



Vallis First School Newsletter

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Headteacher Mr Nick Firkins

Friday 20th May 2022



This week we welcomed back the Lifebus for the first time in a number of years. They no longer use the actual mobile classroom but the sessions were all interactive and linked with our PSHE learning.

We are getting to that time of year when transition begins to cross people's minds - whether it be to another school, Key Stage or class. I can confirm that the next academic year we have an almost full EYFS starting at Vallis and as such the structure of the school will change slightly due to the lower numbers in our current EYFS. For the 2022 - 23 academic year, we will have two EYFS classes; three mixed Year 1 and Year 2 classes; two Year 3 classes and two Year 4 classes. We are in the process of deciding on staffing for September and allocating children to classes, and we will of course keep you updated. This year, Frome schools will be having a transition day on Wednesday 6th July when our Year 4s will have an opportunity to visit their Middle Schools - more information on this will come directly from them. At Vallis, we will also use the morning on this day for children to spend some time with their new classes and teachers.

On the last day of this term - Friday 27th May the VSA have very kindly organised a Jubilee party for all the children which, weather permitting, will be held on the front playground. As part of this, we will be having a picnic lunch and so all hot dinner children will be provided with sandwiches etc. on this day - parents are also invited so please bring a picnic lunch and blanket to sit on. Children can come to school on this day in red, white and blue.

Another date for your diary is Monday 13th June when we are hoping to hold our Sports Day where all parents will be invited for the first time since 2019. As in pre-COVID years, we hope to hold the sports events on the school field and then invite parents/carers back to school for a picnic lunch with the children. More details with timings will follow.

Kind regards

Nick





Our Star Powerful Learners this week were: Solomon from Sun; Alfie from Moon; Amelia from Jupiter; Phoebe from Saturn; Harlan from Neptune; Thomas from Apollo; Adam from Galaxy, Leah from Milky Way and Jacob from Mars. Congratulations to our star learners this week.

Dates for your Diary

Monday June 13th – Sports Day

Tuesday June 14th – Reserve Sports Day

Saturday 18th June – VSA Summer Fair

Monday 25th July & Tuesday 26th July – INSET DAYS

Thursday 1st September 2022 – INSET DAY

Friday 2nd September 2022 – INSET DAY

Tuesday 3rd January 2023 – INSET DAY

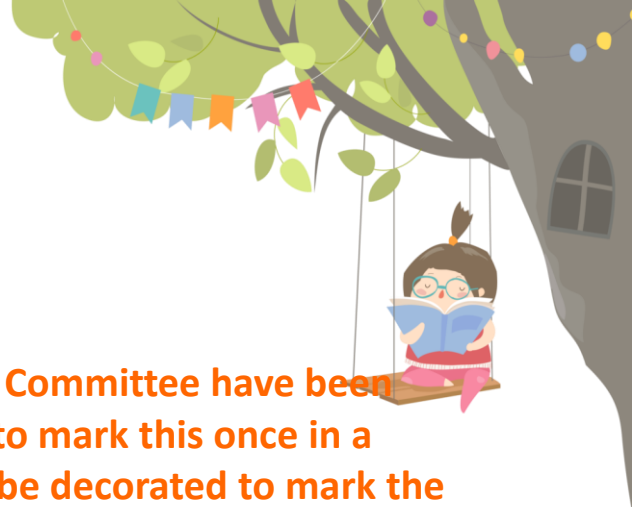
Monday 17th April 2023 – INSET DAY

Friday 26th May 2023 – INSET DAY

Reminders

- We are holding a coffee morning on Thursday 16th June at 10.15 for parents and carers of EYFS, Y1 and Y2.**
- Supporting children with Dyslexia is on Saturday 11th June from 1:30-3.30pm**
- There is an Autism Awareness Course on Monday 11th July from 9-11am.**





Vallis Jubilee Party

On Friday 27th May Members of the VSA Committee have been busy organising a Platinum Jubilee Party to mark this once in a lifetime event! The main playground will be decorated to mark the occasion, with the whole school having a picnic from 12pm (picnic lunches will be supplied by Cleverchefs for all the children who usually have hot dinners on that particular Friday, children who have a packed lunch should bring one as normal) and parents are welcome to join us between 12pm and 1pm (please bring your own lunch and a picnic blanket if you can). At 1pm the children will go in for registration etc. and then come back out to do a host of Platinum Jubilee related activities, with pick up at the usual time. If the forecast is as predicted, please send your children in with hats/sunblock as you normally would. If any parents are able to help the committee members with setting up, overseeing the party and tidying up please email below or leave a message with the office. Children are allowed to wear red, white and blue clothes all day to make it feel more festive. Look out for the invitations each child will bring home.

On June 10th 2022 Ali Sturgess will be running the Bath Half Marathon for the second time after saying she would never do it again! She was supposed to be running this last year and the date has now been changed 3 times so she and her friend Nicky Halford have decided to run our half marathon virtually rather than waiting for October, the latest date they have been given. The reason she has decided to run again is because of the amazing local charity she will be raising money for 'Time Is Precious'. Time is Precious is a voluntary run charity which has been running since 2011. It was set up by Neil and Nicky Halford in memory of their son Ben who sadly died from cancer, he was age 5. The aim of the charity is to help create a more comfortable and relaxed atmosphere for children and their families in hospital or at home, by working alongside specialists to purchase equipment and refurbish areas to make a difference to children with an illness or disability. For more information on the charity please visit www.timeisprecious.org

Neil and Nicky live in the same village as she does and they have set up an amazingly friendly and supportive running group, it is thanks to them and this incredible team of people that she feels able to run the Bath half for a second time. If you are able to sponsor her for this very worthy cause, please contact or visit the school office - any donation no matter how small will be gratefully received. Many thanks for supporting her.



Swimming Survey Results



Thank you so much to everyone who completed our swimming survey – over 50% of our parent body contributed their views and we really appreciate you taking the time to tell us what you think. The survey has now closed.

In terms of swimming going forward, 55% of those who completed the survey felt that it should not be an optional lesson as swimming with peers and extra practice for those who have lessons outside of school were beneficial. There was both positive and negative feedback from parents/carers with children in KS2 who have had the chance to take part in lessons, mainly about the about the quality of teaching and temperature of the pool - we will speak to the team at Frome Leisure Centre and work with them to try to improve the provision where possible. 80% were happy with the cost of the lessons/transport. Some respondents asked specific questions about what happens at swimming (time to dry hair/changing arrangements etc), and we will include the answers to these questions in the letter that goes out advising you of the date lessons will start for your child (usually sent the term before their lessons start in KS2).

It was clear from the survey that the majority would like swimming lessons to continue to be offered at Vallis. Part of the reason we issued the survey was due to a large number of families not paying the contribution for the lessons, which means that the school has to cover the deficit with money set aside for other curriculum activities. We wanted to make sure swimming was something that you still wanted us to offer.

If your child has had swimming lessons this year and you have not yet paid in full, or a small contribution, please drop it in to the office when you can. Children in Milky Way Class can continue to pay for lessons weekly as they are still going each week.

Thanks again for your feedback – from now on we will be using surveys to get your views on specific school related matters on an as and when basis and we were really pleased with the response to this first attempt!

Parent Helpers

We are arranging a premises day and are appealing for parents to volunteer for a few hours to help us do jobs like painting, weeding, moving resources around etc. The day is Friday 17th June – if you are available please contact the school office.

We would also like to ask if any parents/carers could contribute carpet cut-offs, grit/pebbles, plants, compost and bug/bee friendly seeds to put into the tyres that were donated to us. If there are any volunteers who would like to continue to help paint the tyres to make up in planters please let Mrs Edwards from Neptune Class know.

