

Colley Lane Primary Academy

Never settle for less than your best

Newsletter - 17th December 2021

Happy Holidays

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a very festive day today to end a week of christmas performances, carol concerts and christmas craft, finishing the term with visits from Santa and naughty Elves who made some of the teachers dance and mime to Mariah Carey in assembly! The performances could not have gone ahead without your support and understanding around the current situations so a massive thank you from us all. As we celebrated today, we also took a moment to reflect on the charity Edwards Trust and thank you for the donations that have come into today - we will let you know how much we have raised in the New Year.

This week saw the Black Country Food Bank come and collect the first of our donations to help others less fortunate than ourselves. Head Boy Adriano and head Girl Alex helped the team to load the van, not a small job!



Many of you will know that Mrs Horton is retiring from today and we would like to wish her well as she spends more time with her family. She has been an amazing part of Colley Lane for such a long time and the children thanked her in assembly today. When I asked the children in assembly, what retiring meant, the reply was that Mrs Horton would stop being a teacher but we all know that she will always be a teacher with a passion for all children achieving success. Good luck on your next adventure Mrs Horton.

We have attached the latest newsletter for the After School Club and have spaces available if you need them in the new year. Please just contact the school office.

Finally, thank you for all your support over the last term and for the welcome that has been extended to me. It has been a busy and productive term and the children have shone brightly so you should all feel very proud. I wish you all a very peaceful holiday, however you are celebrating it, and a Happy New Year. We look forward to welcoming the children back on Wednesday 5th January 2022 at 8:40am.

Kind regards,

Mr Dominic Simpson
Headteacher

Colley Lane Primary Academy

Colley Lane, Halesowen B63 2TN **Tel:** 01384 900450

Email: info@colley.windsoracademytrust.org.uk

Website: <https://www.colley.dudley.sch.uk> **Twitter:** @colleylane

Key Dates

- Monday 20th December - Monday 3rd January - Winter Holiday
- Tuesday 4th January - Inset day - School closed
- Friday 28th January - Inset day - School closed
- Monday 21st February -25th February -Spring Half Term
- Monday 11th April - Friday 22nd April - Easter Holidays
- Monday 30th May - Friday 3rd June - Summer Half Term
- Monday 6th - Wednesday 8th June - Year 6 PGL Residential Trip
- Monday 25th July - Friday 2nd September - Summer Holidays



Reminders

School start and finish times

Start time - All years - Doors open at 8.40am, school starts at 8.55am

Finish time -Reception and KS1 - 3.05pm. All KS2 - 3.15pm

Please make sure that children bring all their items to school that they need that day, e.g PE kits, lunch boxes etc as the school office cannot guarantee getting them to class on time.

Coats

Now the weather is getting colder, can we remind all parents / carers to make sure their children bring a coat to school.

We do have a special offer on school reversible coats for just £5! One side is fleece and the other is a hooded raincoat. If you wish to purchase one, please come to the school office. Please note we only have limited sizes available (3-4/12-13/13-14/15-16)



Raincoat side



Fleece side

Uniform

Please can all children's uniform, water bottles and lunch boxes be labelled with their child's full name.

PE

All children are to come into school with their PE kits on their PE days. From January 2022, 4H PE days will change to Tuesday and Wednesday and 5W will change to Thursday and Friday.

Parking

Please can we respectfully ask for all parents to park considerately around school. The parking for the bungalows on Colley Lane must not be used as this area is only for the owner's use. Thank you.

Iris ParentMail






ParentMail is our main communication platform where you will receive emails from Mr Simpson, the office and teachers keeping you informed of school events, trips and class news. You can also report absences, book and pay for Breakfast and After School Clubs and purchase uniforms.

We encourage all parents to register if you haven't already. For those who haven't and if you have an email address, you will be receiving a verification email soon via your emails. Please follow the link on the email to register. You will get notification when we send out forms for trips, all payments will be via Parentmail. Please contact the school office if you need any assistance.

General Reminders

School Dinners

Just a reminder that you no longer need to book meals in advance, children can choose what they would like to eat on the day at the counter. Parents will still need to ensure that there is money in their child's ParentMail account but children will indicate they are having a hot dinner on the day in registration. We have a new menu from January 2022 to include Macaroni Cheese and Chicken Tikka Masala Curry which the children have requested. **Week 1 Menu for w.c 5th January, Please see below:**

Lunch Menu					
Week 1 - Mains					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Hot Main Dish	Burrito (V)  A soft wrap filled with lightly spiced veggies and rice	Chicken Tikka Masala Curry Served with fluffy Rice	Roast Chicken with Roast Potatoes and Gravy Succulent roast chicken with fluffy roasties and tasty gravy	Beef Bolognese  A classic Italian beef Bolognese in a yummy tomato sauce	Golden Fish Fingers and Chips Crispy Fish Fingers and scrummy chips
Alternative Dish	Cheese & Tomato Pizza	Mild Sweet Potato Curry Served with Fluffy Rice	Quorn Roast with Roast Potatoes and Gravy (V) 	Sweetcorn Tortilla Pie	Quorn Dippers and Chips (V) Crispy Quorn nuggets with their fav sauce – ketchup
Third Choice		Jacket Potato with Salmon Mayonnaise ***			
Salads	A Selection of Fresh Salads Including Lettuce, Cucumber, Tomato, Grated Carrot. 				
Jacket Potato	Jacket Potato With A Choice Of Fillings 				
Pasta	Tomato Pasta ** (V) A delicious fresh, homemade tomato sauce with penne pasta				
Vegetables	Green Beans Sweetcorn	Peas Broccoli	Carrots Cabbage	Broccoli Sweetcorn	Baked Beans Peas
Desserts	Raspberry Ripple Ice-Cream	Secret Brownie	Shortbread Biscuit with Fruit Slices*	Fruity Oaty Crumble* with Custard	Chocolate and Raspberry Swirl Cake
Cool Water, Fresh Fruit, Freshly Baked Bread and Yoghurt available daily *Fruit Based **Wholegrain ***Oily Fish (V) Vegetarian					

The menus rotate on a 3 week cycle and all menus can be found on the website under 'School Life' then 'Essential Information'. You can also pick up a copy from the school office.

Asthma

Just a reminder that if your child needs an inhaler in school, please can you come to the office to fill in the relevant paperwork. You will be asked to leave one inhaler in school.

Class Dojo

Please sign up to Class Dojo this weekend using the letter provided from school. For more information please see

your child's class teacher or the school office.

Parking

We would like to remind parents and carers to park considerately around school. We have attached a letter from the West Midlands Police regarding Dudley's Operation Park Safe scheme. We would appreciate it if you can take a moment to read it and follow the rules set out in the Highway Code outlined in the letter.

Concerned parents/carers now have the opportunity to report unsafe parking via their Self Reporting Scheme. Copies of these forms are available in the office.

PE Days

Nursery - Wednesday

Reception - Monday

Year 1 - Wednesday

Year 2 - Thursday

Year 3 - Monday and Tuesday

Year 4 - 4R & 4K Tuesday and Thursday, 4H - Tuesday and Wednesday

Year 5 - 5C & 5A Monday and Friday, 5W - Thursday and Friday

Year 6 - Wednesday and Friday

Attendance

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

We hope you all enjoy a well earned break and some time with your family.

If for any reason your child is going to be absent for school on the first day back after the holiday please let school know as soon as possible by;

- Calling 01384 900450 and speaking to a member of staff or leaving a message.
- Sending an email to attendance@colley.windsoracademytrust.org.uk
- Reporting their absence via the ParentMail App.

Please be aware you **must** report your child's absence every day that they are unable to attend school.

Should your child unfortunately test positive during the holiday please send an email to attendance@colley.windsoracademytrust.org.uk and notify us of the following;

- Symptoms.
- Date of positive Lateral Flow Test.
- Date of positive PCR Test.
- Date given to return to school

Thank you.

What's been happening in school this week?

Nursery

This week in Nursery we have had lots of fun making and decorating gingerbread men to end our WCR story 'The Gingerbread Man'. We have also enjoyed making cards and calendars for our families and talking about Christmas.

It was so wonderful to watch the two performances of 'We're Going on a Christmas Hunt'. We are so proud of all the children for getting up on stage in front of so many people! We would also like to thank all the parents for their

support with costumes and coming to watch us.

We would like to thank you for your support and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Reception

We have had a super week in Reception. The children have been really excited in the lead up to Christmas and have enjoyed playing with their friends in our Christmas home corner. We have been creative making Christmas cards and calendars. This week we had our party and we enjoyed dancing, playing games and taking part in a special book emoji quiz which the children were fantastic at. There were lots of chocolate prizes which the children were super excited about! The highlight of our week was our Christmas performance of 'We're Going on a Christmas Hunt'. It was great to see the children showing confidence in performing in front of so many people. Thank you to all the parents who came to watch us. We would like to thank you for all your support this year and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Year 1



This has been a super week full of fun and festive activities. The children sang beautifully for their proud parents throughout their performances of the 'Higgledy Piggledy Nativity'. They have designed and created beautiful Christmas cards and Christmas tree baubles to bring home on Friday, we are sure that you will treasure them. They have also been busy writing letters to Santa.

On PE day, they enjoyed playing indoor bowls with Mr Blount.

The children thoroughly enjoyed dancing and playing games at our Christmas Party. We have been so proud of them, they have been fantastic. We would like to thank you for your support and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Year 2

What a fantastic week we have had! Our cheeky elves have been up to mischief again, having snowball fights and redecorating 2D's Christmas tree! Throughout the week, the children have performed the 'Higgledy Piggledy' Nativity. I am sure you will all agree the children put on a fantastic show. They have worked incredibly hard, practising their lines and learning all the songs. All of their teachers are very proud of them. We are so pleased we got to share it with you all too. Thank you to all those that could attend. The fun continued on Tuesday, with our Christmas party! The children (and teachers) had lots of fun playing party games, dancing and enjoying some cake.



On Wednesday, we celebrated our Fantastic Finish for our geography topic. Our day included drawing repeating patterns, creating African masks and finally by answering our big question 'Would you rather live in Halesowen or Nairobi?' with most children deciding they would like to stay here! The creativity continued into our Christmas activities. The children have finger painted some festive Christmas cards and applied some of their pattern art to their calendars.

Finally, The Year 2 team would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and we hope you have a wonderful New Year!

Year 3

What a term! We have had a wonderful Autumn term and the children have really settled into Year Three life! They really have excelled this week. Thank you to those of you who came to our Yr 3 and 4 carol concert. The children really enjoyed singing all the carols and being in the church. The speakers were so confident, we were so impressed with you all.

We have had a creative week this week; painting to make our calendars and cards for Christmas, working collaboratively to produce an acrostic poem about Santa's reindeers and lots of other Christmas Maths and English activities across the week. The children have written biographies about the Grinch and Santa!

The children have finished reading 'The Nothing To See Here Hotel' this week and have been writing reviews so others can decide if they would like to read the book. Lots of five star reviews were given! We have also completed our theme comparing Wales to where we live. The children were able to discuss and draw what they might see out of their window if they lived in Wales; lots of Welsh flags, Mount Snowdon and sheep to be seen!

May we wish you all a happy, safe and festive holiday and we will see you in 2022!

Year 4

Wow what an amazing last few weeks and what a terrific term we have just had! Phew! Where do I start this week? Firstly, I would like to congratulate the x children in Year 4 who represented the school as dancers or singers at the Windsor Academy Trust conference last week. Their courage to perform in front of teachers from nine schools plus special guests was outstanding! We are so proud of you!

Talking about performances, thank-you to all adults who came to the Y3/4 carol concert this week! The children sang their hearts out and after a few years of no performances they should be so proud of themselves. Also, a special thanks to Miss Hale who organised the concert! In addition congratulations to Miss Hale who won a teaching award at the WAT Conference! We are very proud of you!

In school this week, we have been extremely busy being creative by making Christmas cards, calendars and solving Christmas puzzles in Maths and English!

The children finished their Geography unit by using iMovie on their iPads. They worked in threes to write a paragraph about a different aspect of Italy or Iceland. They then recorded each other in front of a green screen. After that, they added a picture to the background so it looked as if they were actually in Italy or Iceland!

Finally, we would like to wish all parents and children in Year 4 a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Year 5

As this term comes to end, we can reflect on how happy and proud we are of all children within our year group. It has been lovely getting to know everybody and see their enthusiasm for learning. Children have embraced changes to reading and maths and have also enjoyed their lessons in foundation subjects.

This week we have consolidated our learning in maths by practising using the four operations. During reading, we learned about The Christmas Truce and its historical importance. We then discovered the origin of the Christmas carol - Silent Night. We were shocked to discover it was written in 1816. We have enjoyed Christmas arts & crafts, creating lots of things (we will keep these a secret though as they might be given as gifts shortly).

It was wonderful to see family members during the Christmas Carol Service and have that community spirit which is so important to us all. Year 5 children are already looking forward to having a speaking part in next year's Carol Service. We really do enjoy their enthusiasm.

NOTICE: 5W's PE lessons will be on Thursdays and Fridays from next term.

The Year 5 team warmly wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We have lots to look forward to. Have an enjoyable rest, take care and see you in 2022!

Year 6

Our final week of the term has been incredibly busy in Year 6. The children have been up to lots: finishing our whole class reader, rounding off our science topic and also enjoying lots of different Christmas activities.

At the beginning of the week, the children finished *The Graveyard Book*. With a rather emotional ending, the children enjoyed finding out the final adventures of the main character Bod, before he left the graveyard to continue his journey. The children wrote fabulous book reviews to go with this and rated the book very highly indeed. In Science, the children enjoyed their last few lessons on light. They had the chance to complete a range of activities based around reflection using mirrors and torches to investigate. In Writing, the children looked at kindness and wrote some beautiful poems and proverbs to show kindness and friendship. A lovely touch for Christmas.



We got very creative in Year 6 in our DT lessons. This week, the children created salt dough Christmas decorations - using flour, salt and water, the children created a mixture, before moulding them into shape and these were baked in the ovens to set. A few days later, the children painted them and they looked fantastic! A very messy but enjoyable activity for the children. Finally, towards the end of the week, the children took part in the Christmas Carol Concert at the church. The children performed beautifully and we were incredibly proud of them.

The Year 6 team would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We hope you have a lovely break and look forward to seeing you again in January.

Other News....

Netflix Age Ratings

You will be aware that Netflix is hugely popular across all ages but there have been concerns in relation to age ratings and the type of content that is recommended to viewers. Like many other services, Netflix uses algorithms to determine what you might like to watch based on viewing history, what you have liked etc.

Since last year, Netflix has been working with the BBFC and 100% of the content on Netflix is now age-rated to BBFC classification standards. It is the first UK streaming service to accomplish this.

Here is a guide on how to set up a child account and choose maturity ratings. [Parental controls on Netflix](#)

Colley Lane Website

If you haven't already, please take the time to look at our new website at <https://www.colley.dudley.sch.uk/>

You will be able to find all the information that you need about our school including key information, news and dates and parent information.

Geography Christmas Postcard Competition

Wow! What an amazing response to the Christmas Geography Competition!

I would like to thank every child who entered the competition! Thank-you so much for spending your time researching the country, writing about it and then drawing a picture of Christmas in your chosen country. The standard of writing was fantastic! It was very hard to choose a winner!

All entries will receive a Class dojo and all winners will be displayed in a folder in the library. A selection of entries from across the school will be posted in a video on Class Dojo and Twitter.

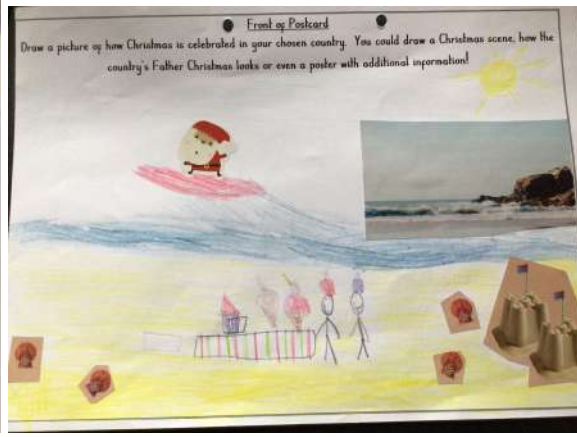
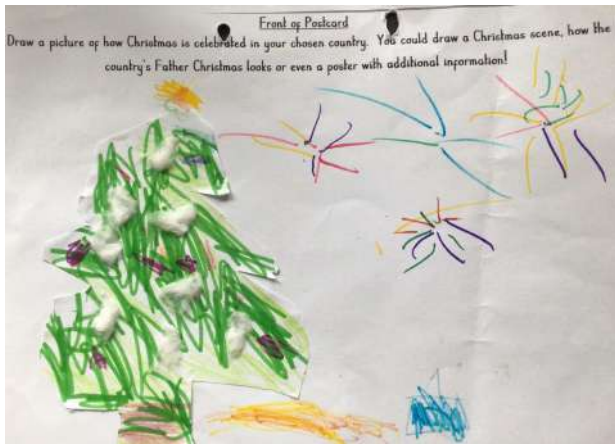
Finally, here are the winners!

Winners

EYFS and KS1

Ellis

Robert



Country: Argentina

Continent: South America

What do they do to celebrate Christmas?


People put up trees on 8th December. They put Cotton wool balls on it to represent snow. They have fireworks on Christmas Eve. On 6th January children leave out water and hay for the 3 kings.

Country: Australia

Continent: Australia

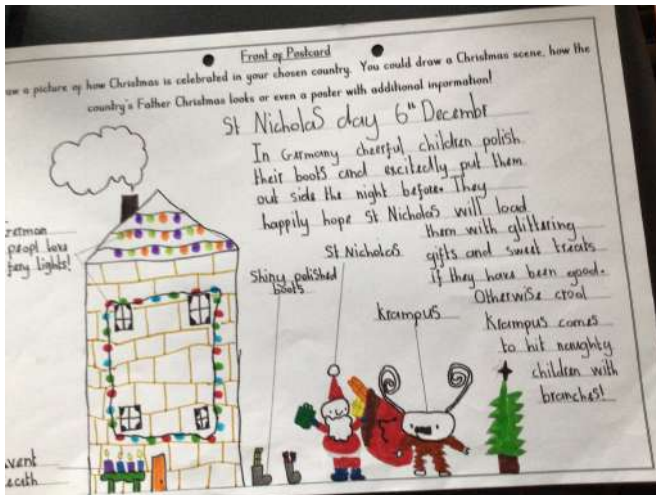
What do they do to celebrate Christmas?

At Christmas in Australia it is hot because it is their summer. Australians give presents and pull crackers like we do. Families like to spend time together on the beach. They eat prawns and lobsters which are cooked on the barbecue. They do things like swimming and build sand men.



KS2

Thayne
Aliya
Louie
Sameer

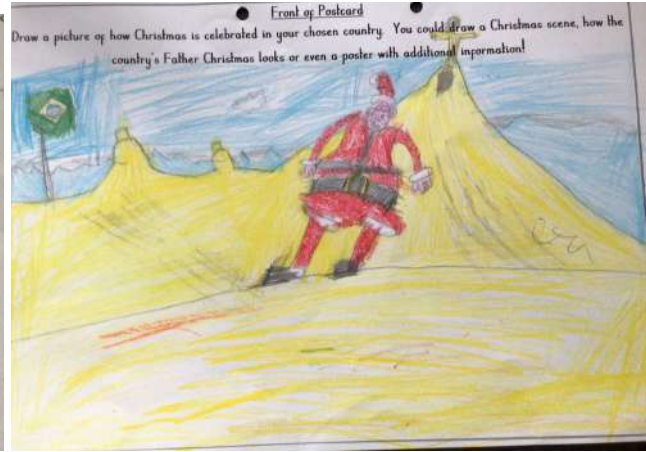
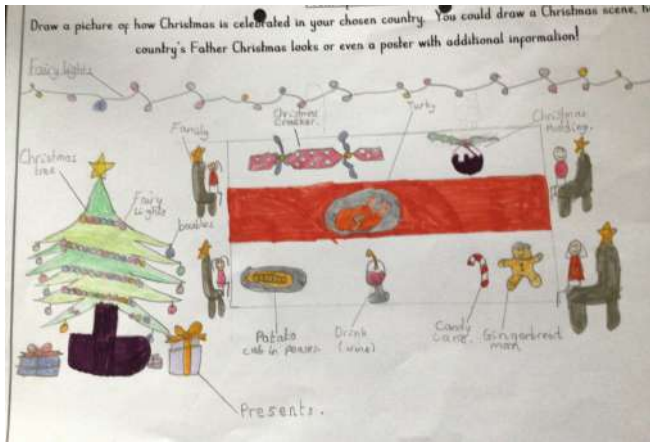


Country: Germany Name: Thao
 Continent: Europe Year: 1
 Class: 1

What do they do to celebrate Christmas?
 I have picked Germany because my Granddad is from Germany. It was very interesting to listen to him and I researched and made notes too. Germany has lots of terrific traditions. German Christmas starts with Advent which is very important to German people. Did you know that they invented

Country: Dubai Name:
 Continent: Asia Year:
 Class:

What do they do to celebrate Christmas?
 Dubai is an Islamic country but they do celebrate Christmas and other religious festivals. It will be a warm, sunny Christmas day. For a white Christmas you can hit the slopes at Ski Dubai. You go out to eat or order in - Turkey and Lamb. You can go to church. St. Mary's in Old Mehta is one of the city's largest. Father Christmas will be at Time Out Market Dubai this Christmas.



Country: Germany
 Continent: Europe

What do they do to celebrate Christmas?
 They celebrate Christmas with two public holidays, 25 and 26 December. For many people 24 December, Christmas Eve, is divided into a hectic morning and a festive evening. Afterwards attention focuses on decorating the Christmas tree with fairy lights and colourful baubles.

Country: Brazil
 Continent: South America

What do they do to celebrate Christmas?
 Santa is called Papai Noel. Children leave a sock on the window sill, if Papai Noel finds it he will ~~to~~ leave a present. In the Nativity a shepherdess and a woman try to steal ~~to~~ Jesus. It's very hot, many people go to the beach.

Pupil Achievements

This week's Hot Chocolate Friday children:
 We have had a double celebration this week as last Friday was an INSET day.



RDW	RY	1H	1MS	2D	2E	3H	3W	
Kerem	Olivia	Kaloyan	Paisley	Ellena	Beau	Evie	Jenson	
Angel	Zachary	Alexa	Jacob	Marseille	Whitney	Louie P	Regan	
4R	4K	4H	5W	5C	5A	6H	6O	6S
Dylan	Logan	Lillie	Freya	Lacey	Rhana	Tina	Eva	Ava

Sapphire	Lujain	Ayaarn	Bobby	Kaid	Matthew	Denis	Phoebe	Zaki
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Well done to Alexa Jones in 1H who achieved her orange belt at Martial Arts this week. She's super proud of herself and loves being active - Congratulations Alexa!



Congratulations to Lily Harrison in class 2E who got player of the match this week and even scored her first hattrick. Great news Lily!

Congratulations to Indi Heeley-Smith in 2D who achieved Girl of the match at her football game on Saturday for Halas Hawk Warriors. Well done Indi!



Leo Kelly in 5W was awarded with man of the match at his game on Sunday. He plays for Cradley town DC U10 west. Congratulations Leo!

We would like to celebrate our pupils' achievements both in and out of school. If your child has achieved something out of school that they are proud of whether it be learning a new skill, sports or club certificates or overcoming a fear or obstacle for example, we would love to know.

Please email them to info@colley.windsoracademytrust.org.uk

The Kindness Corner

Black Country Food Bank



The collection box for Black Country Food Bank is now in the school foyer where donations can be brought in at any time throughout the school year.

If you are able to donate any non-perishable food items please bring these along to the school office where we will collect them before donating them to help our local food bank and community.

Take a look at the amazing work they do by visiting their website at <https://www.blackcountryfoodbank.org.uk/>

Christmas Jumper Day 17th December 2021 to raise money for Edward's Trust



Edward's Trust is a specialist provider of holistic family bereavement support for the West Midlands area. We are based in Edgbaston, Birmingham. The Trust was founded in 1989 by Peter and Hilary Dent, in memory of their son, Edward, who died when he was 7 years old.

We support over 600 families per year which equates to around 3,000 family members. We are here for as long as our families need us. We offer a holistic approach through

counselling and play therapy and run a 'wellbeing in bereavement' service in order to support our families during their most difficult times.

Visit their website at: www.edwardstrust.org.uk

Diary Dates

Winter Holiday

Monday 20th December 2021 to January 3rd 2022

Inset day - School closed Tuesday 4th January 2022

Children return to School - Wednesday 5th January 2022

Spring Half Term

Monday 21st February 2022 to Friday 25th February 2022

Return to school Monday 28th February 2022

Easter Holidays

Monday 11th April 2022 to Friday 22nd April 2022

Return to school Monday 25th April 2022

Summer Half Term

Monday 30th May 2022 to Friday 3rd June 2022

Return to school on Monday 6th June 2022

Summer Holidays

Monday 25th July 2022 to Friday 2nd Sept 2022

Return to school on Monday 5th September 2022

Bank Holidays

New Year – Monday 3rd January 2022

May Day – Monday 2nd May 2022

Inset days to be confirmed

Sports Clubs

Colley Lane Sports Club News

Clubs this term have been so well supported by so many children and we thank you for that. All clubs will restart straight away on Wednesday 05th January with before school JSB football. The only club that is changing is Dance and Miss Hale has sent out a new form to year 3 and 4 parents for children to register an interest.

The price of clubs is £1 per club to a maximum of £3 regardless of how many clubs attended per week (this

doesn't include JSB clubs.)

Unless your child has PE on the same day as a club they must come in school uniform and bring their kit to change into. If they are participating in a club before school they can come in their kit and bring their uniform to change into if they don't have PE that day, this also applies to the JSB club.

<i>Sports Clubs</i>				
	<i>Before school (Start time)</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>After school (Finish time)</i>	<i>Cost</i>
Monday	Y4 & Y5 Cross Country (8.00)	£1.00	Y3 & Y4 Multi Sports (4.15) Y1 & Y2 Multi Skills (4.30) * JSB	£1.00 £3.00
Tuesday	Y3 & Y4 Tri Golf (8.10)	£1.00	Y5 & Y6 Netball (4.15)	£1.00
			Y3 & Y4 Dance (4.15)	£1.00
			Y5 & Y6 Football (4.30) * JSB	£3.00
Wednesday	Y5 & Y6 Football (8.00) * JSB	£2.00	Y5 & Y6 Basketball (4.15) Y3 & Y4 Dodgeball (4.30) * JSB	£1.00 £3.00
	Y3 & Y4 Football (8.00) * JSB	£2.00		
Thursday	Y5 & Y6 Sportshall Athletics (8.10)	£1.00	Y5 & Y6 Hockey (4.15)	£1.00
			Y3 & Y4 Choir (4.15)	£1.00
			Y1 & Y2 Football (4.30) * JSB	£3.00
			Y3 & Y4 Football (4.30) * JSB	£3.00
Friday	Y1 & Y2 Football (8.00) * JSB	£2.00	Y5 & Y6 Girls Football (4.30)	£1.00
			Y5 & 6 Squad Football - Invite Only (4.30)	£1.00
			Y5 & Y6 Dodgeball (4.30) * JSB	£3.00

Free School Meals

If your child is in Reception, years one or two, you will automatically be entitled for free meals under the new 'Universal Infant Free School Meals' criteria.

However if you do meet the criteria listed below then you will need to submit an online claim in order for your child's school to receive Pupil Premium funding.

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseekers Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance

- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- The guaranteed element of State Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit Run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit (you must have less than £616.67 a month net earned income (after tax - and not including any benefits))

Children who receive a qualifying benefit in their own right are also allowed to receive free school meals. Children under the compulsory school age who are in full time education may also be entitled to receive free school meals.

Infant free school meals in England

Your child will be able to get free school meals if they're in a government-funded school and in: reception class, year 1 and year 2 Tell your local authority if you also get any of the qualifying benefits. Your child's school can get extra funding if you do. If you wish to apply for Free School Meals click here [Free School Meals](#) or collect a form from the office.

Financial support and advice from Dudley Council

Step 1: What's the problem?

I suddenly have no money

- Lost job/reduced hours
- Lost money/unexpected expense
- Disaster (e.g. flood or fire)
- Relationship breakdown
- Money stopped (e.g. failed a medical)
- Sanctioned - see option 5

See options **1 2 5 6**

I am waiting on a benefit payment/decision

- Made a new claim for benefit
- Benefit payment is delayed
- Waiting for a benefit decision

See options **1 4**

My money doesn't stretch far enough

- Deciding between food/fuel/mobile credit
- Low income or zero hours contract
- Statutory Sick Pay too low to cover costs
- Facing redundancy
- Not sure if eligible for support
- Change of circumstance (e.g. new baby/bereavement/illness/left partner)

See option **2**

I have debt

- Rent or Council Tax arrears
- Gas or electricity
- Credit or store cards
- Personal loans and overdrafts
- Owe friends and family
- Benefit repayments

See option **3**

Step 2: What are some options?

1 Council Support Schemes

People on low incomes may be eligible for **housing benefits, council tax support** and **discretionary housing payments** from the council. This will depend on your current circumstances.

www.dudley.gov.uk/residents/benefits

2 Maximise Your Income

Anyone who is struggling financially can get a benefit check and speak to an advisor for free and confidential advice.

A **benefit check** can ensure that you are receiving all the money you're entitled to, especially if your circumstances have changed recently. Speaking to an advisor could also help you **find cheaper deals** on things like gas and electricity and **make sure you're not missing out** on things like school clothing grants or free school meals.

3 Debt Advice

Debt can happen to anyone. Free advice and support can help you find ways to manage your debts and reduce how much you pay each month.

4 Benefit Advance

If you have made a new claim for benefit and are in financial hardship while you wait for your first payment, you may be able to get an advance to afford things like rent or food. It's important to get advice before taking out an advance. Benefit advances must be paid back, and the money will be taken from your future benefit payments (a loan).

5 Hardship Payment

If you have been sanctioned, you may be able to request a hardship payment from the Jobcentre. Hardship payments are not always paid immediately, and they're not available to everyone. Hardship payments of Universal Credit need to be paid back (a loan), but hardship payments of Job Seekers Allowance or Employment Support Allowance do not (not a loan).

6 Challenge a Decision

You can challenge a benefit decision if your benefit has been stopped / sanctioned / reduced / refused or you have been overpaid. Most benefit decisions need to be challenged within one month.

Step 3: Where can I get help with these options?

Step 3: Where can I get help?

Each of these services offer free and confidential advice

Citizens Advice

Dudley & Wolverhampton

Free, accessible, quality advice with problems such as housing, employment, benefits, debts or immigration issues

0300 330 9044 | www.citizensadvice.org
Debt Helpline: 07799 070 595

Help with options: 1 2 3 4 5 6

Dudley Welfare Rights Service

Information and support for welfare rights and benefits advice

01384 815 002

Lines are open Tuesday and Thursday
9.30am-1pm and 2pm-4.30pm

Help with options: 1 2 4 5 6

Dudley Council Plus

Providing advice on housing benefits and council tax support

0300 555 2345 | www.dudley.gov.uk/residents

Help with option: 1

CHADD

Housing options for people who need support to enable them to live in the community

01384 456 465 | www.chadd.org.uk

Help with option: 3

Warmer Homes West Midlands

Personalised energy advice service to households struggling to heat their home

0808 196 8298 (option 2)

www.warmerhomesWM.org.uk

Help with options: 2 3 4 6

Step 3: Where can I get help?

Springs Church Debt Advice

Free debt advice and household money management

07938 682 770

emmasealey@springschurch.co.uk

Help with options: 2 3

Other Support

Dudley Council (Online Directory)

Directory of support and services

www.dudleyci.co.uk

Just Straight Talk

Practical help and motivation

01902 256 744 | www.juststraighttalk.org

Castle & Crystal Credit Union

Secure savings and affordable loans for anyone who lives or works in the West Midlands

01384 815 771 | www.castleandcrystal.co.uk

Age Concern Stourbridge & Halesowen

Advice and information for older people (55+), their families and carers

01384 390 065

Healthy Start Vouchers

To help buy fruit, vegetables and milk if you're on a low income, pregnant or have a child under 4. Apply online:

www.healthystart.nhs.uk

Step Change

Free debt advice and money management

0800 138 1111 | www.stepchange.org

Turn2Us

Information and financial support

www.turn2us.org.uk | 0808 802 2000

benefits-calculator-2.turn2us.org.uk

Updated on 30/09/21

Feedback? Share your experience of using this guide by visiting www.bit.ly/moneyadvicefeedback

Worrying About Money?

Financial advice and support is available if you're struggling to make ends meet

Follow these steps to find out where to get help in Dudley



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