky crafts, painting pumpkins and exploring different ways to make marks using paint, a variety of tools and fruit printing. We've also come to the end of our topic inspired by the story *From Head to Toe*, focusing on how we can keep ourselves healthy, strong and clean. We talked about the importance of brushing our hair, cleaning our teeth, washing our hands, getting plenty of sleep and exercise, as well as eating a healthy, balanced diet.

The children particularly enjoyed our exciting activities exploring germs and handwashing. We used glitter to help us visualise how germs can spread around the classroom and discussed why it's important to wash our hands thoroughly. We also carried out a fun experiment using pepper and soap. The pepper represented germs, and the children were amazed to see how the pepper moved away when soap was introduced to the water. These activities helped us understand why using soap is so important when washing our hands.

As we come to the end of our first term, we would like to say how incredibly proud and impressed we are with all the children. They have settled into nursery, explored new experiences, and made so much progress. We know everyone will be ready for a well-deserved rest, so we hope you all enjoy a lovely, restful half term together.

After the break, we'll be celebrating Creative Arts Week by exploring colour mixing and getting creative around the theme of Bonfire Night. We'll also enjoy some exciting activities to celebrate Diwali.

Have a wonderful half-term, enjoy some special family time, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back after the break.

Reception

We are really looking forward to Creative Arts Week after half term where we will be looking at the work of the artist Yayoi Kusama; look out for photos on Class Dojo capturing our activities.

In phonics, we will begin our phase 3 teaching, introducing the new sounds: j, v, w, x and learning the tricky words: he, she. Please continue to practise word cards, letter sounds and blending skills at home with your child. Regular practise helps to reinforce what we are learning in class and plays an important role in building your child's reading fluency and confidence. Even a few minutes each day can make a big difference and really supports their progress. Thank you for your continued support!

After half term, RD will be looking at the book 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'. Thank you for the toilet rolls that we have had so far. If you could continue to collect them for us, we would really appreciate it as we will be making our own binoculars to become explorers!

RD will begin their Forest School after half term - more information will be added to Dojo. RP will begin their Footie Bug sessions after half term on Tuesday afternoons and RS will be doing PE sessions on Fridays.

As the weather begins to get colder, please ensure the children have plenty of layers to keep them warm. It would be really beneficial to get your child to practise putting their own coat on and doing it up independently over the holidays. Over half term please can you check that all uniform is still named as we have several items missing and several unnamed items in lost property.

Have a wonderful half term!

Forest School Autumn 2

RD Thursday

Year 1

And with that, we have completed our first half term of Year 1!

The children have really settled into the new challenges of KS1 and, although they are definitely ready for some well-earned rest and recuperation, we have seen a real increase in their focus, confidence and stamina as the weeks have progressed.

In this short week, we have wrapped up our history unit, *How Am I Making History?*, by creating class time capsules. Everyone contributed before the capsules were sealed and handed over to Year 6 for safekeeping. They won't be opened again until 2031, when the children themselves will be in Year 6!

Afterwards, we spent time reflecting on the history skills developed over the half term. Do ask your child what they can remember about timelines, living memory, the past, present and future, and how they

Year 2

What a fantastic first half term we have had in Year 2! It has been lovely getting to know the children and watching them grow in confidence, independence and enthusiasm for their learning. They have settled into their new routines so well, and we are incredibly proud of all they have achieved already. Thank you for your continued support and for working with us to make such a positive start to the year.

In English, we have finished our work linked to *How to Make Friends with a Ghost*. The children have written fantastic friendship guides, creating their own introductions and *'You will need'* lists for the perfect friend. We have been so impressed with their creativity, imagination and growing confidence as writers!

In maths, we have continued to develop our subtraction skills, focusing on subtracting from a tens number and subtracting across ten. To support their understanding, we have used Base 10 equipment and encouraged children to draw their own representations in their books. This helps them to

themselves are making history. We are sure that you will be impressed by how much they know.
We also completed our science unit on *Everyday Materials* this week, revisiting key vocabulary and reflecting on the scientific skills developed through our investigations. Taking time to revisit our learning has really helped the children recognise just how much their understanding has grown, both during lessons and through their choosing activities.
In maths, we have continued to develop the children's understanding of part-whole models and how these can be represented as number sentences within 10. This has proved challenging for some, but we have seen growing confidence and are sure they would enjoy sharing their improved understanding with you at home.
As we come to the end of the half term, we would like to say a huge well done to all the children who completed Black History Month projects. We have been blown away by their creativity, enthusiasm and confidence when sharing their work with their classes. What a fantastic effort!
Looking ahead, we have lots of exciting art afternoons planned for Creative Arts Week during our first week back. Things may get a little messy, so please send your child in with an old shirt or apron to protect their uniform. Please ensure these are clearly named.
Finally, whilst a rest is very much needed to recharge those batteries ready for Autumn 2, please do keep up the regular reading and sound card practice. Just a little reading every day during half term will help keep their phonics knowledge fresh and help them continue to develop their reading fluency.
Have a wonderful half term, everyone! Thank you for all your support over these first few weeks. We look forward to welcoming the children back, refreshed and ready for another exciting half term of learning!
The Year 1 Team

Year 3

What a fantastic first half term Year 3 have had! The children have settled so well into KS2, we are so proud of them all.
In English we have now written our first big piece of writing. The children have written their own version of the children's book Mini Rabbit Not Lost, and written a more KS2 level text. We are looking forward to reading all of these!
In maths we are working on addition and subtraction and will be moving on to the subtraction portion after half term. This will be the first time the children are exposed to column subtraction so please bare with them if they try to practise at home!
In history we have finished our work on the Ancient Egyptians, and hopefully the children are able to tell

visualise calculations and build confidence when solving problems independently.
Next half term, we will be focusing on improving engagement with Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS). Our Year 6 maths ambassadors will be joining us in assembly to celebrate our class scores! Please encourage your child to practise regularly at home, as little and often can make a real difference.
After half term, we will start a new book called *Last Stop on Market Street*, this promises to be another engaging text for our Year 2 pupils. Our afternoons will focus on *Life Cycles* in science and *Would you prefer to live in a hot or cold place* in geography.
A huge thank you for the fantastic Black History Month homework. We have loved seeing the thoughtful and creative pieces of work, and the children have thoroughly enjoyed sharing their learning with their classmates.
Finally, speaking parts for our Christmas play have been sent home in home-school organisers. We would really appreciate your support in helping children learn their lines, ready for rehearsals after half term. Further information for costumes will follow shortly.
We hope you all enjoy a happy, restful and restorative half term, spending quality time together and making some lovely memories. The children deserve a well-earned break, and we cannot wait to welcome them back refreshed and ready for another exciting half term of learning in Autumn 2!

Year 4

In English, we have started our new unit based on The True Story of the 3 Little Pigs. The children have enjoyed exploring the story from a different perspective and discussing whether the wolf's version of events can be trusted.
In Maths, we have been learning about area. The children have been finding the area of shapes by counting squares and using what they know about rows and columns to calculate area more efficiently.
After half term, the children will be taking their guitars home. Please look out for the separate letter explaining how to care for the instruments and what to do when transporting them.
As part of our whole-school Creative Arts Week, the theme this year is Light and Dark, inspired by Bonfire Night. In Year 4, the children will be creating their own Andy Warhol-inspired Pop Art designs. As we will be using paint, please

Forest School Autumn 2
3P Friday

Year 3 Egyptian Workshop

Wednesday 4th November

The cost of the workshop is £5.88 per child. We ask for payment to be made via Parent Pay by Monday 2nd November. Thank you.

you lots of facts about that period of time! In science we have learnt all about animals and humans skeletons, and the children have loved exploring how their bodies, and animals bodies work and move.
After half term, the first week back is creative arts week. If your child doesn't already have an apron/t-shirt in school, please can we ask you send one in for this.
We are also looking forward to our Ancient Egyptians work shop on 4th November, remember to get your child's dress up outfit ready and please ensure this has been paid for on parent pay. Thank you!
Have a wonderful half term break!
The Year 3 Team.

Year 5

It has been a short, but incredibly busy week in Year 5! The children have been working really hard and have had a fantastic time bringing their D&T project to life. This week, we have been completing our Wobble Bot project, exploring how different product designs can achieve different outcomes. The children have experimented with adapting their designs to make their Wobble Bots move faster or slower, travel in different ways, or fulfil a specific purpose. It has been wonderful to see them working so brilliantly together, sharing ideas, solving problems and making adjustments to improve their designs. They have created some incredible Wobble Bots, and it has been lovely to see just how much they have enjoyed the process from start to finish!
A huge thank you to everyone who has already supported the children with their Black History Month projects. We are really looking forward to hearing all about their research and discoveries during the first week back after half-term. We cannot wait to see what they have been working on and to celebrate the time and effort they have put into their projects.
We hope you all have a wonderful half-term break! Enjoy a well-earned rest, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back for another week of exciting learning in just over a week's time.
The Year 5 Team

Forest School Autumn 2
5P Thursday

could children bring in an apron, old shirt or overall to help protect their clothing.
We have now started preparing for our Year 4 Christmas production. Further information has already been shared by email and on Class Dojo. For children who would like to be considered for a speaking role, script extracts have been sent home, and auditions will take place during the first week back after half-term. All children will be involved in the production and will have the opportunity to sing and perform with their classmates.
We hope you all have a lovely and restful half-term break, and we look forward to welcoming the children back refreshed and ready for an exciting half term! 😊

Year 6

Well, we've made it! Congratulations on surviving a first busy half term in y6. We have enjoyed learning all about the war and are pleased to also announce that war is almost over!
On our final day of the half term, we welcome Loudmouth theatre group to present 'My Mate Fancies You', a drama performance tracking the changing relationship of a boy and girl who grow up next to each other. After the performance, children also have a workshop with the actors, where aspects of puberty are discussed.
After the break, we are looking forward to starting our first geography topic, learning all about what the census shows us over time. We will also be moving on in science to studying light - the dark days will help us with our experiments in this area.
We will also be focusing on the y5/6 spelling words more next half term. To support us, please check these in your child's home-school organiser. A couple of these words appear on the spelling lists throughout the year.
We hope you enjoy your extended half term and look forward to seeing you ready and raring to go on the other side.

Secondary School Applications

Solihull Admissions Team have been in touch to remind Year 6 parents **that Saturday 31st October** is the closing date for secondary school applications. Solihull residents (without an EHCP) that have not applied must log into the portal www.solihull.gov.uk/admissions and submit an application by **31st October.**
Those applications received after the closing date will be classed as late and will not be processed until all on time applications have been considered.
This will reduce the chances of obtaining a place at the preferred school. **Thank you.**

The KS2 Lost Property cupboard

is overflowing with knitwear. Please ask your child to check for missing jumpers and cardigans – some are named others are not! Please ensure all uniform is named and we will endeavour to return it. Thank you.