



Vallis First School Newsletter

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Headteacher Mr Nick Firkins

Friday 25th November 2022

It has been a busy week in school and I have seen lots of amazing learning going on when I have visited the classes. I was very impressed with Year 3s knowledge of the skeleton and the names of the bones that they were learning about in science. I have also seen lots of applications in maths of their times table's knowledge. Learning their times tables is vital and I would encourage practicing them every day for a few minutes as this will really support them in their wider maths learning.

We are aware that there have been some questions about why we have had to try and stop large bags coming into school and I would like to thank all of you who have supported us with this. There have been some good suggestions regarding using 'bag monitors' and providing book bags with straps. Although bag monitors are a good idea, this does not solve the actual issue we have which is that the corridors are not wide enough and the pegs cannot hold coats, bags, book bags and PE kits - there is simply not enough room. We have already sourced and ordered some new book bags with straps and will send details out in due course. We recently had a fire, health and safety audit and we have been told that the escape route corridors are a hazard that we need to address. Nobody wants a situation where in an emergency, exit from the building is hindered by corridors being blocked by bags and coats that have fallen off pegs - equally, we don't want any child or member of staff tripping up over these hazards on a normal day. Making these decisions is never easy and one that we do not like having to make but in order to comply with health and safety regulations and to keep everyone safe, we would really appreciate it if you could support us with this.

If you drive to school at drop-off and pick-up times, could I ask that you please park legally and respectfully as there are some ongoing issues with cars blocking the roads (particularly in Dyers Close Lane) and stopping the refuse collections. Obviously, this is causing a lot of consternation with local residents as they are charged for an extra visit for refuse collection. Many thanks for your cooperation.

Last week in our Friday assembly, Milky Way shared some lovely learning with us. The highlight was definitely the bones from their science lessons that they showed us - the children were very good at guessing the animal they had come from and also what part of the animal. Thank you and well done Milky Way.

I hope you all have a great weekend.

Nick



CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES



Monday 12th December

1.30pm – KS1 Performance (Apollo, Neptune & Saturn Classes)

Tuesday 13th December

9.30am – KS1 Performance (Apollo, Neptune & Saturn Classes)

1.30pm – Foundation Stage Performance (Sun & Moon Classes)

5.30pm – KS2 Carol Service at Holy Trinity Church

Wednesday 14th December

9.30am – Foundation Stage Performance (Sun & Moon Classes)

Tickets for the performances will be available to pick up from the School Office on Friday 2nd December from 2.30pm. The tickets are limited to 2 tickets per child. If there are spaces left on the day in any of the performances, please come to the School Office for more tickets.

CHRISTMAS JUMPERS

If you have any Christmas jumpers that no longer fit your child/ren, please consider donating them to the school for families who might struggle to buy them. Thank you.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Tuesday 29th November – SEND Coffee Morning at 9am in the Community Room

Thursday 8th December – Christmas Jumper Day (In aid of Save the Children)

Friday 9th December – Christmas Meal Day

INSET DAYS

- **Tuesday 3rd January 2023**
- **Monday 17th April 2023**
- **Friday 26th May 2023**

