



Ward End Primary School Newsletter

February 2026

We have had a great start to the Spring term 2026 with activities;

Attendance award for Autumn term 2 - a Silent Disco! (not so silent as it turned out!) but it was great fun. All the children who had 95% plus attendance for November and December joined us for a dance in the school hall to their choice of music.

The next attendance award will be after February half term for Spring 1. When parents look on BromCom you will see your child's attendance from September to date. This can be slightly different to the half termly figure on which the attendance awards are based. Pupils need to be in school 95%+ each half term to be part of the award ceremony. This is to establish Good Attendance as the norm for everyone, and an important life skill. *School Value: Resilience.*

Wellbeing workshops have taken place throughout the whole school, pupils have learned techniques to deal with stressful situations and places they could seek help. There are Wellbeing noticeboards throughout school for pupils too. Year 6 have taken part in drama workshops focusing on anti knife crime, which were well delivered by a trained Theatre in Education company. *School Value: Courage*

We have started Junior Duke (like Duke of Edinburgh award) with years 5 & 6. Pupils are involved in community challenges to earn points towards the award criteria. A club helps them work together to achieve success. *School Value: Aspiration*

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 February holiday homework is aligned to World Book day as an Oracy project. See below.

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.

Young Voices Choir of 5,000 pupils



A group of 30 year 4,5,6 pupils attended Birmingham Young Voices Choir on 26th January. They have been practicing weekly at choir club with Miss Millward. On the 26th we all left school at 12.00 for a rehearsal in BP arena and then a performance at 7pm-9pm!

I was delighted to attend and a very big thank you to all the staff involved with the club and their help and support on the day. It was fantastic! The children were treated to a high quality pop concert as well as performing with 5,000 other school pupils. Thank you to parents who also attended to support their children and our school. I know it was enjoyed by all. We'll do it again next year. *School Value: Aspiration, Perseverance.*

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>

School Route Audit- to help with traffic congestion

We have identified traffic being dangerous around your school, as well as delivering WOW we are also required to deliver School Route Audits (SRAs)

School Route Audits (SRAs) are a method for evaluating the quality of the walking environment around schools, including school walking routes, streets, public space, walking routes from Park & Stride, residential estates, parks and other spaces used by pupils, parents, carers and teachers on their journeys to and from schools.

With our LA partners, audit areas have been chosen to support Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs). Birmingham City Council has identified Ward End Primary as a school that is eligible for an SRA.

SRAs are delivered by our project coordinators, they involve walking the school route with a small group of pupils, usually up to 10, along with 2 members of staff. Along the walk, the designated Living Streets coordinator will help look for problems and issues that may stop people from walking to school.

Following the audit a report will then be written on all the barriers to walking identified, with recommendations for improvements. This report will then be sent to Birmingham City Council.

There are no guarantees that recommendations will be actioned, but the audit will allow participants to share their views, thoughts and concerns as local experts. It is then hoped that these recommendations will influence street designs and changes to improve accessibility. I will keep everyone posted! *School Value: Respect*

School Uniform

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, not boots. No Ugg style boots or shoes please - they are a safety hazard in school.

What's happening in school next half term?

Dates

January - Ramadan, and permission to fast for pupils in years 5 and 6 letters out to parents

Year 6 Visit Birmingham Back to Back houses

10th February 6.3, 11th Feb 6.2

9th February School Routes Audit by BCC

10th February SAFER INTERNET DAY

13th February Swimming Pool arrives!

13th February Wear your SCARF to school day.

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

Year 6 visit Birmingham Back to Back houses

24th February 6.4, 25th February 6.1

26th & 27th February Reception visit the Fire Station

Year 3 visit Lapworth Museum of Geology

2nd March 2.1 3rd March 2.2 4th March 2.3 5th March 2.4

5th March WORLD BOOK DAY

5th March Year 4.2 & 4.3 Visit Utilita arena Sports.

6th March Author visit Matt Brown Years 3 & 4

Year One visit St Martin's Cathedral

9th March 1.1 & 1.2 10th March 1.3 & 1.4

10th & 11th March Jack and The Beanstalk Theatre for Reception

12th March NSPCC workshops for Y2 and Y5

13th March Mother's Day assembly 4.4

16th March ART WEEK in school.

17th March Theatre Little Red Hen Nursery

19th & 20th March Eid ul Fitr

24th & 25th March Parents afternoons

School closes 3pm Friday 27th March

Re opens after Easter Tuesday 14th April 2026

World Book Day 5th March 2026

To celebrate the event, we will be asking children to decorate a paper plate with children's favourite book character, a memorable scene from a story they love or any book-inspired idea that sparks their imagination.

The winning entry from each class will receive a voucher to spend at the Book Fair.

As part of our World Book Day celebrations, we are excited to welcome authors into school and to take part in virtual author events. Please note that there will be *no dressing up as book characters* this year. Completed paper-plate entries should be brought into school after half term, on **Monday 23rd February**.

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 CLOSES 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

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

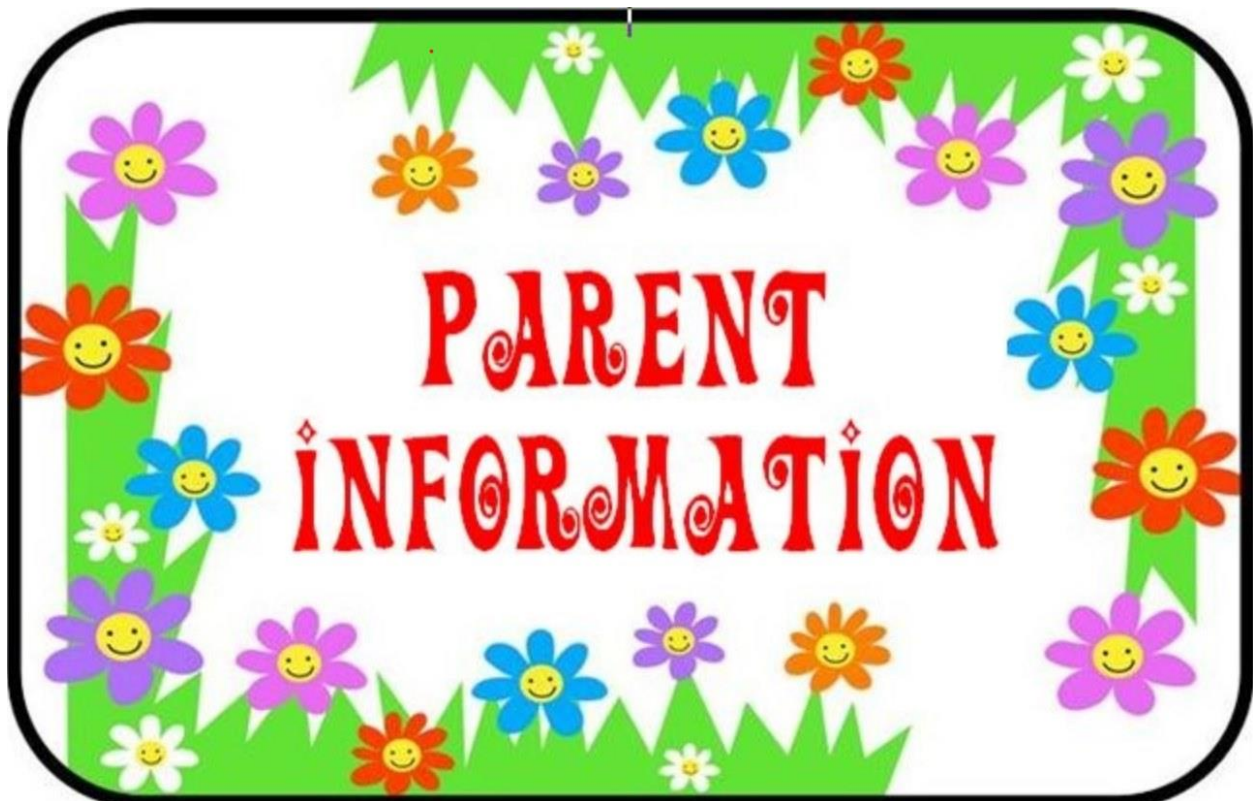
Closes Friday 17th July 2026 3pm

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.

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!

Lots of useful Safeguarding Information for parents here: *London Grid Parent Safe website.*

[Home](#)

Safer Internet Day 10th February 2026

This years theme is 'Smart Tech safe choices: Exploring safe and responsible use of AI *School Value: Resilience*

Pupils will all be engaged in age appropriate activities within their usual computer lessons. Hopefully they can share some of their activities with parents too. Please visit [Safer Internet Day 2026 - UK Safer Internet Centre](#) for information for parents too.

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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