



Newsletter January 2026

A Message from Mrs Harvey, Head Teacher

Happy New Year to you all! We have had a great few weeks back, although it was a little disrupted by the snow. I'm sure the children enjoyed playing outside where they could.

Our value this half term is respect, and the children have helped me to create our Netherton Road to Respect posters that are in our classrooms. We explore fully our values which permeate what we do, and I am always reminding the children that we must "live and breathe" values, not just recite them. We want every child to feel included, valued and proud of who they are within our school community, that aligns with our school vision of wanting the children to feel loved, cared for, have a 'can do it' attitude and be able to grow spiritually.

We continue to plan lots of in-school events for your pupils; this week, we had a hugely successful Roman day which the pupils loved. Thanks to all parents who came into the workshop inspire events, it was great to see so many of you. We have sports competitions to look forward to and a Valentines Disco. If any of you have any suggestions regarding a community event, please do not hesitate to contact me.

We will be sending out an Attendance parent voice questionnaire soon, please help us by filling it in as your viewpoint is important to us and will help us make changes.

Thanks as always for your continued support at Team Netherton

Mrs Harvey

Attendance & Punctuality

Please may we remind you that good attendance at school is vital for pupil success. Parents are legally responsible for ensuring that their child attends school.

The national target for attendance is 95%. If your child misses more than 7 days across the school year, their attendance will fall below this and they will have missed more than 35 hours of learning. School is obligated to follow up poor attendance and repeated absence may result in referral to Education Support Service or Social Services.

Pupils should not be missing time off school due to minor issues such as oversleeping, birthdays, siblings/parents being off school/work etc. Absence will only be authorised if there is a genuine reason such as illness (although pupils can still come to school with minor illnesses -see NHS site for guidance) or medical appointments, though pupils should come to school before and/or after the appointment where possible.

If your child is absent, please make sure you inform the school office. If we do not know why a child is absent, their absence will be unauthorised and if we cannot make contact with you, this may result in a home visit.

Schools are unable to authorise any holidays during term time and are obliged to report this to the Education Support Service, who may issue a fine.

There are an increasing number of children arriving late to school. **School officially begins at 8:50** and the **registers close at 8:55**. Pupils arriving after this will be marked as late, Pupils arriving after 9:25 are late and this then becomes an unauthorised absence, contributing to their attendance rate.

Inset Days

Mon 20th July 2026

February Half Term

Mon 16th Feb - Fri 20th Feb 26

Easter Break

Mon 30th March - Fri 10th Apr 26

Whitsun Break

Mon 25th May - Fri 29th May 26

Summer Holidays

Tues 21st July - Mon 31st Aug 26

Spring Term 1 Dates

Weds 11th Feb - Valentine Disco

Fri 13th Feb - Mental Health Day - wear your own clothes

Break up for half term

Mon 23rd Feb - school reopens to pupils

Spring Term 2 Dates

Thurs 5th Mar - World Book Day

Mon 23rd Mar - The Book Bus

Weds 26th Mar - World Maths Day

Fri 27th March - break up for Easter

Mon 13th April - School reopens to pupils

Thinking about booking a holiday during term time?

REMEMBER: ANY ABSENCE MUST BE REQUESTED IN ADVANCE

Absence for an activity or holiday that can be arranged during the annual 13-week holiday time will not be authorised during the school term.

A penalty notice may be issued if there are five days/10 sessions or more of unauthorised absence in a 10-week period. This can include irregular attendance.

First offence - the first time a penalty notice is issued for term time leave or irregular attendance, the amount will be **£160** per parent per child to be paid within 28 days. Reduced to **£80** per parent, per child if paid within 21 days.*

A penalty will be issued for each child



£160 + £160 + £160

3 x children + 1 parent = £480
reduced to £240 if paid within 21 days

A family of two parents and two children



£160 + £160

2 x children + 2 parents = £640
reduced to £320 if paid within 21 days

Second offence (within 3 years)- the amount will be **£160** per parent per child to be paid within 28 days. No reduced rate will be offered.*



2 parents +



1 child
£320

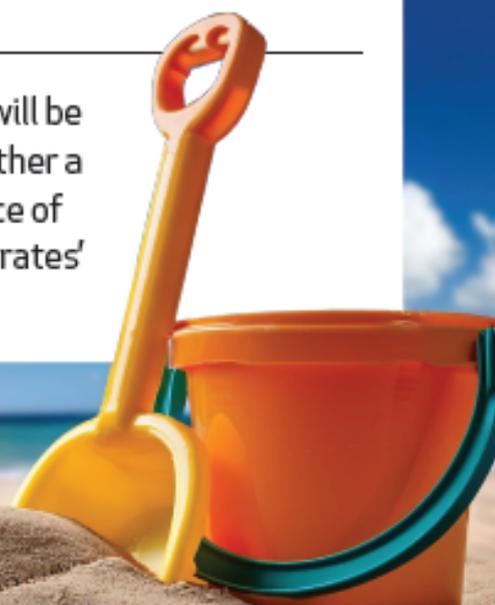


2 children
£640



3 children
£960

Third offence - a penalty notice will not be issued, the case will be presented to the Magistrates' Court for prosecution, where either a fine of up to **£2,500**, a community order or a custodial sentence of up to three months can be imposed. A conviction in the Magistrates' Court may be disclosed on future DBS certificates.



Lots of learning, every day

The children have been incredibly busy in the first 4 weeks of term. Here is a taste of what's been going on...

EYFS Winter Walk

Reception walked through Saltwells Woods on Wednesday 28th January, to observe the changes in the environment during the Winter season.



Y1 - Walk in Saltwells Wood

Year 1 had another fantastic day exploring Saltwells Woods identifying the changes that happen around us in the Winter Season .

Luckily, they only had a bit drizzle on our walk down and the rest of the day was dry but as you can guess the site was very muddy - they did have fun though, and that's all that matters!

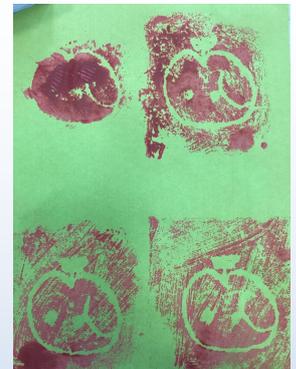
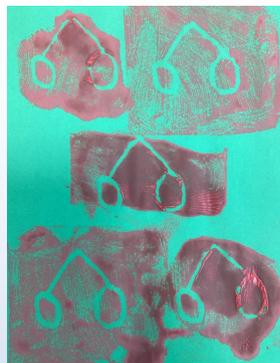
Emma (the Warden), as always, was full of lots of knowledge which she shared. They looked at different types of evergreen trees and plants, talked about what some of the woodland animals are doing in Winter, and asked lots of questions about things that they observed and found in the woods! !



1 D.Tking

Y2 Art - Printing

In their art lessons, Y2 have been experimenting with printing. They used paint and printed with different fruits; they then used paper and a small hammer to print with flowers; then they used foam tiles to print.



Year 3 - History

In HISTORY, last week, the children really enjoyed playing traditional games as part of exploring their BIG QUESTION in History- What would you have done after school in the past? How was it different from today? They played each game wonderfully, considering how they are the same or different to games available to them today.

Year 4 - Art

Year 4 used string to make Islamic Art printing blocks.

They then used their stamping plates to create a beautiful print with different orientations of their image.



Y5 Roman Workshop

Y5 took part in a Roman workshop . As well as sharing their knowledge with the workshop leader, they learned lots more from him.

They also had the opportunity to see, handle and try on replica artefacts, clothing, armour & weaponry.

Such an opportunity really brings learning to life.

Year 6 - Art

Y6 are studying sculpture in Art, they spent one afternoon making clay poppies!

Their work was inspired by the work of Paul Cummins, who was responsible for the large-scale installation 'Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red' that was once at the Tower of London. The piece comprised of 888,246 ceramic poppies - one for each life lost at the Front during the First World War.



The Hive - cooking

The children in The Hive have been whipping up some scrumptious treats again! Jam filled flap jacks this time - wonder if they need a tester!!

Safeguarding Spotlight

Ensuring the safety and well-being of our pupils is our first priority and naturally, this extends to their families. Part of this role is to share the latest information on issues that may affect our young people; share guidance and signpost support. There is a wealth of information on our website under Key Information ~ Safeguarding.

<https://www.netherton.dudley.sch.uk/key-information/safeguarding>

Kinship Carers

Kinship carers are family or friends who step up, often during an unexpected crisis, to care for a child when their parents aren't able to. Kinship care is a commitment. To bring love and hope to a child who has experienced trauma. No matter what.



We have recently been made aware of a charity, that provides advice, support and guidance to people who have stepped up to raise a child. We hope it will be of interest and use for some of our families who are Kinship Carers.

<https://kinship.org.uk/>

ROUTES - Youth Advice Hub. Merry Hill

ROUTES – DUDLEY is a space for young people (13 –25) to turn to when they experience challenges or adversity in their day-to-day lives. Their team aims to empower young people to reach their potential, no matter their circumstances.



This hub is a walk-in, youth friendly space at Merry Hill shopping centre (located by the bus stops) which allows young people to access information, advice, and early interventions with our friendly team and a range of support services

ROUTES provide a wide range of specific services tailored to children and young people that provide tools, advice and support with:

- Drugs and alcohol
- Mental health awareness
- Managing emotions and behaviour
- Sexual health
- Career support
- Lifestyle advice
- Physical health
- Family and carer support

<https://cranstoun.org/help-and-advice/young-people/routes-dudley/>

They also provide volunteer opportunities for young people to work together with others.

Online Safety

Keeping our children safe in a world of technology continues to be a priority.

Each Wednesday, on Dojo, we share **#Wake Up Wednesday** from The National College.

This is a weekly guide which focuses on an aspect of technology; the risks and tips to keep your child safe. The guides are in an easy-to-follow format.



Safeguarding: If you have any concerns or need support, please call the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) between 9am & 5pm on telephone 0300 5550050 or telephone 0300 555 8574, if out of hours.