BORDESLEY VILLAGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Cromwell Learning Community Multi Academy Trust

Senior Executive Leader:
Mrs. R. Darr

Telephone:
0121 675 1392

Address:
Emmeline Street
Bordesley
Birmingham
B9 4NG

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Autumn Half Term Newsletter 2026

Dear Parent / Carers,

What a great half term! The children have settled well into their new classes and responded well to visits, workshops and the election of School Council representatives. Parents are also thanked for attending Expectations Meetings and playing an active part in your child's learning journey.

Attendance

Thank you too, to all our families for supporting good attendance – there was a prompt return on 3rd September, and our authorised and non-authorised absences, are to date, lower than the previous year.

Many more parents are also realising the link between attendance and a child's ability to realise their full potential. We were proud of the children's level of attainment in the KS2 SATS for the 2025 – 2026 cohort, and there was a clear correlation between year-on-year good attendance and the achievement of expected outcomes.

KS2 SATs 2025 - 2026	Expected Standard	National Standard	Higher Standard / Greater Depth
Reading	**85%**	75%	**38%**
Writing	**88%**	73%	**28%**
Maths	**88%**	75%	**38%**
Combined R, W & M	**80%**	63%	**18%**



Punctuality

Again, while much improved, we want to actively **promote punctuality, particularly in the morning.** Timekeeping is a vital life skill, but in school the morning routine ensures children develop a sense of belonging – greeting friends in the playground and moving to the classroom together, as a class. We must also stress however, the consequences of regularly missing their Phonics and/or reading sessions that are at the start of the school day. It is difficult for children to catch up on lost learning, and lateness on a regular basis, will invariably result in children developing gaps in their learning as well as their ability to achieve age related expectations.



To progress this further, **the gates on St Andrews Street will be closed at 8.55am following the half term break**. The gates will continue to be opened at 8.40am and the children collected by their teachers, promptly at 8.50am. **From 8.55am however, families will only be able to access the school via the main entrance on St Andrews Road.** Parents should note that the law treats some persistent lateness in the same way as unauthorised absence and parents may be prosecuted or receive a penalty notice from the local authority if late arrival is not resolved.

Our attendance and punctuality data is collected by the Department for Education daily and like all schools across the country, we will be set an individual minimum attendance improvement target for this academic year. Where a child's attendance falls below expectations, we will as a school need to initiate early discussions with parents to identify the root cause of any barriers to attendance and support families to improve.

Team building & Enrichment

Across the MAT we have tried to create warm, welcoming and inclusive schools where all stakeholders feel valued, and where children want to attend. Our programme of enrichment is part of this, and we started the year with visits to Ash End House Farm for Yrs.1 – Yr.6. While the benefits of engaging with nature are well documented in terms of our well-being, this visit provided great opportunities for the children to renew their friendships but also build important relationships with the adults teaching them this academic year. The smiles on the children's faces

on their return have demonstrated the success of these visits!

As detailed in our September newsletter the children will end the term with our traditional theatre visits and, as in previous years, the costs will be subsidised by the school. **The children in Nursery, Reception and Yrs. 1 & 2 will see the story of The Ugly Duckling unfold, at a cost of £15. Yrs. 3 – 6 will be able to watch the stage version of Peter Pan which will be at a cost of £20 per child. Both productions will be staged at The Rep and the children will travel to and from the venue by coach.**



Going forward the children's next adventure in the Spring Term will include the challenge of the climbing wall at Free@Last. Inclusive of all, it will enable the 'beginner' to participate but will also allow those who want to push themselves further, the opportunities to climb at a more advanced level!

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Thank you for your support and generosity for our charity coffee morning - as a school we raised £245.99 and in response, helped fund vital medical, practical, and emotional care for the 3.5 million people in the UK living with cancer.

Next half term we will be holding fortnightly coffee mornings for parents on a Thursday morning, starting from 6th November and l look forward to seeing you there.



Harvest & Diwali assemblies

While Yr.2 will be presenting the first assembly for parents this year on Wednesday 21st October, Yr.5 is busy practising theirs for Wednesday 4th November. We hope parents across the year groups will be able to join us in school, at 9.15am, on the morning of the assembly.

Educaterers

Children are enjoying the meals served by our new providers, as well as the packed lunch on a Friday. Within school your child is pre-ordering their choice of meal each day. Next half term we will look to setting up a pre-ordering portal for parents and you will receive login details and instructions in due course, so that you can pre-order for your child/children from home.

Educaterers are also recruiting for a Catering Cook at Bordesley Village. Please see the attached advert for further details.

EYFS Transition

Our youngest children in Nursery and Reception have settled in well and we'd like to thank parents for all your support in this. We would though, also like to request a weekly voluntary donation of 50p for Nursery and £1.00 for Reception, which will be used for the children's snack time as well as the purchase of ingredients for the cooking activities which take place on a regular basis.

Secondary & Reception Places

Applications for secondary school entry in September 2027 closes very soon at 11:59pm on 31 October 2026. Please make sure you apply before this or contact a member of the Admin Team if you are experiencing any difficulties. Applications for reception class entry in September 2027 are also now open, but close at 11.59pm on 15 January 2027. Our Reception class at Bordesley Village will again be limited to 30, and applications should be submitted prior to the closing date.

In both cases, late applicants are less likely to get a place at one of their preferred schools as most schools in Birmingham fill their places with on time applicants who have met their admissions criteria.

And finally …. a reminder to all our families that we will close the school on Friday, 23rd October 2026, for the half term break and re-open on Monday 2nd November. We hope you enjoy the holiday and look forward to seeing you on our return.

Yours sincerely,

Rubina Darr

R.Darr (Mrs)

Senior Executive Leader