

NEWSLETTER



19 Dec 2025 Newsletter No. 15

Tel: 01384 818545 info@ashwood.dudley.sch.uk



Article 28 Every child has the right to an education

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all at Ashwood Park.

The Christmas productions were all amazing. Thank you for all your positive comments, It's greatly appreciated! Thanks to all the staff for all their hard work in preparing the shows!

Thank you to the Choir who entertained the diners at Hickorys on Tuesday afternoon. You did Ashwood Park proud. And thank you to Mrs Rice, our Choir Lead, who did an amazing job with rehearsals.

School reopens to children on Tuesday January 6th.

If you have a child born between **01/9/2021 and 31/8/2022** an application form for Reception September 2026 needs to be completed by 15th January 2026. Please follow this link;

www.dudley.gov.uk/residents/learning-andschool/school-information/schooladmissions/primary-reception-intake/

Privacy Notice Please take a moment to read our **Privacy Notice**.

Facebook Do remember to take a look at the School's <u>Facebook</u> page.

Mr Butler and Mr Perkes



Dinner Dates

In January, the following staff will be in the lunch hall:

Mrs Bunn — Tuesday Mr Dimmock — Wednesday Miss Hartle - Thursday

It would be wonderful to see as many children as possible joining the teachers in enjoying a school dinner. We hope this helps make lunchtime a highlight of the day!

We look forward to seeing you!

Dates for the Diary

Friday 19th Dec 2025

End of term Mufti

Monday 5th Jan 2026

INSET Day- Closed to Children

Tuesday 6th Jan 2026

Children return to School

Monday 16th to Friday 20 Feb 2026

Half Term

Friday 27th March 2026

End of term

Monday 13th April 2026

Children return to School

Thursday 7th May 2026

Voting Day—Closed to Children

Friday 8th May 2026

INSET Day—Closed to Children

W/C Monday 11th May 2026

Year 6 SATs

Monday 25th to Friday 29th May 2026

Half Term

Monday 1st to Friday 5th June 2026

Health Week inc Sports Days

Monday 8th to Wed 10th June 2026

Y6 Residential Trip

Thursday 16th July 2026

Y6 Leavers Party

Friday 17th July 2026

Y6 Leavers Assembly

End of term

Monday 20th July 2026

INSET Day—Closed to Children

Please note INSET days are provisional



Praise Assembly

Children who gained badges and certificates deserve our special congratulations: 17/12/2025

Key Stage One

RR Foxes - Arlo

1CB Moles -

1/2JB Squirrels - Albert

2W Badgers -

Key Stage Two

3/4D Chestnut -

3/4R Oak

4H Elder - Suma

5/6D Beech

5/6E Holly

6BB Rowan

Menu*

WC <u>05.01.26</u> (Week 3)

Monday INSET Day

INSET Da

<u>Tuesday</u>

Chicken Taco French Bread Pizza (V) Fish Option Potato Wedges Cookie Selection

Wednesday

Roast Beef Roast Chicken (H) Veggie Sausage (V) Gravy & Stuffing Fish Option Mashed & Roast Potatoes Vanilla Iced Sponge

Thursday

Meatballs in Tomato Sauce Katsu Quorn Dippers (V) Fish Option Diced Potatoes or Pasta Chocolate & Pear Cake

Friday

Pizza Party (V option available)
Fish Option
Chips
Fruity Friday

All dinners must be booked through School Money the day before they are needed. Please contact the school office if you are having any issues.

* Subject to change

Early Years

What a lovely last week of term! Reception walked to the Glass Cone on Tuesday and the children had a lovely time! Super behaviour, walking all the way there and back and making lots of lovely crafts whilst we were there! We also met Mrs Claus who read us a story.

Nursery enjoyed a craft session at school with their parents, thanks to all that attended.

We have been very busy making cards and calendars, please check book bags to find them.

Finally a big thank you to all our families, have a wonderful Christmas and a very happy, healthy and safe new year.

Tree Tots Toddler Group

We're really sorry that our toddler group isn't able to run right now. We know how much the children (and grown-ups!) enjoy coming together, and we're continuing to look for solutions. Thank you for your patience and understanding-we truly hope to be back up and running, and we can't wait to see you then.



KS1 News

This week we have been creating our Christmas cards and calendars. The children have been very creative using a range of painting techniques to make them look colourful and attractive.

We have also had the opportunity to listen to the Key Stage 2 children perform their wonderful songs from the carol concert. They really did sound amazing!

We would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our families a happy and healthy Christmas and we will see you in the new vear!

TT Rockstars



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- 3/4R 1. William
- 2. Joby-Jai **4H**

 $\stackrel{\wedge}{\cancel{\sim}}$ $\frac{1}{2}$

Muhammad 3/4R

Well done!

★ Thank you to those children who have ★ been practising their times tables on TT 🖈 Rockstars. Please log in regularly to play.

Good Luck to everyone for next time!

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RBDC News



What another fantastic Christmas-filled week we have had in the RBDC!

In Acorns this week, we have continued our work on our number bonds to ten before stating lots of Christmas activities.

This week, Conkers Class have finished their topic of 'Charlie and the chocolate factory'. We have made our own chocolate bars, and it was fantastic. We each made our own flavoured chocolate. We had a fantastic time!

Year 1/2 PUDs this week we have finished investigating how people hear music. We have had great fun playing with different musical instruments.

Year 3/4 PUDs this week we have been looking at the difference between BSL and the ISL. We were very surprised with how many differences

Year 5/6 PUDs this week we have been looking at the difference deaf role models and how we can be role models to younger deaf children.

o f the Week Star this week is Noah for trying very hard to recall his number bonds.

This week's signed video is all about 'Christmas - All around the world' this is to highlight fantastic deaf role models. Please share with your child.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z0c62c1x808 Sign of the week:



Maths Problem

Calculate the fraction of the colours on each present.







KS2 News

All of our KS2 classes have fully embraced the festive spirit this week. The children have enjoyed making Christmas cards and calendars, singing festive songs and celebrating together at their class parties. A particular highlight was our KS2 classes performing their church songs one final time for the KS1 children. This much-loved tradition is always eagerly anticipated and helps to bring a wonderful sense of festive cheer across the school.

Our KS2 choir proudly performed at Hickory's Smokehouse this week. It was fantastic to see the children sharing their talents and representing our school within the local community.

After such a busy and joyful end to term, the children are now looking forward to a welldeserved rest. From all of us in KS2, we wish you a very Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year and an enjoyable two-week break.

PE

Years 3/4 - Mon (bring your kit) and Thurs (come to school wearing your kit)

Years 5/6 - Fri (bring your kit) and Wed (come to school wearing your kit)

When the children come to school in their PE kit they must wear their yellow PE top, green shorts / black loggers and their green Ashwood Park jumper or cardigan.

Hoodies and gilets are not permitted.



Dudley HAF Winter 2025 What's On Guide

The **Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme** is a government-funded initiative that provides low-income families with funded holiday activities and a meal in the school holidays. Over the Winter holidays, children are allocated 4 credits to book 4 funded sessions.

Who is eligible?

In line with the Department for Education's guidelines, HAF funding is primarily allocated to school-aged children (Reception to Year 11) who receive **benefits-related free school** meals. A small number of discretionary places are available for children who are not eligible for free school meals but are considered vulnerable. However, as these places are limited, they are offered at the discretion of the local authority and cannot be guaranteed.

Further information and the online form to register can be found on our website:

Dudley Holiday Activities | Children's Activities | Dudley HAF

Many of our providers are also offering paid places alongside the HAF-funded places, for children not eligible for HAF. These providers can be contacted directly for further information – all details in the What's On Guide

Please can you pass the link for the What's on Guide to all of your Free School Meal eligible families. Please note this does **NOT** include the **Universal Free School Meals** that all children in Reception, Year 1 & Year 2 receive.

Children eligible for **Benefits-related Free School Meals** must first register with the Dudley Council FSM team to ensure eligibility.

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

Healthy Families: Growing Up Join our parent group

Preparation for Parenthood

Are you pregnant?

Practical, evidence-based information to support you as you prepare to become a parent

A great opportunity to meet

friendships within your community

Join the thousands of families across

the country who have benefitted from a HENRY programme

A FREE 6-session programme helping you prepare for the arrival of your baby. Partners, friends or family are encouraged to attend alongside expectant mothers.





"This was the best thing I could

possibly have done to help me be

honry Hearty Start, brighter butter HENRY's free Healthy Families Growing Up programme is for parents and carers of primary-school age children – it will help you develop a healthier, happier lifestyle that the whole family can enjoy.

The programme covers these 5 themes across 8 sessions and provides everything you need to help your children flourish.

Feeling more confident as a parent

Physical activity for the whole family

What children and the whole family eats

For parents or carers with children aged 5 - 12 years

Optional session on 14 January to learn more about the

Venue: Brierley Hill Family Hub, 18 Parkes Street, DY5 3DY

Family lifestyle habits

Enjoying life as a family

Programme details

Length: 8 sessions

Day/time: Wednesday, 09.30 - 11.30 First session: 28 January 2026 Last session: 25 March 2026

course and meet the facilitators

Programme 2: Day/time: Thursday, 09.45 - 11.45

Start date: 22 January 2026, End date: 26 March 2026

Length: 9 sessions, Venue: Stourbridge Family Hub, Forge Road, DY8 1XF





How to book a place

Visit www.dudleyparents.co.uk or scan the OR Code and click on the HENRY tile to book your place

or scan the QR Code and

click on the HENRY tile to

book your place.



Becoming a parent

Session 2

A healthy pregnancy

Session 3

Bonding

Session

Caring

Giving birth

Session 6

Life after birth

Day/time: Mondays, 12.30pm - 2.30pm First session: 9 February 2026 Last session: 23 March 2026 Length: 6 weeks

Optional session on 2 February to learn more about the course and meet the facilitators.

Venue: The Source Youth Centre, Barnett Lane, DY8 5PY



Visit wwww.dudleyparents.co.uk or scan the QR Code and click on the HENRY tile to book your place.

A great start in life Do you have a child under 5? Would you like to: • feel more confident as a parent? • reduce mealtime stress? • enjoy being active as a family more often? encourage your child away from screens and TV • see your child eat more fruit and vegetables? gain ideas to help with family routines? "I will be recommending this course to everyone. Thank you for this life changing opportuni Free Healthy Families Right from the Start r Programme 1: Day/time: Tuesday, 09.45 - 11.45 Visit Start date: 20 January 2026, End date: 24 March 2026 wwww.dudleyparents.co.uk Length: 9 sessions, Venue: Lye Family Hub, Lye By-pass, DY9 8HT

Starting Solids Free local workshops

"Exceeded my expectations!"

Expectant parent





Introducing solid foods at 6 months

Come to a Starting Solids workshop to help you get your baby off to a great start. The workshop will help you decide:

- When your baby is ready to try solid food
- What foods to start with
- When your baby is hungry and when they've had enough
- How to make mealtimes an enjoyable experience for both of you

Workshops are taking place throughout January, February, March 2026

Visit www.dudleyparents.co.uk or scan the QR code and click on the HENRY tile to book your place





Children's Speech and Language Service (Dudley)

Advice for parents and carers can be found at:

https://www.blackcountryhealthcare.nhs.uk/ our-services/childrens-speech-and-languagetherapy-service-dudley

Dudley's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Bulletin

The Dudley Special Educational Needs and Disabilities e- bulletin's) aim is to keep parent carers, education settings and stakeholders informed about Dudley's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Improvement Programme as well as news and events.

As a system we are working hard to improve our SEND offer across the borough. A lot is happening and we are gathering pace to better support our children, young people and families with SEND.

Our latest bulletin provides:

- updates of our improvement journey including our progress of our Delivering Better Value Programme in SEND
- SEND news from the Dudley Parent Carer Forum, Health, the council and partners
- details of useful events for parent carers and practitioners
- SEND Education Settings News which includes information about free SEND training Resources.

Sign up now SEND Improvement Programme -September 2024 (govdelivery.com) to receive this e-bulletin direct to your email inbox

Health Choices

Dudley Public Health and Wellbeing is part of Dudley Council. We support and enable residents, families and communities to make positive lifestyle changes and improve your health and wellbeing.

There is lots we can do as individuals to stay healthy and well in Dudley borough. This website is a one-stop place for up-todate public health information and news. from pregnancy and early life to healthy ageing.

https://healthydudlev.co.uk/

Healthy Lunchboxes

The Healthy Lunchbox Resource is available to support children & families to make healthy, yummy and tooth friendly food choices for their children's lunchbox.

https://www.dudleyhealthylunchbox.org.uk

DudleyParents

There is a one stop shop for parents in the Dudley Borough offering support and information . You can gain free access to guidance and support over a range of topics for parents including First 1001 Days as a Parent, DadPad, Five to Thrive, Solihull Approach, Triple P. Parents in Conflict, The Henry Approach.

www.dudleyparents.co.uk/home

Dudley's Local Offer is a new one stop shop website for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their parents and carers.

The website contain a wealth of up to date information on areas which include education, training and work, health, leisure and fun, care and moving into adulthood. The website aims to help young people and parents to make individual, informed. positive decisions and choices





The Dudley family hub network is a one-stop shop, offering advice and support families in Dudley with

children aged 0-19 (25 if the child has special educational needs and/or disabilities). It includes an online offer and five local family hubs.

The network includes key Start for Life services. These cover the period from conception to age two. Core Start for Life services such as midwifery, health visiting and early years support are included.

https://www.dudley.gov.uk/residents/early-yearsand-childcare/dudley-family-hub-network/

SEN Soft Play Sessions

Dudley leisure centres offer soft play sessions for children with SEN:

At Duncan Edwards Leisure Centre, there is a SEN soft play session every Wednesday from 5.00pm - 6.00pm

At Halesowen, there is a SEN soft play session every Monday from 4.30pm

Both sessions are suitable for children under 11 years of age with disabilities, special educational needs, ASD and their siblings.

New Sensory Room at Coseley Family Hub Parents and carers can now book time in a

NEW sensory room at the local family hub in Coseley. The FREE space is bookable for between 30min to an hour and gives the chance for children of all ages to explore a range of sensory activities with their parents/

The sessions are self-led but staff will be on hand to support or answer any questions. To book call the hub on 01384 813096.

Soft play | DB Leisure

Parent Carer Forum Update:

Dudley Parent carer Forum Du welcome registrations for



offer associate memberships to wider family members or practitioners working within Dudley. Joining up means you will be kept up to date on all the latest news, information and events doing on in Dudley. Parents/ Carers will also receive a FREE gift when they sign up!

Sign Up Here

Integrated Early Years Service Parent Support Group



This group offers support to parents and carers of children with a range of additional needs. It provides supportive environment to engage with your child, and also to gain practical advice for everyday routines.

See More Details Here

<u>Autism</u>



Autism Central is a website for parents. It aims to "signpost you to information on a wide range of topics around autism and support that is available from Autism Central, our partner organisations and trusted other sources"

https://www.autismcentral.org.uk/ resources

SEN Help

Kids are a charity who create life-changing opportunities by providing a wide range of support to families. They run playscheme days at their centre alongside community days for signed up families. Parent/carers wishing to refer or register with Kids for care planned services can do so by requesting a referral form via the enquiries email: enquiries.orchard@kids.org.uk or telephone: 01384 897489.

Sassy Sensory surprises are launching 'Wellbeing Walks', they will take place in a different location

Contact toni@sassysensorysurprises.co.uk for further details. Information can be found on their website regarding their recently launched sensory lending library.

Happier Minds

Whether you are a young person, a parent/ carer or a professional working with young people we hope this site will be helpful to you and those you care about.

https://happierminds.org.uk/

Dudley's Disability register

Dudley Council have **revamped its Disability Register** to better support children and young people with disabilities and their families. The register is a **voluntary and confidential list** that helps the council plan and deliver better services, tailored to local needs. It's quick and easy to register! **Benefits include** families who register can request a **free day pass** for entry to **Dudley Zoo** when attending with their child, receive updates about local services, events, and consultations, help shape services and your registration helps Dudley Council understand the needs of families and improve support.

Visit the <u>Dudley Disability Register page</u> to complete the online form. For help completing the form or to request your Dudley Zoo pass, contact the Children with Disabilities Team: 0300 555 0050 (press option 1) or email: <u>businesssupportcdt@dudley.gov.uk</u>

We love Carers provide support for carers and their families all year round. Information, advice, signposting, advocacy, help with form filling and much more. Weekly play sessions and holiday play sessions for children with disabilities and additional needs are available. Their Autumn and Winter timetable can be found <u>here</u>. Contact them via email <u>hello@welovecarers.org</u> or telephone 01384 396626 for further information on any of the above.

<u>Kids</u> are a charity who create life-changing opportunities by providing a wide range of support to families. They run playscheme days at their centre alongside community days for signed up families. Parent/carers wishing to refer or register with Kids for care planned services can do so by requesting a referral form via the enquiries email: <u>enquiries.orchard@kids.org.uk</u> or via telephone: **01384 897489**.

<u>Deaf Children's Society</u> run a **Youth club for children aged 10 to 18 years,** held monthly at Queens Cross Network for information or this or on any events they run, email <u>dudleydeafchildrenssociety@yahoo.com.</u>for information.

<u>Dudley leisure centres</u> are all-inclusive, encouraging everyone to access as many sessions as possible. Our centres offer quiet and disability sessions for children and adults. Accessible facilities are available throughout each of the leisure centres, family fun disability swimming sessions run throughout the holidays, details below:

Halesowen LC: Saturday's from 2.15pm to 3.30pm

Crystal LC: Friday's 2pm – 4pm

Duncan Edwards LC: Wednesday 2.45pm to 4.30pm or Saturday's 1.15pm to 2.15pm

SEN sessions can be accessed at <u>Planet Play</u> suitable for children under 11 years of age with disabilities, special educational needs, ASD and their siblings. Sessions take place during the holidays at Duncan Edwards Leisure Centre every Wednesday 5pm to 6pm and at Halesowen Leisure Centre, every Monday 4.30pm to 6pm.

Activezone run disability sports for children, young adults and siblings. (sessions takes place for children aged 5 to 8yrs or 9 to 18yrs) Children can take part in various sports, see the below web pages for dates available at each leisure centre:

Crystal Leisure Centre

Duncan Edwards

<u>Lifted Spirits</u> provide a safe space for families of children with disabilities and SEN, they meet *term time only* every Tuesday 9.30am to 11am.

Unheard Voices are a SEND carers support group run by parents to help other parents and carers. They meet up term time on **Fridays 10.30am to 12pm** at Jubilee Hall, Ladies Walk, Sedgley. DY3 3UA or Thursday evenings (term time) at Humbugs café in Sedgley 6pm to 7.30pm. Email <u>unheardvoices13@yahoo.com</u> for further information.

Hoult's House based in the Rye Market Stourbridge run SEND Sessions on Monday and Tuesdays from 2.245pm to 4.15pm, low level sound and limited numbers.



Dudley SENDIASS Workshops



For parents/carers of children with SEND and young person with SEND up to 25 years old seeking further information about SEND support and processes in education.

| Academic Year 2025 – 2026 | SEPTEMBER | NOVEMBER | JANUARY | MARCH | APRIL | JUNE |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|
| All workshops 10am – 11.30am on Teams | | | | | | |
| Understanding how to access SEN support within settings | 8 th | 21st | 22 nd | 4 th | 21 st | 22 nd |
| Understanding the EHC Needs Assessment request process | gth | 17 th | 23 rd | 5 th | 22 nd | 23 rd |
| How to check a draft plan | 10 th | 18 th | 19 th | 6 th | 23 rd | 24 th |
| Preparation and process for annual review | 11 th | 19 th | 20 th | 2 nd | 24 th | 25 th |
| Preparation for key transitions | 12 th | 20 th | 21 st | 3rd | 20 th | 26 th |



To book on to a workshop email <u>dudley.sendiass@dudley.gov.uk</u> <u>Dudley SENDIASS Website</u>

Dudley SENDIAS Service offers information, advice and support on all matters relating to SEN and disabilities including health and social care to parents and carers of children with SEND and Young People with SEND up to 25 years old.

Helping Children Get the Best Start in Life

Free Programmes & Workshops

HENRY supports families to build healthier habits and routines that support children's physical and emotional wellbeing, right from the start and as they grow.

A range of free, friendly and practical sessions are available to parents and carers in Dudley with children aged O-12, as well as those expecting a baby.



WANT MORE INFORMATION?









Body safety matters

Helping your child understand boundaries and personal safety

Keeping children safe starts with conversation

Talking about body safety can feel uncomfortable — but it's one of the most powerful ways to protect children. Children who understand their bodies, boundaries and rights are more confident and better equipped to speak up if something feels wrong.

You don't need a big formal talk — short, everyday chats work best.

Here are some simple conversation starters you can use:

- "Do you know what parts of your body are private?"
- "If someone made you feel uncomfortable, who would you tell?"
- "Has anyone ever asked you to keep a secret that made you feel funny or unsure?"
- "You're allowed to say 'no' to hugs or kisses, even to family how do you feel about that?"
- "What would you do if someone touched you in a way you didn't like?"

Use natural moments (e.g. bath time, getting dressed, bedtime stories, a walk in the park) to bring up the topic gently. Keep your tone calm and reassuring. The goal is to help children feel safe, heard and empowered.

Reassure them: "You can always talk to me about anything – I'll always listen and help."

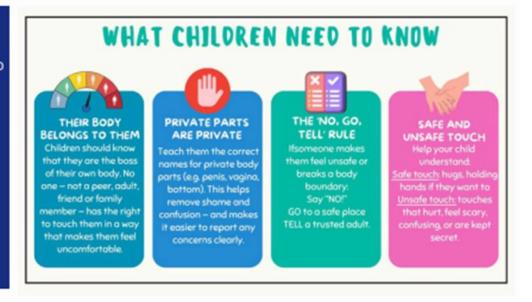
Don't forget the online world

Even at primary age, many children play games or watch content online. It's important they know that body safety rules apply online too.

- Teach them never to share photos of their body, especially private parts.
- Make sure they know: if anyone asks them to do something that feels odd, secret or confusing online, they should tell you straight away.
- Talk about how some people online might pretend to be children when they're not.
- · Use privacy settings and supervise young children during screen time.
- Remind them: "If something online makes you feel uncomfortable or unsure, it's never your fault. Just come and tell me."

home 1) Use everyday moments to talk about safety. 2) Read books together on body safety. 3) Practice naming trusted adults they can go to if

worried.
4) Reassure them: they will never be in trouble for telling the truth.





We help with anxiety, depression, or stress





FREE confidential, and tailored for you

Our experts have helped lots of people in Dudley become happier and healthier





For anyone aged 16 or over registered with a Dudley GP

Support available via...















In-person

Video

Online

Workshop

Call 0800 953 0404 or self-refer by visiting www.blackcountryhealthcare.nhs.uk/talking-therapies



Free School Meals

If you receive any of the following support payments your child may be entitled to Free School Meals

- 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

If you currently receive free school meals but have now moved into the area, you will need to complete a new Free School Meals Application form

If you wish to apply for Free School Meals, please go to

www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/your-council/council-tax-and-benefits/benefits/free-school-meals

If you need further information, you can contact the Free School Meals Team by:



Telephone -01384 814988

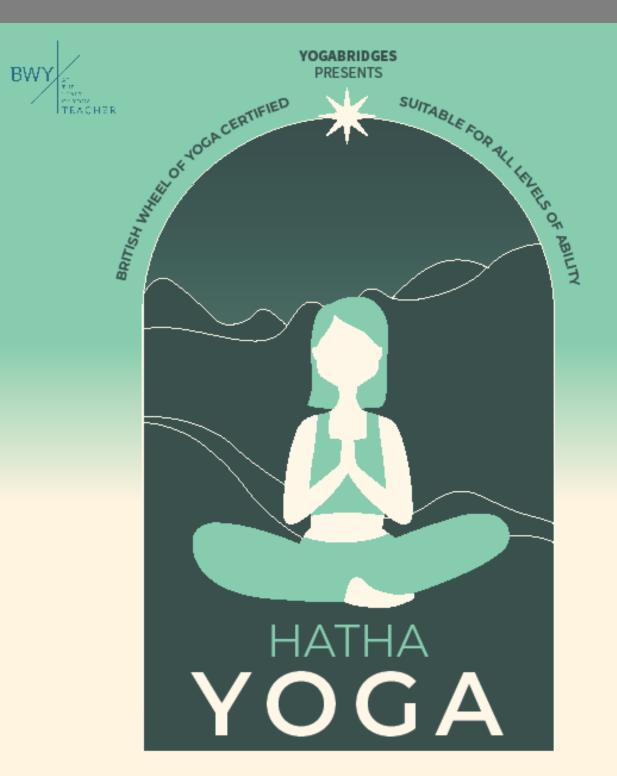


Email - freeschoolmeals.benefits@dudley.gov.uk



Visiting – Dudley Council Plus, Castle Street, Dudley between 8.30am and 5pm Monday to Friday, 9am and 12 noon Saturday





EVERYTHURSDAY | START AT 7.30PM

Ashwood Park Primary School, Bells Lane, Wordsley, Stourbridge, DY8 5DJ

£9 / CLASS OR 10% DISCOUNT FOR FULL TERM

FOR BOOKINGS AND ENQUIRIES PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL JAN:

07764 404975 | janetcooper@blueyonder.co.uk | www.facebook.com/yogawithjan