

## Newsletter for Belle Vue Primary & Nursery School

### World Book Day

World Book Day is coming up on **Thursday 3rd March** and we wanted to give you advance notice that we will be inviting the children to dress up as their favourite "**WORD**" for the day, for example if their favourite word is "Green" come to school wearing green, if their favourite word is "Odd" come to school wearing odd clothes etc, all we ask is **NO SPORTS KITS** please!



World Book Day Tokens will be shared with all the children on the day. These can be used to buy any of the £1 World Book Day books available at a number of participating outlets. For more details about the books visit <https://www.worldbookday.com/books/> The only question the children will need to answer is which book they would like!

Thank you to everybody who donated to our Christmas Jumper fundraiser for Alopecia UK last December. Please see below the certificate which we have just received in the post!



### Uniform

We are now taking school uniform orders. If you would like to order any uniform please place or order via the SchoolMoney app by **Wednesday 16th February**. Any orders placed after this date will not be ordered till next half term.



Please note that our office opening hours are **8:30am—4:00pm**. If you need to contact the office please call/visit between these times. If you need to report an absence before **8:15am** please leave a message on the absence line.



Thank you

**Parking:** Please could we remind parents to show **consideration** and safety awareness when **parking** their car at **school** drop off or collection times. We have received a few complaints from local residents stating that their driveways are being blocked so they can't get on or off their driveways. As a matter of courtesy, safety and for the good of everyone, please do not park across driveways. Thank you



### **Message from Wordsley Library**

We will now be opening until **5pm** on **Mondays and Thursdays**. We hope this will go some way to welcoming more children and their families back to the library after school. Our opening hours are as follows:

**Monday 10am-5pm**

**Tuesday 10am-4pm**

**Wednesday 10am-4pm**

**Thursday 10am-5pm**

**Friday 10am-4pm**

**Saturday 10am-4pm**

We continue to offer a drop-in Saturday Family Craft every week from 10:30-1pm and plan more free activities for the children during the forthcoming February half term and during the Easter break. We look forward to seeing you.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

<b>Friday 18th February 2022</b>	<b>Break up for Half Term</b>
<b>Monday 28th February 2022</b>	<b>School Closed to pupils-Teacher Training (INSET)</b>
<b>Tuesday 1st March 2022</b>	<b>First Day of Term</b>
<b>Thursday 3rd March 2022</b>	<b>World Book Day—Non uniform</b>
<b>Friday 8th April 2022</b>	<b>Last Day of Term</b>
<b>Monday 25th April 2022</b>	<b>First Day of Term</b>
<b>Tuesday 17th May 2022</b>	<b>Reception Trip to Bishops Wood</b>
<b>Friday 27th May 2022</b>	<b>Break up for Half Term</b>
<b>Monday 6th June 2022</b>	<b>Return to School</b>
<b>Wednesday 8th June 2022</b>	<b>Year 1 Trip—National Sea Life Centre</b>
<b>Wednesday 20th July 2022</b>	<b>End of Year</b>
<b>Thursday 21st July 2022</b>	<b>School Closed to pupils-Teacher Training (INSET)</b>
<b>Friday 22nd July 2022</b>	<b>School Closed to all—Queen's Jubilee</b>

## **Family Support Update**

### **Financial Support and Advice**

With fuel and food bills rising and the increase in job losses, more families in our school community are struggling financially. If this is your family, please don't feel embarrassed about contacting me for support. We are now able to supply Foodbank vouchers and I may be able to provide you with some support and advice. I have attached a very helpful flyer to this newsletter which gives details of places for support, in case you wish to access support independently.

### **Free Cooking Course – Dudley Borough - 22nd February 2022**

Lets Get Healthy Dudley are running free healthy cooking courses, Cook 4 Life, in Brierley Hill. It's a 6 week course running on **Tuesdays 9.30-11.30** - spaces are available for the next course which will start on **Tuesday 22nd February 2022**.

Anyone aged 18 or over can attend as long as they live, work, or have a GP in Dudley Borough. The course is free and all equipment and ingredients are provided, participants can take home the food that they prepare.  
To book please call **01384 732402**.

### **Free School Meals**

If you are in receipt of benefits, your children may qualify for free school meals. Even if they are in Key Stage 1 and receive free school meals due to their age, it is still beneficial to register for free school meals, as you will then receive vouchers in the school holidays to spend at a supermarket. Please follow the link below to find out more information.

<https://www.dudley.gov.uk/residents/benefits/free-school-meals/>

### **Parenting Courses**

Our next Triple P parenting session will focus on difficulties around sleep and will take place on **Wednesday 9th March (9-11)**. If you are interested in attending please contact me via [family@belle-vue.dudley.sch.uk](mailto:family@belle-vue.dudley.sch.uk). Currently, we do not have enough parents to run this course and may need to postpone it, so please let me know asap.

If you are unable to attend the sessions in school hours, then you may be interested in the online sessions. Please contact me for details.

### **Support Group for Parents of Children with SEND**

On 25th January we launched our new support group for parents of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. The parents who have attended so far have found it very useful. If you have a child at Belle Vue with SEND, or they have a sibling who does, then we would like to invite you to join us. We run the group every **Tuesday (9.00 - 10.30)** Initially, it will be a chance to have a coffee and a chat with parents in a similar situation but as we progress we aim to invite speakers in, to provide information and advice. If you would like to attend, please let me know in advance so we don't run out of biscuits!

During our sessions, the parents have been able to share their knowledge of different activities available to children with SEND. We thought we would share them with you in case they are of interest.

**Sycamore Adventure:** They run sessions every **Thursday 4.30-6.30** for children with additional needs and family members. See the link below for more information.

<https://www.sycamoreadventure.co.uk/play/>

### ***Boing Zone , STOURBRIDGE***

**Sunday 6.00pm – 7.00pm every week**

This session provides exclusive jump time for jumpers with special needs, open to all ages.

One carer jumps free with each special needs jumper. One additional sibling will be allowed but must stay with carer at all times.

Lighting and music will be SEN friendly and squash and biscuits will be available.

Members of the public will not be allowed admission and proof of SEN may be required.

Please book online before arrival as places will be limited to ensure comfort and safety.

60 minute session £9.00/one carer free sibling/extra carer £5.00

### **Mindful Social Club**

The attached leaflet explains more about this club which is run in Kingswinford

### **SEND Local Offer**

The link below will take you to a website which provides advice and information about what's on offer in Dudley to support children with SEND.

<https://dudleyci.co.uk/send-local-offer>



## 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 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.dudley.org](http://www.citizensadvice.dudley.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 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?

### 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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BLACK COUNTRY  
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CHADD

Dudley  
Stourbridge & Halesowen

Warmer Homes  
West Midlands

Castle & Crystal  
Credit Union

AGE concern  
Stourbridge & Halesowen

# Mindful Social

Children 6-12.

£5 a session

(4 weeks £20)

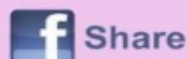
*Shutter Monkey*  
Photography

## Who we are for:

Our Aim is to build confidence, self-esteem and friendship in a calm environment. To aid mental health and help support children that struggle socially through anxiety, bullying, ASD, ADD or just being a quieter child so they can socialise in a less invasive environment to regular clubs in hope they find self-worth and social contentment.

## What we do:

- Introduction activity.
- A creative craft.
- Team game.
- Chatter and chill with board games.
- Group positive and mindfulness activity.



Bottled water and squash provided & a hot drink for parents that wish to stay.

**Tuesdays 5-6.30pm @ The Royal British Legion,  
Kingswinford, DY6 9JG**

**How to enquire:**

**Facebook:**

**Email: loobylous44@gmail.com**

**WhatsApp: 07941606669**





On **Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February** we have our first football match against The Glynne here at home. Game matches, scores and pictures (with permission) will be added to the school website.

On Tuesday **1<sup>st</sup> March** we have a second match against The Glynne away at their school.

We have been very fortunate to have very generous parents sponsor our football team to get a new football kit. We are extremely lucky to have been given this opportunity and look forward to trying out our new kit when it arrives.

After half term Year 3 dodgeball will commence for another 2 weeks to make up for those weeks lost. Letters will be sent out with all details attached.

On a Friday there will be an after school club for years 5/6, this will be multi-sports and will be on a first come first serve basis. This will start from **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March**. Unfortunately, there will only be 15 spaces. Letters will be sent out.

Year 4 will also have the opportunity to do an after school club on a Wednesday which will start from the **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March**. Letters will follow.

**Please can we ensure children have their outdoor kit in school every week as we will be doing as much PE outside as we can. Children are also able to wear coats, gloves, hats, snoods or scarfs if this wish too. It is essential that all children have trainers to wear outdoors as school shoes are not permitted and pumps are not ideal.**

- \* **Indoor PE kit:** white t-shirt, red short and pumps.
- \* **Outdoor PE kit:** joggers, hoodie or jacket, white t-shirt and trainers.

If they attend after school clubs and go home in their PE kits please ensure PE kits are returned.

Starting from week commencing **Monday 14<sup>th</sup> February** PE will be slightly different with morning and afternoon lesson swapping around. I will list the new changes below;

**Year 1 PE days** – Tuesday afternoon and Friday morning.

**Year 2 PE days** – Wednesday morning and Friday afternoon.

**Year 3 PE days** – Monday morning and Tuesday morning.

**Year 4 PE days** – Thursday afternoon and Friday afternoon.

**Year 5 PE days** – Wednesday afternoon and Friday afternoon.

**Year 6 PE days** – Monday morning and Thursday morning.