

TOGETHER WE CARE, TOGETHER WE SUCCEED... January 2022

Alongside our curriculum, we focus on the 5 ways to wellbeing taking on different aspects each term. A huge thank you for getting our 'Give' focus to such a fabulous start! January can be a difficult time of year for some families, the Gig Mill community have been amazing in supporting the food bank collection this year. The Black Country Foodbank were so appreciative, and it was a record donation. It was also a great illustration for the children to see our school value of 'collaboration' in action, how when we all work together it can make a big difference. THANK YOU! Please see some of the information below for some of the school events coming up in February and March 2022.



Mrs Hannaway

5 Ways to Wellbeing

Time to Talk Day is the nation's biggest mental health conversation and it's nearly here! Taking place on Thursday 3rd February 2022, it's the day that friends, families, communities, and workplaces come together to talk, listen and change lives.

We will be talking on Thursday, in particular, about another of our school values 'honesty' and the importance of talking about our feelings to others. This leads into our 'Health and Wellbeing Week' (Week starting 7th February) when all year groups will be learning about staying physically and mentally healthy. On the 8th February children will be doing activities about how to stay safe online for 'Safer Internet day'.

NSPCC Number Day

On **Friday 4th February** we are joining lots of schools around the country in taking part in the **NSPCC Number Day 2022**. It is a special fundraising day to support the NSPCC and the work they do to protect children from harm. We are asking for a donation of a silver coin and the children can all come to school dressed with maths in mind. This could be something patterned, striped, or even something with a number on the front or back. During the day the children will be taking part in different maths activities related to Number Day 2022. As usual our collection buckets will be at each entrance so the children can donate their coins as they come into school. We are looking forward to a day of Number Fun!

Parent consultations

Year 4 parents consultations took place last week, slightly earlier this year as Miss Kamudu is due to start maternity leave at the end of this week.

We are offering parent consultations on Mondays as telephone appointments, and Wednesdays either as telephone or in person appointments.

Information for Reception, Year 1 and Year 3 was sent out last week for Monday 7th and Wednesday 9th February.

Information for Years 2, 5 and 6 will come out to you later this week for Monday 14th and Wednesday 16th February.

NB: Please note if we are advised by Public Health then Wednesday in person appointments will also be telephone appointments.

Book amnesty

We seem to be missing lots of books - could you please check at home for any school reading or library books – all the Gig Mill books are stamped with the school stamp inside. We would be really grateful if you could return any books you find to your child's class teacher. Thank you.



World Book Day

World Book Day - Thursday 3rd March

We will be celebrating World Book Day with a multi-cultural focus using stories from different cultures. Children are invited to dress up as either a book character of their choice **or** to dress in the colours related to their year group's focus book.

Nursery – Nursery rhymes - any bright colours

Reception – Handa's Surprise – Kenya –black, red, green, white

Year 1- The Tiger's Child-India- orange, white and green

Year 2- Grace and Family- Gambia- red, blue and green

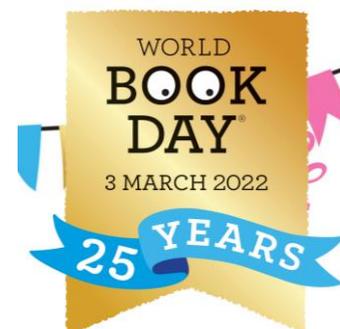
Year 3- Gregory Cool- Tobago- red, black and white

Year 4- Grandpa Chatterji - India- orange, white and green

Year 5- Seasons of Splendour- India- orange, white and green

Year 6- Journey to Johannesburg- South Africa- green, red, blue, black, yellow and white

This will be a fun-filled day promoting a love of books and reading across school. Children will be given the opportunity to bring in any type of book that they enjoy reading to share from home.



Book Fayre

The Book Fayre will be returning to visit school on Thursday 17th and Friday 18th March. More details will be provided nearer the time.

COVID

Apologies for those parents who have had lots of messages / letters regarding COVID cases, I hope this explanation helps ...

As a Dudley maintained school we use the same procedures as all other schools in Dudley, and when there are positive cases send out letters as requested via the Public Health team. There have been a number of changes to procedures in the past week, so the most recent letter is the one to look at.

When a school has more than one class with 10% or more positive cases, then the school is advised on additional measures and is asked to complete an outbreak management plan (in addition to existing risk assessment). Sometimes this will mean short term changes for one or more year groups eg pausing of after school clubs, or changes to plans for the whole school.

A 'warn and inform' letter was sent out to you on 24.01.22 due to positive cases in school. Rather than send multiple letters (unless your child's class is affected), this is just to advise you that we are still in a school outbreak situation, so please bear with us.

Once again a huge thank-you to all those parents and carers for your ongoing support with reporting absences, keeping children at home who are unwell, and continuing with regular LFT tests. It really helps us all as a school community. Thank you.