

## Newsletter April & May 2026

### A Message from Mrs Harvey, Head Teacher

Welcome back to our final half-term of the academic year! I hope you all had a relaxing and sun-filled half-term break.

Before discussing the summer term, I would like to say a huge thanks to our Year 6 pupils for being so resilient and determined during their SATs week, I hope they achieve the grades they deserve. Thanks also to the parents who got them into school for revision mornings or changed their day to accommodate the tests in anyway—it was appreciated.

Summer 2 is traditionally one of our most vibrant, fast-paced, and memorable terms, packed with sports days, school trips, and moving-up celebrations. We will continue to share all relevant dates with you, via Class Dojo & newsletters, so you don't miss anything.

Sports competitions dominate the summer term with pupils involved in a variety of final—I wish them luck. We are also lucky to have the return of the pop up pool, an amazing resource for the whole community to benefit from.

Whilst we have a lot of fun activities planned, maintaining our high expectations for learning, behaviour, and attendance remains our top priority until the very last day of term.

Thank you for your continued partnership as we guide the children through this exciting final chapter of their current school year.

Please don't hesitate to contact myself if you have any queries or concerns as we approach the end of term.

*Mrs K. Harvey*

#### Summer Term 2 Dates

**Tues 2nd June** - school reopens for pupils

**Fri 12th June** - Class photos

**Thurs 18th June** - Sports Day-

**Weds 1st & Thurs 2nd Jul am** - Rec -Y5 introduce new teachers and classes

**Mon 6th - Weds 8th Jul** - PGL

**Friday 10th Jul** - Summer Fair

**Mon 13th Jul** - Pupil reports

**Tues 14th Jul** – Informal consultation to discuss reports if required

#### Inset Days

Mon 1st June 2026

Mon 20th July 2026

#### Summer Holidays

Mon 20th July - Mon 31st Aug

#### 2026-27

**Tuesday 1 September** - INSET

**Wednesday 2nd September** - INSET

**Thursday 3rd September** - School reopens for pupils

**Mon 26th—Fri 30th Oct** - October half term

**Mon 21st Dec—Fri 1st Jan** - Christmas Holidays

**Monday 4th January 2027** - INSET

**Tuesday 5th Jan 2027** - School reopens for pupils

## Attendance - Talk to us!!!



### **Report your child's absence**

If your child is absent for any reason, please report the reason. We have a duty of care to know where pupils are if they are not in school.

- If we do not hear from you (the parent with PR), we will call & email you.
  - If we still do not have contact with you, we will contact all of the other contact numbers provided
  - If we still cannot make contact with the parent with PR via our call, we will conduct a home visit.
  - In the event that we do not see you and the pupil when we visit the home, we may have to contact the police to carry out a Safe & Well Check
- 
- Absence should be reported on each day of your child's absence,

Reporting your child's absence means the correct absence code can be assigned to the school register, potentially preventing unauthorised absence codes.

### **You can report absence in a number of ways.**

**By phone** - 01384 413810 - Option 1

**By email** - [info@netherton.dowmat.education](mailto:info@netherton.dowmat.education)

**Via the school website** - [www.netherton.dudley.sch.uk](http://www.netherton.dudley.sch.uk) - Contact Us - Report an Absence

### **Leave of Absence Requests**

If you wish to take your child out of school, requests should be put in writing to Mrs Harvey (letter or email) prior to the dates you want the leave.

Each request will be considered on an individual basis but holidays will not be authorised.

In your request, please let us know the pupil, class, reason for the leave being requested and the dates to and from.

If your leave of absence request is refused, we may have to refer to the School Attendance and Education Support Service and a fixed penalty notice (fine) may be issued. This is £80 if paid within 21 days, rising to £160 within 28 days. Please be aware that fines apply per parent, per child.

## Lots of learning, every day

The children have been incredibly busy already this half term. Here is a taste of what's been going on...

### **Focus Day - Neurodiversity**

On Monday 13th April, our focus day was about Neurodiversity as part of Neurodiversity Celebration Week.

We took the opportunity to learn about and celebrate Neurodiversity—the key message we wanted the children to understand is that everyone is different, and that diversity is something to celebrate!

We discussed how sometimes some things might be easy for us and challenging for others, and vice versa. We discussed what helps us to learn better, and what things might make our learning a bit more challenging. For example, some classes experimented by following instructions to draw a house where they had a couple of distractions going on in the classroom AND they had to draw with their non-dominant hand! One child described this activity as IMPOSSIBLE!



Y1 made a kindness tree where we wrote down our ideas of how we would show kindness to others to make them feel included and accepted.

Y2 created their own fidget toys and found out about how they can help us to concentrate



**By the end of the day, we understood that everyone's brain is different, and that is amazing!**



### **The Hive - Draw with Rob**

Every week, the pupils in The Hive take part in Draw with Rob, this gives them the opportunity to practice listening to, processing and following a sequence of instructions.

Look at their fantastic drawings of Winnie the Pooh. Great focus and concentration, everyone!

### **Nursery -**

Our nursery children have had a fantastic time exploring farm life over the last few weeks.

The highlight of their topic was a special visit from some real farm animals right here at nursery!

The children showed wonderful care and curiosity as they handled the animals.



### **Reception - Spring Walk**

Reception had a fantastic time on their Spring Walk. They met up with Emma, the warden at Saltwells Woods and explored all of the signs of spring.

They talked about bluebells, and how there are lots of differences from their winter walk, in comparison to their spring walk.

## Year 1 - Heritage Project

Year 1 are currently learning about Netherton as part of their Heritage Project.

They have been on a local walk up and down Highbridge Road identifying different features.

They have learnt about what has stayed the same and what has changed throughout Netherton.



## Year 2 - Art

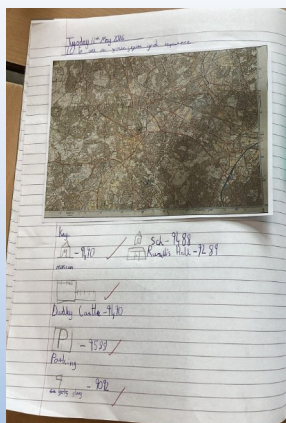
Year 2 have been using a variety of techniques when working with clay to make their own roses.

What brilliant sculptures!

## Year 3 - Heritage Project

As part of their Heritage Project work, Y3 looked at an OS map.

They used four-figure grid references to find places in Dudley and started to draw their own grid squares for a class OS map of Netherton!





#### Year 4 - Art

Year 4 have been learning about sculpture, they created sculptures from pipe cleaners before progressing to create sculptures out of clay.



#### Year 5 - English

Year 5 have been enjoying their new text, The Nowhere Emporium. Making the most of the sunny weather, they took our learning outdoors, where they created freeze frames inspired by key moments from the story, which sparked thoughtful discussions from the children as they explored how the characters might be feeling and thinking.

Someone give year 5 an Oscar!!



#### Year 6 - English

Year 6 fully immersed themselves into 1815 Regency England for their new book, Emma by Jane Austen.

In preparation for their writing, they practised using formal language, over afternoon tea!

## Netball

On Thursday 16th April, Netherton netball team played the Straits Primary, drawing 9 - 9.



## Gymnastics Competition

On Thursday 30th April, we took 4 teams of children to a Gymnastics competition in Brierley Hill.

The children were well warmed-up by the time they arrived as they walked 3km to get there!

Our Y1&2 team and Y3&4 team won their competition with our Y5&6 teams coming 4th—missing out on 3rd place by just 0.9 points. Well done teams!

Out of all of the gymnasts competing, Georgia came 3rd and Faith came 2nd overall. Fab. U. Lous!



## Football Tournament

On Wednesday 29th April, the Y3&4 football team played in a tournament at The Link. They played 4 matches - one against Sledmere, one against Tenterfields and 2 matches against The Dingle, and we won them all! Well done, team!



## Baggie Bird Penalty Shoot-out

On Thursday 21st & Friday 22nd May, the whole school took part in a penalty shoot out against West Bromwich Albion's mascot, Baggie Bird.

The children were sponsored by family and friends, with the money raised being shared between WBA's charity and Netherton CofE Primary.

Thank you all for your generous sponsorship.

### **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>

## **New screen time guidance for parents of under-5s**

### **Government answers parents' calls for support on screen time with new evidence-backed guidance.**

Parents of young children are facing a constant battle with screens. Now, for the first time, the government is stepping in with clear, trusted guidance to help families navigate it.

Following weeks of engagement with over a thousand parents who called for clear support on how much screen time is too much, and how to build healthy habits, the government is delivering on its promise to provide judgement-free, practical support if they need it.

Some will oppose stepping in, but they are clear: if the choice is between standing back or supporting parents to keep children safe, the government will always act.

Currently, parents are left to navigate fast moving technology alone – with a quarter (24%) of parents of 3-to-5-year olds finding it hard to control their child's screen time, and 98% of two-year-olds watching screens every day.

This underlines the need for support, which is why they are giving parents the clear, trusted tools they need to cut through uncertainty and conflicting advice online.

**The new guidance is available for free on the [Best Start in Life website](#), with key tips including:**

- Under 2s: Avoiding screen time other than for shared activities that encourage bonding, interaction and conversation.
- 2 to 5-year-olds: Trying to keep it to no more than one hour a day. Avoid at mealtimes and in the hour before bed.
- Content: Choosing slow-paced, age-appropriate content. Fast-paced, social media-style videos and AI toys or tools should be avoided for young children.
- Co-viewing: Watching or using screens together - talking, asking questions and engaging with the content - is better for children's development than solo screen use

A report by early years charity, Kindred Squared, found that 28% of UK children starting reception cannot use a book properly, with many attempting to "swipe" or tap physical pages like a tablet.

With 90% of children's development happening before the age of five, parents are being supported to make safe screen swaps like reading bedtime stories together or playing simple games at mealtimes.

The suggested swaps prioritise straightforward activities to help children with the social, emotional and language skills to give them the best start in life, so they can start school ready to learn.

**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.**