



Victoria Park
Primary Academy

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Celebrities and celebrations: Both Year 4 and 6 rubbed shoulders with the stars this week. The West Bromwich Albion captain visited to share his tips on life as a professional footballer, and performance Poet Spoz led our oldest children in a slam poetry workshop around developing empathy and understanding with refugees.

[Okay Yokusulu](#) is a Turkish international footballer, was player of the year for WBA last year and wowed the children with tales of playing against Lionel Messi and Barcelona at his previous team, Celta Vigo. He was generous with his time, answered the children's questions around his strict regime and made links to the physiology of training linked to their Bolts and Bones Challenge pack.

This was Giovanni Esposito's ([Spoz](#)) third annual visit to VPA to run a full day's workshop and competition. The winners have traditionally represented the school at the wider Birmingham Poetry competition at the Hippodrome. Last year we came runners up to our sister Smethwick School, Devonshire Academy and this year I'm hoping we can go one better.

Celebrations and events: We wish a happy Diwali to families celebrating this weekend. Some classes have celebrated already this week. Mr Blakey-Harris and I will recognise the festival in Monday's assembly. We will also mark remembrance day (I'm currently wearing a bespoke Poppy created for me by a child in Year 1!).

Next week will also see children recognise Anti-Bullying week and Children in Need with activities in classes and shared across school.

Rescheduled School photographs: Next Friday is the rescheduled individual school pictures - please can all children attend in school uniform, even if they have PE scheduled that day. A separate ParentMail will be sent, but sibling photographs will be taken between 8am and 8.45am, before school starts.

Holly Lodge Sports Links: Thanks to Mr Waldron, our PE Lead, Year 5 pupils are now accessing basketball lessons from the coaches at Holly Lodge Secondary School. This is in addition to our professional coaches from WBA and the swimming lessons at the Commonwealth Aquatic Centre. We're hoping for sporting as well as academic success.

Barnardos School Readiness programme: Seven families joined our new outreach project with Barnardos this week - helping children and parents develop positive routines and the skills needed when they first start school.

We're also grateful to the various other local organisations and community groups who attended our Parents' Evening this week, as well as the huge family turnout. We look forward to welcoming parents and carers back in before the end of term for our scheduled assemblies, INSPIRE sessions, workshops and Year 2 production.

With best wishes, Mr Reed