

VALLIS FIRST SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

8th December 2023

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Dates for your Diary

Next week

- ◆ Monday 18th December—Flu Vaccination Walk In Clinic—Frome Community Hospital 10:00am to 14:00pm for children who missed or were unable to have a vaccination at school.
- ◆ Friday 15th December—Last day of term: **School finishes at 2pm**

Christmas Performances

- ◆ Monday 11th December—KS1 Christmas Performance @ 1:30pm in the School Hall
- ◆ Tuesday 12th December—KS1 Christmas Performance @ 9:30am in the School Hall
- ◆ Tuesday 12th December—EYFS Christmas Performance @ 1:30pm in the School Hall
- ◆ Tuesday 12th December—KS2 Carol Concert @ 5:30pm at Holy Trinity Church
- ◆ Wednesday 13th December—EYFS Christmas Performance @ 9:30am in the School Hall

Looking ahead

2024

- ◆ Tuesday 2nd January—TD (Inset) Day
- ◆ Wednesday 3rd January—Back to school

Our planned TD Days for this academic year are 2nd January 2024, 15th April 2024 and Monday 3rd June 2024. For term dates please see the [Somerset Council website](#).

Message from our Headteacher

The children have been very busy practicing their Christmas plays this week and I have heard lots of wonderful singing around the school. Please speak to the office if you haven't requested your tickets yet for your child's performances next week.

Yesterday, I watched, along with all their parents, an amazing violin performance by Owl class. The Year 3 children have been learning the violin with Charlotte since September and the Year 4s are in their second year of learning the instrument. Learning any musical instrument needs so many varied skills and I was so impressed with how the children performed together. Well done to all of Owl class and thank you to Charlotte for working with our children.

In last week's celebration assembly, we focused on music and we were able to hear some of the songs the children are learning for their productions next week. Theo, from Eagle class, played the piano for us and it was great to see how his skill and confidence on the instrument is developing. Wilf from Eagle class, who has only been learning the piano for about a week, also performed amazingly - well done to both of them. If your child is learning an instrument and would like to perform to the school, please let us know as we would love to hear them.

For those who haven't had a chance to read it yet, our response to the recent Ofsted report is on our website. In the New Year we will have further progress to share with you so keep an eye on future newsletters for regular updates.

Just a reminder that we finish at 2pm next Friday. I hope you all have a great weekend.

Nick

Inclement Weather

With our ever unpredictable British weather, we just wanted to remind you of our process for advising you of any school closure as we move into the Winter months.

In the event of bad weather overnight, we will make a decision by 7:15am on whether the school can open. This decision is made based on a number of factors—the physical state of the site and our access points; whether enough staff are able to make it safely from their homes to school to safely look after all our pupils; whether our school meals provider will be operating (which is linked to any decision Selwood Academy may make) and any centrally issued guidance from the Council or Government.

If the decision is made to close we will:

- ◆ Contact all parents/carers by text
- ◆ Post a closure message on our website which will be updated as changes occur
- ◆ Ask the VSA to post a closure notice on their Vallis School Association Facebook page

You can also listen to BBC Somerset Sounds and check the Somerset Council Website for information on any school closures.

If we need to close the school early, we will again contact all parents/carers by text. If pupils cannot be picked up they will remain in school until they can be collected, however we would urge you to ensure arrangements are in place for emergency pick ups.

Please remember, we will only notify you if the school is closed—if you do not hear anything via the above channels please assume that we are open.

Christmas Performances

Many of you have collected your tickets for the EYFS and KS1 plays this week, there are still some left if you have not yet picked up yours. For anyone who was hoping to bring grandparents and other relatives along you can check with the office on the morning of the performance to see if we have any additional tickets left.

The KS2 Carol Concert at Trinity Church is open to anyone wishing to attend—there is no need to collect tickets. The concert will start at 5:30pm and usually lasts for about an hour. If you are a parent/carer of a KS2 child taking part in the concert please try and arrive at the Church about 5:15pm so the children have time to get to their places and settle. Please make sure they are in their school uniform.



From 4:30pm to 5:30pm and afterwards there will be refreshments on offer at the church, so please do pop along earlier if you can.

Here's a sneak peak of a couple of photos we have taken for the Frome Times Christmas edition of the children getting ready for the dress rehearsals.



Christmas Jumper Day

Thank you to everyone who supported Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Save The Children yesterday—we raised just over £130!

Child's Play Clubs Vacancy

Child's Play Clubs are looking for people to join the team based at Vallis. They are looking for people who could work 3 days per week—Tuesday to Thursday from January and then Monday to Friday from March 2024. The hourly rate is £11 per hour, term time only with free childcare for your children while you are covering the club. Childcare or playworker experience is a bonus but not essential. If you are interested please pop in to the Community Room and speak to Jo.

VSA News

Thank you to everyone who attended this year's Christmas Bingo last Friday—we raised over £200 for the school. After Christmas we have lots of plans for other fundraising activities, but an early 'Save the Date' is Saturday 15th June for our Summer fair.

Thank you for your support this term.

Next Feel Good Friday—Friday 12th January 2023 = Eagle Class

Children are invited to wear their own clothes for a donation that will go into the class treat pot to buy extra toys and class treats.

Local Community News

MOJO MOVES PRESENTS
CHERYL SPRINKLER'S

"A LIFE AFFIRMING
AND BONKERS 60 MINUTES"

"DELIGHTFUL AND FUNNY"

CHRISTMAS SILENT DISCO WALK

10TH, 17TH, 23RD
DECEMBER
12, 3 & 6 PM
£20

LET CHERYL LEAD YOU
ON A MERRY DANCE
THROUGH THE
STREETS OF BATH

SEE THE SIGHTS, HEAR THE WHISTORICAL (MADE UP) POP FACTS.
WITH YOUR FAVOURITE CHRISTMAS & DISCO TUNES.
A PERFECT WAY TO GET INTO THE FESTIVE SPIRIT!

MOJO MOVES Booking via bathcomedy.com

SSAL
SOMERSET SKILLS & LEARNING

FREE Winter Wonders - Arts and Crafts

Wednesday 20th December 10am – 12:30pm @ SS&L Frome

Celebrate the wonders of winter with your children this holiday.

Enjoy the experience of crafting something special together using natural winter foliage and plastic-free craft materials.

Together you can make a winter crown, wand, wreath or garland.

Make intricate paper snowflakes and explore beautiful textures with various art and craft techniques.

What do I need to know?

- ✓ Suitable for children aged 3-10 years.
- ✓ Maximum of 2 children per adult booking.
- ✓ Adults must supervise their children at all times.
- ✓ Please bring winter foliage. All other materials supplied.

*Please see our website for eligibility information.

Call Somerset Skills & Learning for more information / book online
0330 332 7997 sslcourses.co.uk

SOMERSET SKILLS & LEARNING Scan with your smartphone camera to visit our website

REFRESHMENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT ON CHRISTMAS DAY

Frome Christmas Get-Together

20 23

Everyone deserves
a special Christmas

MONDAY 25TH DECEMBER

ST. CATHARINES PARISH HALL ~ FROME CRICKET CLUB ~ THE FROME KEY CENTRE ~ 10150-12150

The Frome Christmas Get-Together 2023 is hosting refreshments and entertainment on Christmas Day. Anyone who would like company, refreshments and entertainment is invited to this Christmas event, where you will receive a warm welcome from our volunteers. Everyone will then be given a Christmas ready meal to take home along with a festive bag.

This event is funded by local donations and is completely free for guests, but you must register and receive confirmation in order to book a place. Guest forms are available from the Frome Library, Health Connectors or by email. For more info contact: fromechristmas@gmail.com or talk to Margaret: 01373 465418



St. Catharines Parish Hall The Key Centre