

DATE  
October  
2023



WITHYMOOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

# School Newsletter

## **A Big Thank You**

We are lucky to have a wonderful group of parents - Friends of Withymoor - who give up their own time to plan and run activities to raise money for school – money that is spent on our children. I am sure you will want to join in expressing our thanks for everything they do. So far this term they have helped to pay for furniture in our Nest, for computer equipment and for some drumming sessions in school in November.

We would also like to thank two local companies – **Quality Metal Products** that made and donated our lovely new playground benches and **IJJ Engineering Ltd** that donated equipment last year for our playgrounds. It is much appreciated!

## **Anti Bullying Week/Odd Socks Day/Children in Need**

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November to Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November is national Anti-Bullying week. The theme this year is “Make a Noise About Bullying”. The week will kick off with **Odd Socks Day** on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November, where adults and children wear odd socks to celebrate what makes us unique. Children will enjoy activities that will focus on how we can encourage children to consider what bullying means to us, how banter can turn into something more hurtful, and what we can do to stop bullying. **Children in Need** also falls on the Friday of this week, and children are invited to wear something spotty or yellow (or spotty *and* yellow!) that day. We are also asking for voluntary donations of 50p that day to go to the Children in Need charity. Please note that children do not have to bring a donation and can still wear MUFTI without one.

## **Communicating with staff at Withymoor**

### **To contact your child’s class teacher:**

To send a message or speak to your child’s class teacher, please email [info@withymoor.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:info@withymoor.dudley.sch.uk) or call the school office on 01384 818530.

Class DoJo can also be used to contact your child’s class teacher and they will aim to respond within 2 school days. If you use Class DoJo to send a message, please only send **short** and **non-urgent** messages. If you send a message and receive no response within 2 school days, please call the school office. Although there is the facility to send Class DoJo messages at any time of the day or night, teachers will normally only respond during school hours so we respectfully ask that you do not expect staff to read and respond to a message during weekends and holidays. Part time teachers will normally only respond to messages on the days they work in school.

### **For urgent messages or to report a child’s absence:**

Please call the school office. If the line is engaged or if there is no-one available to take your call, please leave a message and contact number and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

### **To contact other staff in school, including the Headteacher - Mrs Wootton, Deputy Headteacher - Mrs Tong, Assistant Headteachers - Mrs Barrett and Mrs Billingham:**

Please email [info@withymoor.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:info@withymoor.dudley.sch.uk) or call the school office.

### **Please use Class Dojo for Teachers only, and not Senior Leaders in School.**

For matters related to children with special education needs and/or disabilities (SEND), Mrs Billingham can be contacted Monday – Thursday by email: [sen@withymoor.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:sen@withymoor.dudley.sch.uk).

**Mr Brown** in his role of Phase Leader for Years 3 -6, **Mrs Dulson** in her role as Pre-school and Reception Phase Leader can also be contacted via the school office telephone/email address.



## **Phase leaders**

There has been a slight change to our leadership structure in school. Mrs Dulson has for some time been Phase leader for Pre-school, Reception and Key Stage One. She also leads Early Reading and is a Reception class teacher. It has been decided that Mrs Billingham (Assistant Headteacher and Inclusion Manager) will now take over the role of Phase Leader for Years 1 and 2 from Mrs Dulson. This is in no way a reflection of how well Mrs Dulson has performed her role but rather in recognition of the huge workload and commitment involved with leading Early Years and Early Reading. If you are a parent of a child in Key Stage One (Years 1 and 2) and have a concern, please continue to speak to your child’s teacher in the first instance. If an issue continues or has not been resolved, please contact Mrs Billingham via the school office.

### Dates for the diary

Our INSET days - Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November, Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024, Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024  
School will also be closed on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May as Dudley have directed our school building to be used for voting in the Local elections.

October Half Term - 30th October - 3rd November

13th November - Individual/sibling photographs

5th December 2.15pm - Foundation Stage Nativity

6th December 9.15am - Foundation Stage Nativity

8th December - Christmas Fayre

12th December 2pm - KS1 Nativity

13th December 9.15am - KS1 Nativity

Christmas - 22nd December (last day of term) - 5th January

**Please note school will close to children at 2pm on 22nd December**

### Toys in school

There has been a recent increase in the number of toys being brought into school by children and this has led to some fall outs and upset between friends because of items being lost or argued about. It is for this reason that we ask that toys are **not** brought into school unless it is a 'toy day' or if it has been agreed with a member of staff. This includes playing cards (such as Pokemon cards, football cards). Thank you for your help with this.

### Parent/Carer Questionnaire

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our parent/carers questionnaires. We are always looking for ways to improve as a school and as are always grateful for constructive feedback and positive comments. 197 questionnaires were completed – please see the results below:

	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Not applicable/Don't know
My child is happy at this school	66%	31%	2%	0	1%
My child feels safe at school	71%	27%	1%	0	1%
School makes sure its pupils are well behaved	55%	39%	3%	0	3%
My child has been bullied and school dealt with the bullying quickly and effectively	7%	19%	5%	4%	65%
The school makes me aware of what my child will learn	54%	40%	4%	0.5%	1.5%
When I've raised concerns they have been dealt with properly	42%	37%	4%	1%	16%
If your child has special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) do you feel school gives them the support they need to succeed?	19%	6%	2%	1%	72%
The school has high expectations for my child	45%	43%	5%	0	7%
My child does well at this school	58%	37%	2%	0	3%
The school lets me know how my child is doing	57%	38%	2%	0	3%
There is a good range of subjects available to my child at this school	57%	39%	1%	0	3%
The school supports my child's wider personal development	50%	41%	3%	0	6%
I would recommend this school to another parent	64%	33%	0.5%	0.5%	2%

### Lost Property

We have a number of items building up in lost property. We ask that you label clearly all clothing, water bottles and lunch boxes. This will enable us to return them to their owners.

