



Weekly round up!

What a wonderful final week we have had in school! As we approach the end of the academic year, it has been a pleasure to celebrate so many memorable moments together as a school community.

Although the publication of this year's Key Stage 2 SATs results has been delayed nationally, this does not change how immensely proud we are of our Year 6 pupils. They have shown determination, resilience and a positive attitude throughout the year. My thanks also go to our staff, whose commitment to high-quality teaching and pastoral care has ensured every child has been supported to achieve their very best.

Safeguarding remains our highest priority. This week, we carried out a whole-school lockdown practice as part of our emergency procedures. I was extremely proud of the calm, sensible and mature way in which all pupils responded. Regular practice helps to ensure that everyone understands the procedures should they ever be needed, and these drills will now take place once each term as part of our ongoing commitment to keeping our children safe.

We are passionate about providing a broad, balanced and ambitious curriculum that extends learning beyond the classroom. Alongside excellent teaching, enrichment opportunities help children develop curiosity, confidence and cultural capital. This week, our Year 5 pupils enjoyed an exciting visit to the Thinktank, where they explored scientific concepts through engaging, hands-on experiences that brought their classroom learning to life.

As we approach the end of term, maintaining high expectations remains important. Learning continues right up until the final day, with pupils following their usual timetable and completing planned curriculum learning. Consistency, routine and purposeful learning are key to ensuring children continue to make progress throughout the year. Alongside this, we have planned some well-deserved end-of-term celebrations, including a toy morning and a film viewing, recognising the children's hard work and achievements while ending the year on a positive and enjoyable note.

Finally, I would like to thank our parents and carers for your continued support throughout the year. The strong partnership between home and school plays a vital role in helping our children flourish. Together, we have created a community where children feel safe, valued and inspired to achieve their very best.

On behalf of everyone at the school, I wish you and your families a restful, safe and enjoyable summer break. We look forward to welcoming everyone back in September for another exciting year of learning together and aiming for success, Mrs Smith.

Learning together, aiming for excellence!

Wishing Our Year 6 Pupils Every Success

This week, we say a fond farewell to our wonderful Year 6 pupils as they prepare to begin the next stage of their educational journey.

Over the past few weeks, they have created many special memories together. Their residential visit was a fantastic opportunity to develop independence, resilience and teamwork, while having great fun with their friends. Their Leavers' Assembly was a celebration of their time at our school, giving them the chance to reflect on their achievements, share happy memories and thank those who have supported them along the way.

Year 6 have been excellent role models for our younger pupils, demonstrating kindness, determination and a positive attitude throughout their time with us. We are incredibly proud of everything they have achieved and know that they are more than ready for the exciting challenges that lie ahead.

On behalf of everyone at the school, we wish each and every one of our Year 6 pupils the very best of luck as they move on to secondary school. We hope they continue to work hard, embrace new opportunities and always believe in themselves. Remember, you will always be a valued part of our school family, and we look forward to hearing about all your future successes.

Good luck, Year 6 – we are so proud of you!



Learning together, aiming for excellence!

School meals update

There is an important national change to free school meals. From September 2026, more children will be able to receive a free meal at school. This is because free school meal eligibility is expanding to include children from households receiving Universal Credit.

More families may now be eligible, so we are asking all parents and carers to complete an application if they think this could apply to them. It could save your family money each week and help make sure your child can have a meal in school if they want one.

You must apply, even if your child currently gets a free school meal.

If your child is in Reception, Year 1, or Year 2, they already receive a free school meal through the universal infant free school meals scheme. However, if your household receives Universal Credit or another qualifying benefit, please still apply. This is because your child may need to be recorded in a different way. Some successful applications may also help our school receive additional funding to support pupils. This depends on the eligibility category confirmed by the check.

Applying should only take a few minutes and can be done here:
<https://www.dudley.gov.uk/res.../benefits/free-school-meals/>

We also say goodbye to several valued members of staff. Mrs Sanghera and Mrs Batham begin a well-earned retirement after many years of dedicated service to our school community. Their commitment, kindness and unwavering support for generations of children have made a lasting impact, and we thank them sincerely for everything they have contributed.

We wish Miss Knowles and Miss Slater every success as they move on to new schools. We are grateful for the enthusiasm, care and professionalism they have shown during their time with us and know they will continue to make a positive difference in their new roles.

In our whole-school assembly, we celebrated these special farewells with presentations, gifts and a beautiful performance from the children. It was a fitting way to thank our colleagues for their dedication and to recognise the important role they have played in the life of our school.



FREE SCHOOL MEALS

SUPPORTING OUR CHILDREN. SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITIES.

Every child has the right to a great education and a healthy start.

WHAT'S CHANGING

Since April 2018, children and young people have had free meals protected under **Transitional Protection**. This has meant children have continued to be able to enjoy free meals (and additional support), even if family circumstances have changed.

Transitional Protection will cease at the end of this academic year (July 2026).

From September 2026, some children may no longer be entitled to free school meals. Some families may become eligible for free meals for the first time.

If you receive certain benefits, your child could get free school meals.

THE 3 TYPES OF FREE SCHOOL MEALS

1	2	3
TARGETED FREE SCHOOL MEALS (TFSM)	EXPANDED FREE SCHOOL MEALS (EFSM)	UNIVERSAL INFANT FREE SCHOOL MEALS (UIFSM)
Equivalent to benefits-related Free School Meals.	New criteria from September 2026.	Available since September 2014.
Who qualifies	Who qualifies	Who qualifies
- Children and young people in families receiving Universal Credit with an annual net earned income of £7,400 or less* - Families with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) – subject to separate criteria	- Children and young people in families receiving Universal Credit - No limit on annual household income	All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 attending school, regardless of family circumstances
This gives access to	This gives access to	This gives access to
- Free school meals at school during term-time - Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme - Other support that may be available at (e.g. free school milk, where provided) - Free board and lodging on residential trips	- Free school meals at school during term-time - Does not give access to HAF (unless through other criteria e.g. SEND, social care) - Other support linked to TFSM (e.g. free milk)	Free school meals at school during term-time
This does not give access to	This does not give access to	This does not give access to
- HAF (unless through other criteria e.g. SEND, social care) - Other support linked to TFSM	- HAF (unless through other criteria e.g. SEND, social care) - Other support linked to TFSM	- HAF (unless through other criteria e.g. SEND, social care) - Other support linked to TFSM

HOW TO APPLY IN DUDLEY

APPLY ONLINE – the quickest and easiest way
 Visit Dudley Council's Free School Meals page: www.dudley.gov.uk/residents/benefits-and-support/free-school-meals
 Follow the instructions to complete your application.

APPLY BY PHONE OR EMAIL
 You can also request a form or get help with your application.
 Call: 01384 815 619
 Email: freeschoolmeals@dudley.gov.uk

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?
 You'll get a decision within 10 school days.
 If successful, your child will get free school meals and our school will receive extra funding.

Scan the QR code to go straight to Dudley Council's Free School Meals page.

WHY APPLY?

Extra funding for our school
 Schools receive extra Pupil Premium Funding (Pupil Premium) to support your child's education and wellbeing.

More support for your child
 Entitled children can access support such as holiday activities, food programmes and other help at school.

No cost to you
 Applying is quick, confidential and won't affect any other benefits you receive now or in the future.

Even if your child is in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2 and gets universal free meals, please still apply if you think you might be eligible (see types 1 or 2). It really does make a difference.

NEED HELP OR MORE INFORMATION?

Call Dudley Council 01384 815 619

Email freeschoolmeals@dudley.gov.uk

Visit www.dudley.gov.uk/residents/benefits-and-support/free-school-meals

Speak to our school office – we're here to help.

Your information is safe
 Your details are confidential and used only to assess eligibility and claim funding for our school.

PROUD TO SUPPORT FAMILIES ACROSS OUR 7 SCHOOLS

Hales Valley Trust
 Success for All
www.halesvalleytrust.org.uk

Gip Hill Primary School

Hunt Hill Primary School

Lutley Primary School

Lutley Primary School

Priory Primary School

Priory Primary School

Wethersfield Primary School

Woodsdale Primary School & Nursery

Return to school

Reception-Year 6

**Wednesday 2nd
September**

Summer 2 Week 7