



Ward End Primary School Newsletter

December 2025

We have all had a fabulous half term!

Thank you parents for all your support recently attending Carol concerts and plays, as well as supporting us at the Winter Fair. The children have had a lovely *festive* time and learned many skills throughout.

I know parents have been very impressed with the pupils' performances. They have learned their lines, spoken up, used the microphone and sung in harmony. What a Joy! The large audiences for each performance were much appreciated by pupils and staff.

This academic year we continue our focus on Oracy throughout the curriculum. Please ask your children to try out the different types of talk at home. This could be videoed and loaded to class dojo to share in school. The Winter Holiday homework is an Oracy project- slightly different for each year group this time.

Children *should still read every night* for at least 20 minutes, record it in Reading record book and bring both books to school every day. Thank you.

Parking

Our whole school community are very concerned about the parking issues outside school.

Children, parents, neighbours and Governors have all raised concerns about dangerous parking and dangerous driving.

Please do not park in front of shops, blocking entrances and exits.

Please do not mount the pavement with your car as families are walking to school with children

Please do not park on zigzags or stop in the road to let children out of a car. Also keep the school car park gates clear at the end of the day. They are our emergency exit.

We need to keep everyone safe.

Please leave early- park away from school and walk in.

This is for EVERYONE'S safety.

Our UNICEF Ambassadors are working on a Walk to School incentive scheme, details below.

Walk To School initiative 2026

From January 2026 the children at Ward End school will have an amazing opportunity to log daily journeys to school on the Walk to School Tracker. The WOW Travel Tracker also confirms which pupils have walked enough to earn a badge each month. Here are some useful links for parents to access and support the WOW Travel Tracker (part of the Living Streets "Walk to School" challenge) WOW Travel Tracker— Features, benefits, how it works, including parent involvement:

<https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/walk-to-school/primary-schools/wow-the-walk-to-school-challenge/wow-travel-tracker/> *WOW – the Walk to School challenge — Explains how children self-report journeys, earn monthly badges, and decrease car usage:*

<https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/walk-to-school/primary-schools/wow-the-walk-to-school-challenge/> *WOW Launch — Supporting Materials — Includes videos, FAQs, guides, and resources to explain WOW to parents and run the programme:*

<https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/wowlaunch>

There are merit points & dojos for pupils, who have the correct uniform, PE kit and reading record- neatly completed and signed by parents daily.



Jumpers, book bags and cardigans are available to purchase from the school office using Parent Pay, please email enquiries@wardend.org.uk to order.

We have a selection of sizes so if you are unsure- please ask at the office to have a look at the ones we have in stock.

PE Kit - please ensure your child comes into school with the correct PE kit. Black shorts or leggings, white T shirt, black pumps or trainers (no logos)

If a PE kit is missing, one will be provided from school which then needs to be washed and returned to school.

Headscarves must be fastened and fitted please for Health and Safety. Pupils will be provided with a fitted head scarf going forward if a fitted one is not worn.

Black school shoes- not trainers please.

What's happening in school next half term?

Throughout January Wellbeing workshops for pupils Reception- year 4

15th Jan Special Menu Day- all invited

9am Reception Phonics workshops for parents Squirrels and Hedgehogs

2.15pm Phonics workshop for parents Foxes and Rabbits

Visit to Balaji Hindu Temple;

19th Jan Classes 3.1 & 3.2

20th Jan Classes 3.3 & 3.4

20th & 21st Jan Y6 split second, anti knife crime drama workshop.

26th Jan 9am PINS Coffee morning

Visit to Buddhist Temple;

27th Jan Owls & 5.4 & 5.3

28th Jan Classes 5.1 & 5.2

Visit Birmingham Back to Back houses

3rd Feb Class 6.4

4th Feb Class 6.1

10th Feb Class 6.3

11th Feb Class 6.2

10th Feb SAFER INTERNET DAY

13th Feb Swimming Pool arrives!

Half term break Friday 13th February- Monday 23rd February 2026

Our School Day - a reminder

The school day is still the same as last year. Here is a reminder:

8.30 am - School Gates open to welcome pupils

8.40 am - Registration in class

8.45 am - School Gates are closed, teaching begins - anyone arriving after this time will be allocated a LATE mark

Friday school day - Morning times are the same but school will finish at 3.00 pm

NURSERY TIMES:

Monday to Thursday

Nur AM - 8.30 am - 11.30 am

Nur PM - 12.20 pm - 3.20 pm

Fridays

Nur AM - 8.30 am - 11.30 am

Nur PM - 12.20 am - 3.20 pm - Nursery pupils can be collected from 3.00 pm onwards

We encourage you to make ALL routine appointments (medical/dental etc) out of school hours. This causes less disruption to your child's school day.

PLEASE REMEMBER SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 3.00 PM ON FRIDAY - EVERY FRIDAY! There are no after-school facilities for children who are collected late - please be punctual at the end of the day.

As a parent if you are running late at the end of the day please make alternative arrangements for collection of your children ie a family member, neighbour etc.

Gates close at 3.45pm - keeps our site safe and secure- to keep everyone safe, please ask pupils to leave promptly without stopping to play on climbing equipment at home time - thank you.

Dates for School year 2025-2026

Monday 3rd November closes Friday 19th December - for the festive break.

Open Tuesday 6th January 2026. Half term Monday 16th February - Friday 20th February 2026

Closes Friday 27th March 2026.

Open after Easter break on Tuesday 14th April 2026

Closed for council elections 7th May (EYFS- Y5 only, year 6 will attend on that day)

half term Monday 25th May- Friday 29th May 2026

Closes Friday 17th July 2026 3pm

Leave in Term Time

The LA does not permit leave to be taken during term time and for this academic year the rules have changed. Letters have been sent out to parents regarding this. If you are thinking of taking time off the school needs to be informed. **Please collect a Pupil Leave of Absence Request form from the Office, complete and return it for the attention of the Pastoral Managers who will then have a chat with you. Please bear in mind the LA will issue a penalty notice for any time taken off during term time and your child also misses out on vital education. Please refer to letters on our website for the change in penalty notices and rules.**

Please DO NOT take your children out of school during term-time without following the above protocol.

Good Attendance Matters - 2025



Autumn term 2 attendance prize will be in the first few weeks of January- its a surprise day!
More information to follow.

Autumn 1 attendance prize for all pupils with 95%+ attendance- Alpaca visit- WOW what a great day!

Everyone loved the Alpacas, Truffles (the brown one) just wanted to be cuddled all morning and Arty just wanted to be fed carrots. Well done all pupils who achieved the prize! Our next 95%+ prize will be early January for Autumn 2 half term.

Please see each classes percentages on the newsletter section of school website.

Here are the guidelines from the LA regarding attendance. You can also view attendance page of the school website for information.

[Good Attendance Matters - Sept 2025.pdf](#)

Collection of Children at the end of the day

Please ensure to collect your children promptly at the end of the day. School finishes at 3.30 pm and the gates remain open until 3.45 pm for parents to collect their children. The gates close at 3.45 pm and the "late" children are then taken to the Office. At times some children are collected after 4.00 pm - this is a safeguarding issue. There are no after-school provisions for children at our school. If you are unable to collect your child for whatever reason, please nominate an adult to collect on your behalf and inform the School Office.

Some parents may feel the need to collect their secondary school child first - which makes them late for our school. Part of moving onto a secondary school is also to teach our children independence and for them to be safe outdoors. Please encourage the secondary school children to wait or to walk with a friend until you have collect your primary school pupil.

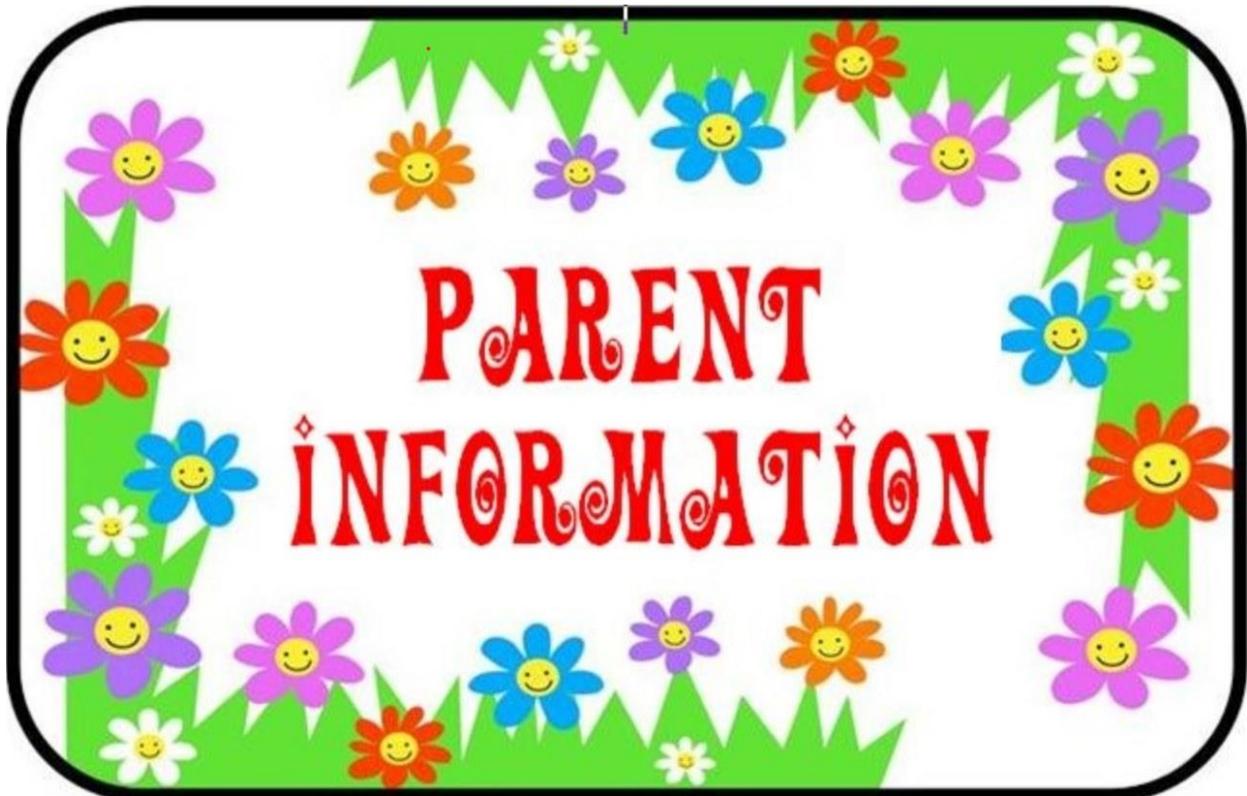
Thank you!

Winter Craft Fair

Our **Winter Craft Fair** last Friday (12 December 2025) was a huge success and enjoyed by all our pupils. Stalls offered cakes, biscuits, lucky dips, bookmarks, crocheted snowflakes, beaded bracelets, slap bands and much much more. The children were in awe of it all - buying their own handicraft as well as crafts made by their peers in other Year Groups. As always a lovely, fun-filled day. All funds raised will be going towards equipment for our children in school. The

pupils and staff worked very hard towards achieving this - well done all! Thank you parents for your support once again.

Useful Information



Our ESOL classes will now be held on a Tuesday morning from 9-11 am - classes are provided courtesy of Birmingham Adult Education Service and are now running at full capacity

Coffee Morning is held every Wednesday from 9-10 am - come and join us for a cuppa, biscuit and a natter about all things that matter!

The Pastoral Team Drop-in Service is provided after the Coffee Morning every Wednesday from 10-12 noon - please speak with the Pastoral Team for a time-slot.

Workshops for Reception parents and children are in the making - watch this space!

Winter Craft Fair is also in the making - get ready for some fun!

Safety During the Festive Break

The festive break is upon us and we are all looking forward to spending some time with the family and enjoying some festive food. Children are all at home and we need to ensure everyone is safeguarded. Here are some tips for the break.

On the Safeguarding page of the website you will find a link to The Waiting Room - provides support and advise for pupils and families [.the-waitingroom.org/?selected-cat=TherapeuticSupport&cat-id=106](https://the-waitingroom.org/?selected-cat=TherapeuticSupport&cat-id=106)



1 - Visit Santa's Grotto at The Hub

P2P
WINTER CAMP
 SPORTS | ICE SKATING | ART & CRAFT

ALUM ROCK COMMUNITY CENTRE
 WARD CLOSE, B8 3LT

PITCH 2 PROGRESS, BORDESLEY
 GREEN, PORTERS WAY, B9 5RR

MON 29 DEC TUE 30 DEC WED 31 DEC FRI 02 JAN 11AM - 3PM

FREE
 LUNCH PROVIDED FOR FSM

AGES 7-16

CONTACT@PITCH2PROGRESS.CO.UK
 07877682248

2 - Enjoy the Winter Camp in Alum Rock

Christmas Jumper day 2025



Our Jumper Day is to be held on Friday 19 December 2025 - Please wear your Christmas Jumper or your most colourful, favourite jumper to school and in the process help fundraise for the wonderful charity Save the Children.

No cash in school - please donate via the following link:

<https://donate.justgiving.com/fundraising/cjd250031833/donation-amount>

Rainbow Raffle - winners!



We now have winners of our Rainbow Raffle Hampers as follows: please click the link to reveal names

Parents have been called and the lovely hampers now have new homes.



3 - Wishing all out families a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year - hoping it will bring joy and laughter to you all! See you all next year!

Contact Details

Have you changed your mobile number or email address? Please update your details via the School Office. It is imperative that we have correct contact details on our systems for safeguarding issues.

Communication from school is also via email and now Dojo. If you have not signed up for Dojo - please do so by scanning the QR code which is located on the inside of your child's reading record. Any issues? Please contact the Front Office for support.

Mrs R Chahal - Headteacher

Ward End Primary School

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E: enquiry@wardend.org.uk