

# Colley Lane Primary Academy

*Never settle for less than your best*

## *Newsletter - 7th January 2022*

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a fantastic start to the new term and has been wonderful to welcome the children back. Catching up with children and parents around school and on the gates, it is clear that people had a good break and where plans had to be changed due to circumstances, everyone managed in some way to make the most of this holiday.

I have to say how impressed we are with how quickly the children have settled this week. Walking around school on Wednesday morning, there was a superb learning atmosphere with everyone excited about the new topics ahead. We say hello Mrs Nock to Year 1 as she takes over the fabulous learning started by Mrs Horton and thank you to the parents who have made her so welcomed already. All the children look incredibly smart and thank you for ensuring that your child wears the correct uniform for school each day.

The new theme for the children this term is Aspirations and looking at how people achieve their dreams. This is linked to our aspire Mountain, key element of all learning skills and character at Colley Lane. Over the next few weeks, the children will look at what it means to have aspirations and to aspire to be something, whether that is a particular profession or career or just to be the best version of themselves. An ideal time to consider this as we start a new year.



With the recent Government announcements, things appear to be moving quickly in order to keep everyone safe from the Omicron variant. From Tuesday, if your child tests positive on a LFT and has symptoms, you will no longer be required to go for a PCR but should isolate straight away. The isolation period is 10 days, however if you have a negative LFT on day 6 **and** day 7, your child can return to school on day 8. If your child has to isolate and is not unwell, we will provide work to ensure that learning is not lost. We continue to review our practise alongside encouraging good hand hygiene and the use of hand sanitiser. Thank you for your support with these measures and as things change, we will keep you informed.

Thank you for all the donations on the last day of the Autumn term. We raised a fantastic £335.40 for Edwards Trust. We also donated over 5 crates of food to the Black Country Food bank. Our collection point is in the main corridor if you would like to contribute this term. On Thursday 20th January, we will be holding a Themed lunch and any child having a hot meal will be entered into the draw to win a "pupil and parent prize". The winning pupil and parent will receive a £50 Tesco voucher and reading and craft box.

Please remember that school is closed on Friday 28th January for INSET.

Kind regards,

Mr Dominic Simpson  
Headteacher

## Colley Lane Primary Academy

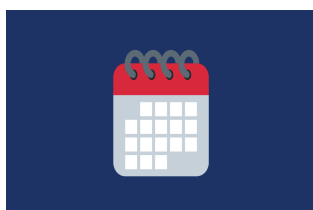
Colley Lane, Halesowen B63 2TN **Tel:** 01384 900450

**Email:** [info@colley.windsoracademytrust.org.uk](mailto:info@colley.windsoracademytrust.org.uk)

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

### Key Dates

- Friday 28th January - Inset day - School closed
- Monday 7th February Year 3 Trip to Birmingham Symphony Hall
- 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

#### Tuck Money

Can parents please check their ParentMail account to make sure there is money if they would like their child to have tuck at break time. Please note that this also applies to families who receive free school meals.

#### Lunch Boxes

Just a reminder that children should not bring chocolate bars into school unless it is biscuit based. Also can we remind you that no nuts or nut based products should be brought into school due to allergies. This includes nutella spread, peanut butter, Kinder Bueno bars etc.

#### Coats

Can we remind all parents / carers to make sure children bring a coat to school with their name on. We do still have limited coats available to buy from the school office for just £5.

#### Uniform

Please can all children's uniforms, coats, 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.

# 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. **Next week is Week 2 Menu, please see below:**

Lunch Menu					
Week 2 - Mains					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Hot Main Dish</b>	Veggie Bolognese **(V) Penne pasta in a yummy tomato and Quorn sauce	Pork Sausage with Mashed potato and Gravy	Roast Turkey with Roast Potatoes and Gravy  Succulent roast turkey with fluffy roasties and tasty gravy	Cottage Pie  A classic cottage pie with veg and gravy	Golden Fish Fingers and Chips  Crispy Fish Fingers and scrummy chips
<b>Alternative Dish</b>	Cheese and Tomato Pizza ** with Dough Balls (V)  Cheesy Tomato Topped Pizza Slice	Quorn Sausage With Mashed potato and Gravy	Quorn Roast with fluffy roasties and tasty gravy	Mild Chickpea and Potato Curry (V) **  Served with Wholemeal Rice	Tomato Veggie Burger with Chips (V)  A delicious homemade veggie burger
<b>Salads</b>	A Selection of Fresh Salads Including Lettuce, Cucumber, Tomato, Grated Carrot.				
<b>Jacket Potato</b>	Jacket Potato  A Choice Of Fillings				
<b>Pasta</b>	Tomato Pasta ** (V) A delicious fresh, homemade tomato sauce with penne pasta				
<b>Vegetables</b>	Carrot Sticks Cucumber Sticks	Peas Broccoli	Carrots Cabbage	Green Beans Sweetcorn	Baked Beans Peas
<b>Desserts</b>	Apple and Berry Crumble with Custard	Fruit Flapjack	Crunchy Chocolate Biscuit	Fruity Chocolate Brownie	Vanilla Ice-Cream
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.

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.

### 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*

### **Happy New Year!**

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

If for any reason your child is going to be absent for school 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](mailto: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 please send an email to [attendance@colley.windsoracademytrust.org.uk](mailto: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***

Happy New Year to all of you. We hope you all enjoyed a lovely Christmas and New Year. It has been great to welcome the children back into Nursery and to welcome our new children for their first sessions. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome Mrs Ward to the Nursery team.

This week we have been looking at Winter. The children have been able to explore Winter through a sensory tray, Winter playdough, matching pairs of gloves and making Winter pictures using white paint and old Christmas cards. We have also spoken about signs of Winter and what clothes we need to wear when it is cold.

Can we please remind parents to label items which their children are bringing to school to ensure that they can be easily identified if they get lost.

Have a wonderful weekend!

## ***Reception***

Happy New Year everyone. We hope you all enjoyed a lovely Christmas and New Year. It has been great seeing the children return to school ready and raring to learn. This week we have been looking at our Aspire mountain and talking about how we can be respectful. The children shared lots of ideas, including saying 'please', 'thank you' and 'excuse me', and sharing their toys and being kind to their friends. They worked very hard to make some 'Respectful' posters, using their Phonics to write some words, and being creative with their drawings.

In Maths we have explored length. The children used our Maths Stars Words to talk about the length of some string, before they used play dough to explore.

Have a lovely weekend and we look forward to seeing you next week.

## ***Year 1***

Happy New Year everyone, we hope you all had a wonderful break! The Year 1 team was very excited this week to see all of our children return refreshed, recharged and ready to learn. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome Mrs Nock to the team and it has been lovely to see the bond she is already developing with the children.

We launched our new aspire topic called "What job would I like to do when I grow up." The children loved discussing what jobs their parents have and what they aspire to become. These included firefighters, footballers, ballerinas, vets and even a palaeontologist.

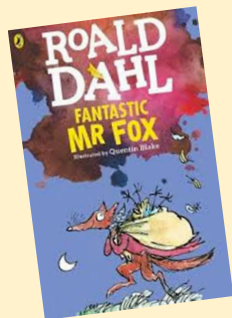
In Maths this week we have explored 1 more and 1 less and solved addition and subtraction equations. The children are becoming more clear when explaining how they solved the problems and why they solved them that way. We are looking forward to starting a new topic of clocks next week. Have a hunt around your house to see what different clocks you have.

Have a lovely weekend and we look forward to seeing you next week as we start even more new topics.

## Year 2

Happy New Year to you all and we hope you have had a lovely Christmas holiday. It has been wonderful to welcome the children back into school this week. They have all come back focused and excited to tackle the next half term, which is great to see. We started our term with a focus day looking at the British Value 'Rule of Law'. The children discussed and decided on important rules both at home and in school. You will be pleased to know, many of the children knew they had to keep their bedroom tidy!

We also launched our new ASPIRE theme which focuses on the children's aspirations for the future. They reflected on the jobs they wanted to do at the start of the year and decided if this was something they still wanted to do. We had a vast range of jobs, such as geochemists, teachers, face painters and YouTubers.



The children have loved finding out our new whole class reader for this half term, Fantastic Mr Fox by Roald Dahl and are keen to start reading it next week. The children had to solve clues, which helped them predict who our main character was going to be! They were excellent at justifying their reasons too.

Next week we will be launching our first TTRS competition - 2E vs 2D! We would love all the children to get involved as we are having a big push on our timetables at the moment. The winning class will all receive a dojo and the overall winner will receive three. Let the battle commence!

## Year 3

Happy New Year to you all. The children have settled back well and have had a great start to 2022. Our first day back concentrated on the British value of 'The rule of law'. We talked about why and when rules were needed and linked discussions to school rules and teamwork; collaboration being one of our school values.

Over the last few days we have introduced our Aspire theme of 'Aspirations'. We have discussed lots of different people the children felt they could aspire to be like. People such as Tim Peake, Lewis Hamilton, Kadena Cox, Ed Sheeran as well as Mums and Dads! We discussed the qualities these aspirational people displayed linking them to our ASPIRE mountain and the behaviours the children strive to reflect each day. We have had a focus on being respectful and courageous this week for example.

Next week we will be looking at our creative sides with reading and writing poetry, creating a printing tile using a snowflake design in Art and some of the Year Three children are beginning music lessons learning how to play a brass instrument.

Hopefully even more children will be inspired when we go to listen to the orchestra play at Birmingham's Symphony Hall next month and may aspire to become famous musicians one day.

Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

## Year 4

Happy New Year everyone! What a fantastic start to 2022 we have had. The children have loved creating their own New Year's Resolutions that they will definitely keep such as 'I will never have a fight with a boxing kangaroo' and 'I will always eat chocolate.'

We have kicked off our new theme of 'Aspirations' this week by looking at what makes a hero. We looked at heroes such as Sir Captain Tom Moore, doctors, police, Mo Farah and Cristiano Ronaldo. We then discussed who was a hero to us and why. Lots of children said their mums and dads were their heroes!

What an exciting half term we have got planned in Year 4. In maths we will be looking at fractions whilst still pushing our times tables. Keep on going with TTRS. The battles start again this week! In reading we are starting our new book, *The Boy at the Back of the Class*. Can't wait to find out more about Ahmet! In science we will be exploring the topic of sound and how sound travels. There are lots of investigations and opportunities to explore. Finally, our Tuesday afternoons are getting a shake up! Each Tuesday afternoon the children will be on a rotation of PE, Spanish taught by Mrs Fernandez and African Drums.

We can't wait to see how the children enjoy these new topics and lessons.

Have a lovely weekend and see you all next week!

## Year 5

Happy New Year to you all from the Year 5 team. We hope everyone enjoyed the rest.

This week, children have set themselves targets they aim to achieve during this year. These targets include: things they want to try, a word to live by, ways to help others and how to make our school an even better place. We look forward to supporting each other in achieving them.

In science, this half term, we will be exploring forces. This week, we investigated levers and discovered that the positioning of the weight on the beam and also the positioning of the pivot were key to the investigation. We found that a 100g weight could lift a 1kg weight using this approach. We investigated levers individually and also as part of a group. The photo to the right is an individual experiment using classroom equipment, showing a 5g weight lifting a 10g weight.



In PSHE and Theme, we have started to explore our ASPIRE characteristics and learner skills and how they are important to develop during our time in education and how adults use them in the working world. We will be exploring how the ASPIRE values link to aspirational future careers.

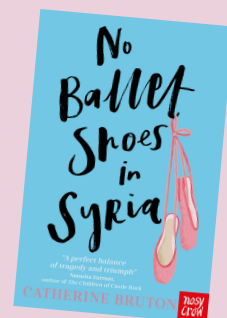
**Reminder** - iPads need to be charged daily and ready for lessons. We've experienced quite a few iPads that have arrived into school without charge and this can have an impact on lessons planned for that day. We have spoken to children about our ASPIRE values and how the characteristic - *I am responsible* should be displayed for this task.

We look forward to an enjoyable and rewarding term. Have a great weekend!

## Year 6

Happy New Year from the Year 6 team! We hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and a very Happy New Year.

The children have settled back into school really well this week; it was lovely to see all of their faces again! The children have been busy with lots of PSHE and reading sessions this week, based around our new text for this half term 'No Ballet Shoes in Syria' by Catherine Bruton. This is a fabulous book based around a young refugee's journey from Syria to Britain and the many challenges she faces along the way. As part of our PSHE sessions, the children have looked at the rule of law, the importance of democracy and have begun to understand the effects of war. We are really looking forward to starting the book next week.



Just a few reminders for this term -

Residential - we are working our way towards our residential trip. It's a really exciting opportunity for the children and we are really looking forward to taking the children away. Please can we ask for payments to be kept up to date; this ensures we can make payments to Boreatton Park on time. Additionally, a few spaces have opened up. If your child is interested in attending, please see a member of the team or the school office and we can book them in.

PE kits - PE will continue to be on Wednesdays and Fridays this term. Please ensure your child is in the correct PE kit (preferably something warm due to the current weather) and no jewellery should be worn.

We look forward to a fantastic term!

## *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.

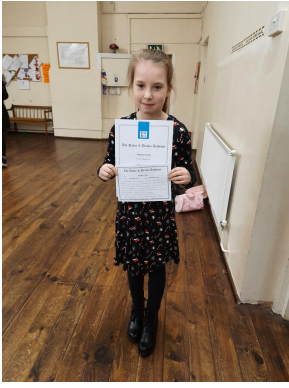
## *Pupil Achievements*

This week's Hot Chocolate Friday children:



<b>RDW</b>	<b>RY</b>	<b>1H</b>	<b>1MS</b>	<b>2D</b>	<b>2E</b>	<b>3H</b>	<b>3W</b>	
Laycee-Mae	Amira	Rowan	Rueben	Inaaya	Daniel	Lia	Zak	
<b>4R</b>	<b>4K</b>	<b>4H</b>	<b>5W</b>	<b>5C</b>	<b>5A</b>	<b>6H</b>	<b>6O</b>	<b>6S</b>
Orla	Lexi	Daniel M	Ruby	Connor	Charlotte	Alisha	Layla	Eshaan





Congratulations to Maddie Neale in 4R who passed her grade 1 tap exam in December with 94% and a commendation - Well done Maddie!

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](mailto: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/>



### **Thank you!**

Christmas Jumper Day 17th December 2021 - we raised an amazing £335.40 for Edward's Trust! Thank you to all who donated.

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](http://www.edwardstrust.org.uk)

## *Diary Dates*

### Spring Half Term

Monday 21st February 2022 to Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2022

Return to school Monday 28th February 2022

### Easter Holidays

Monday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2022 to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2022

Return to school Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2022

### Summer Half Term

Monday 30th May 2022 to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022

Return to school on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June 2022

### Summer Holidays

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> July 2022 to Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept 2022

Return to school on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022

### Bank Holidays

New Year – Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2022

May Day – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2022

Inset days to be confirmed

## *Sports Clubs*

### Colley Lane Sports Club News

Sports clubs have started again for this term and apart from dance all the clubs are running the same. There are plenty of places so if you fancy starting something new come along and join in the fun. Most of the clubs will be outside so please make sure that the children have warm clothing and sensible footwear.

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.

### *Sports Clubs*

	<i>Before school (Start time)</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>After school (Finish time)</i>	<i>Cost</i>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>Y4 &amp; Y5 Cross Country (8.00)</i>	<i>£1.00</i>	<i>Y3 &amp; Y4 Multi Sports (4.15)</i> <i>Y1 &amp; Y2 Multi Skills (4.30)* JSB</i>	<i>£1.00</i> <i>£3.00</i>

<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Y3 &amp; Y4 Tri Golf (8.10)</b>	<b>£1.00</b>	<b>Y5 &amp; Y6 Netball (4.15)</b>	<b>£1.00</b>
			<b>Y3 &amp; Y4 Dance (4.15)</b>	<b>£1.00</b>
			<b>Y5 &amp; Y6 Football (4.30) * JSB</b>	<b>£3.00</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>Y5 &amp; Y6 Football (8.00) * JSB</b>	<b>£2.00</b>	<b>Y5 &amp; Y6 Basketball (4.15)</b> <b>Y3 &amp; Y4 Dodgeball (4.30) * JSB</b>	<b>£1.00</b> <b>£3.00</b>
	<b>Y3 &amp; Y4 Football (8.00) * JSB</b>	<b>£2.00</b>		
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>Y5 &amp; Y6 Sportshall Athletics (8.10)</b>	<b>£1.00</b>	<b>Y5 &amp; Y6 Hockey (4.15)</b>	<b>£1.00</b>
			<b>Y3 &amp; Y4 Choir (4.15)</b>	<b>£1.00</b>
			<b>Y1 &amp; Y2 Football (4.30) * JSB</b>	<b>£3.00</b>
			<b>Y3 &amp; Y4 Football (4.30) * JSB</b>	<b>£3.00</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Y1 &amp; Y2 Football (8.00) * JSB</b>	<b>£2.00</b>	<b>Y5 &amp; Y6 Girls Football (4.30)</b>	<b>£1.00</b>
			<b>Y5 &amp; 6 Squad Football - Invite Only (4.30)</b>	<b>£1.00</b>
			<b>Y5 &amp; Y6 Dodgeball (4.30) * JSB</b>	<b>£3.00</b>

## ***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](http://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?**

Access 'Worrying About Money?' leaflets at [www.foodaidnetwork.org.uk/cash-first-leaflets](http://www.foodaidnetwork.org.uk/cash-first-leaflets)

### 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](http://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](http://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](http://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](http://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](mailto:emmasealey@springschurch.co.uk)

Help with options: 2 3

#### Other Support

##### Dudley Council (Online Directory)

Directory of support and services

[www.dudleyci.co.uk](http://www.dudleyci.co.uk)

##### Just Straight Talk

Practical help and motivation

01902 256 744 | [www.juststraighttalk.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.healthystart.nhs.uk)

##### Step Change

Free debt advice and money management

0800 138 1111 | [www.stepchange.org](http://www.stepchange.org)

##### Turn2Us

Information and financial support

[www.turn2us.org.uk](http://www.turn2us.org.uk) | 0808 802 2000

[benefits-calculator-2.turn2us.org.uk](http://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](http://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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