

VALLIS FIRST SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

12th January 2024



In this week's newsletter:

Dates for your Diary

School Uniform

Message from our Headteacher

Eco Council news

VSA News

School Admissions Deadline reminder

Inclement Weather

Local Community News

Dates for your Diary

Next week

- ◆ Monday 15th January— Primary and Middle School application submission deadline for current Nursery and Year 4 children
- ◆ Friday 19th January—Feel Good Friday— Wren Class

Looking ahead

- ◆ Tuesday 6th February—Safer Internet Day
- ◆ Monday 12th February to Friday 16th February—Half Term
- ◆ Wednesday 28th February—Headteacher's Afternoon Tea @2:15pm
- ◆ Thursday 14th March—whole school Science Morning
- ◆ Tuesday 19th and Thursday 21st March—Spring term Parent/Teacher meetings

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

School Uniform

We are thrilled to let you know that Cosmic Monkey are now our uniform provider with immediate affect. To order uniform please go to the [Cosmic Monkey website](#) and click on Schoolwear and scroll down to our Vallis logo. Our core uniform is a sweatshirt, cardigan or fleece and a book bag with our school logo but Cosmic Monkey are able to offer a wider selection of items in our school colours as well. You can get items delivered to your home or to the school or collect from the Cosmic Monkey premises on the Frome Flyer estate.

Message from our Headteacher

It has been a very cold week so I hope you have all managed to keep warm and healthy. On Thursday morning, I joined our Eco Council with some representatives from Frome Council and we went on a local litter pick. Afterwards, some of the children planted lots of bulbs around the school which hopefully will look great when they come through in the Spring.

We have been reviewing our Behaviour policy recently and we are now calling it a Relationships and Behaviour policy - please see our [website](#). The policy is very much about supporting children with making good choices and recognising those who consistently meet and exceed our expectations. Each class has a recognition board where children are celebrated for going above and beyond - this is not just about their learning but includes all behaviours and attitudes. All staff have been briefed on the policy and we hope that the children will see consistency throughout the school.

Reading has always been a high priority for me and passing on my love of reading to the children is something I'm always trying to do. Many children love reading to an adult and talking about their book. We would love to welcome more adults into school to come and read with them so if you have a spare hour, morning or afternoon and would like to come in and listen to and support some of our children with their reading, please let the office know.

In this week's Friday assembly, we will be finding out from some of the children the new topics they have started learning about this term. If you would like to know more, please go to the curriculum tab on our website.

Keep warm and have a great weekend.

Nick

Eco Council News

This week our Vallis School Eco Council braved the cold and were very enthusiastic litter pickers. Katie Fraser, a Resilience Project Officer who works for Frome Town Council, set the children the challenge of collecting rubbish from the local area around our school. Our Eco Council worked hard to collect three big sacks of rubbish.





EYFS Teddy Bear Movie and Snacks event

The EYFS Teddy Bear's picnic and movie for children in Wren and Firecrest classes is taking place on Thursday 18th January from 3pm to 4:30pm in the Old Apollo classroom. You do not need to pick up the children at 3pm as we will pick them up and take them to the room. It will cost £3 per child and a snack and drink will be provided. All the money will go to Wren and Firecrest classes to spend on extra toys and treats. If you would like your child to attend please pop the £3.00 to the office by next Thursday morning.

Feel Good Friday

The next Feel Good Friday will be for Wren Class on 18th January. The children can wear their own clothes in return for a donation to the class pot for extra treats and goodies.

Secondhand Uniform Sale

We will be holding a sale today from 2:45pm today in the Key Stage 2 playground. If you can't make the sale but need some items please email vallisvsa@gmail.com with what you need and we will get back to you.

School admissions deadline

Remember, if you have children due to start first school this coming September or move up to one of the Middle Schools, the deadline for submitting the application form is Monday 15th January. For more information on the process, please see the Somerset Council Website under School Admissions.

Inclement Weather

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.

Many of you will have heard that our school community had some extremely sad news earlier this week. Please see below which we are publishing with the permission of Sam's family. Our thoughts and love are with Sam's family and friends. There is an opportunity to contribute to a collection in the School Office if you would like to.

As you may now be aware on Monday 8th January, we sadly lost a member of our club with the sudden passing of Sam Oatley. Sam was a hugely popular and well-respected man both within the club, the football community, and the wider area.

With permission of his family on Sunday 14th January 2024 Frome Town United will be offering all Friends and Family of Sam the opportunity to join us at the clubhouse at Critchill Manor (BA11 4LJ), for an opportunity to share your memories of Sam.

Tea & Coffee will be provided for anyone who wishes to come in and have a chat with others who knew him. Whether you knew Sam through football, work, or the wider world you are welcome to come along and join us.

Doors will open at 10am and at 10:40am we will join our teams who are playing Sunday morning in a minute's applause to celebrates Sams life and also show our support to Caroline and the boys along with his wider family.

The clubhouse will remain open throughout the morning for people to come and go as they please and take their time to talk to others. There will also be a book of memories for people to write in with anything they wish to share, this will then be passed onto Sams family.



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CALL 07592 501022



IN CONJUNCTION WITH



Come join us for a family friendly film...

**Street cinema on
Selwood road!**

Outdoor film with your neighbours,
popcorn, hot chocolate & mulled wine.
Sat 13 Jan, starts 5:30pm
Opposite 76 Selwood Rd
Free event!

Please bring:

- A comfy seat
- Warm clothes
- Snacks & Drinks

What if it rains?
We'll re-schedule for Sunday,
if both days are wet we'll try in the new year.