

BORDESLEY VILLAGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Cromwell Learning Community Multi Academy Trust

Senior Executive Leader:

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Address:

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Autumn (ii) Newsletter

Dear Parent / Carers,

Welcome back and we hope you enjoyed the half-term break.

Attendance

Thank you to all our parents who are ensuring their children have good attendance. As a reminder, it should be at least 96% for all children. Attendance data for the first half term is detailed below and highlights the need for improvement.

Autumn Term (i) 2025	
Class	Attendance
Nursery	88.0%
Reception	96.6%
Yr.1/1A	95.0%
Yr.1/1B	95.5%
Yr.2/2A	93.2%
Yr.3/3A	87.9%
Yr.3/3B	94.9%
Yr.4/4A	92.7%
Yr.4/4B	94.8%
Yr.5/5A	94.0%
Yr.6/6A	91.1%
Yr.6/6B	96.9%

For many, the start of the school term will mean mixing with different groups of people, which is why the autumn term is also known for its colds and bugs. While it's usually safe for parents and carers to send their children to school with mild illnesses, like a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat, there are steps you can take to ensure your child is better protected against illnesses, so they don't miss out on vital time in school.

Childhood infections such as measles are picking up again across England and in 2024, there was a large outbreak of whooping cough across the country. These infections can have a huge impact on your child's life, including missing out on school due to illness, being hospitalised, and even experiencing life-long complications and disability. The best protection you can give your child is to get them vaccinated.

Incorporating basic hand, respiratory and cough hygiene measures at home will also have a big impact on reducing the spread of illness. At home and at school children should be encouraged to **wash their hands frequently and thoroughly** with soap and warm water for at least **20 seconds**.

When coughing or sneezing it is important they cover their mouth and nose and dispose of any used tissues immediately.

This autumn term, all school children in England (from Reception to Yr. 11) will also be offered a **flu vaccination** in school. This can help protect children against flu, reduce absence and reduce transmission within the community. The programme will be rolled out to pupils at Bordesley Village on **Wednesday 12th November**.

By following these simple steps – keeping vaccinations up to date, practising good hygiene, and knowing when to keep children at home – you can help ensure your child stays healthy and enjoys a successful school term.

Pupil Well-being

Last half term there was a significant focus on the children's well-being with visits to Caldicott's Orchard and Free@Last's climbing wall as well as on-site team building activities. Our links with Compass Birmingham Mental Health Support Team also remained, resulting in referrals and subsequent 1:1 support. This is in addition to our independent play therapist – Tracey Galonis. If you yourselves are concerned about your child's emotional well-being, please ensure you talk to a member of staff as the school may be able to offer them some support.

It is, however, also important that all adult members of our school community consistently act as role models and refrain from displays of anger and verbal or physical aggression, as such altercations can be extremely distressing for the children witnessing them. Should there be any issues between adults, Snr. Leaders must be informed and allowed to deal with them. Any incidents on the school site, could be reported to the Police and result in adults / parents being barred from the premises.

Coffee Mornings

We are looking to bring parents together this half term through our parent / carer's Coffee Mornings. This will provide you with the opportunity to socialise with others, but the meetings will also offer an insight into school life and the opportunities given to your child/children throughout their time here.

Educational Visits

Since September there has also been a re-introduction of educational visits. With a historical focus, and matched to year group topics, they have been very well received by staff and pupils in Yrs.1, 2 and 4. Our thanks are extended to the parents of the children involved – without your support, we would not have been able to proceed with these exciting opportunities.



<https://bvcs.eschools.co.uk>



As in previous years we have arranged visits to the theatre for KS1 & 2, and so, on **Thursday 11th December, Yrs. 4, 5 & 6 across the MAT will travel to The Crescent Theatre to see Toms Midnight Garden.** *'Adapted from the award-winning novel, this haunting story explores friendship, love and loss. Tom's Midnight Garden is a magical, enchanting story which will delight audiences young and old.'* Payments of £14 per child should be made via SchoolMoney prior to the date of the visit.

Yrs.1, 2 and 3 will then visit The Rep on Tuesday 16th December for Anansi the Spider. The classic West African and Caribbean folk tales about the lovable spider will be brought to life in a magical festive show for young children and their grown-ups. *'Superlative family theatre... is pure joy and delight.'* Payments of £14 per child should again be made via SchoolMoney before the visit.

Our youngest children in Early Years can visit Dudley Zoo & Castle on Wednesday 10th December. They will see all their favourite animals but within the walls of the 11th century castle they will also be able to visit Santa (and his reindeer) and, as is tradition, receive a small gift from him. Payments of £16 per child are requested via SchoolMoney, prior to the date of the visit.

MiQuill Catering Service

Our hot meals are provided by **Miquill Catering Services.** They have updated their menus for the autumn and spring terms and these are available on the website. As previously, the menus roll on a three-weekly rota, but from time to time, Miquill offer special themed menus, and we were treated to some new dishes to celebrate Black History Month. This half term we will be served a traditional Christmas Lunch with table decorations, crackers and paper crowns to wear!

Meals currently cost £2.50 a day and should always be paid in advance.

As an alternative to a Miquill meal however, a healthy packed lunch can be brought in from home. We do, though, ask that children are provided with a healthy option e.g. sandwich or wrap, fruit / yoghurt and a drink and do not bring fizzy drinks, sweets or chocolate to school.

Energy Awareness

Magic Breakfast and Cadent's energy awareness programme have been a part of our curriculum over recent months with assemblies and workshops focusing on conserving energy - something that is particularly relevant given current fuel costs. As part of the programme a carbon monoxide workshop and activity pack will be presented to Yrs. 2 and 5 a little later this month.

In addition, our parents will be able to access free advice from YES Energy Solutions (see attached leaflet and the 'Keeping you safe and warm' booklet sent home), but we also have **20 slow cookers to give away!** A slow cooker uses 10 times less energy than the average conventional electric oven and so if you are living in a low-income household with high energy costs and feel you could benefit from a slow cooker for your family, please contact the main office next week.



End of Term Arrangements

While it may appear a little early to talk about the end of term the weeks roll around so quickly and we want you to have sufficient notice to make any necessary arrangements. Within school we will celebrate the season, and the end of term, with our **EYFS Production of 'The Nativity' on Wednesday 3rd December 9.15am** onwards. Our **Rewards Assembly** will be held on **Wednesday 17th December** alongside class parties in the afternoon. **School will then close for the Christmas holidays, at the end of the day on Thursday 18th December 2025.**



And finally, please reference the website for term time dates so you can plan any visits and/or holidays. As a reminder, absences during term time will only be authorised in exceptional circumstances - there is no automatic right to them. Leave of absence must be requested from and agreed by the Snr. Executive Leader, in advance and it is recommended that as a rule, any activity or holiday that can be arranged during the annual 13-week holiday time should not be authorised during the school term. All unauthorised absences will be monitored and may result in a fixed penalty fine of £80, payable per parent, per child, increasing to £160 each if not paid within 21 days. If a second penalty notice is issued to the same parent for the same child within a rolling 3-year period, the notice will be charged at the higher rate. If there is a third offence, another tool must be considered such as prosecution or another attendance legal intervention. Please do not put yourself in this position.

Yours sincerely,
Rubina Darr
R.Darr (Mrs)
Snr. Executive Leader