

VALLIS FIRST SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

26th January 2024

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Dates for your Diary

Next week

- ◆ Friday 2nd February—Feel Good Friday— Robin Class

Looking ahead

- ◆ Tuesday 6th February—Safer Internet Day
- ◆ Friday 9th February—KS 1 Family Learning Event
- ◆ Monday 12th February to Friday 16th February—Half Term
- ◆ Friday 23rd February—VSA Easter Raffle Mufti Day
- ◆ 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 Monday 15th April 2024 and Monday 3rd June 2024. For term dates please see the [Somerset Council website](#).

School Uniform

To order uniform please go to the Cosmic Monkey website, 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

I spent some time dropping into classes yesterday and was very impressed with the learning across the school. Children in KS1 were confidently explaining their maths to me and solving some quite tricky problems and many of them were being very resourceful in using equipment to help them. They also talked to me about the art work they had done linked with Chinese New Year. Equally, in Reception, some children were telling me about different numbers and showing me their counting skills. The KS2 children are thoroughly enjoying their focus text this term - The Ice Palace. They were able to tell me about the plot and key characters and in their writing they were using some rich and varied vocabulary. During the week, Miss Plumridge spoke to some children about their science learning and she was really pleased about the knowledge and understanding of a range of science concepts the children were able to explain.

Support services in Somerset and nationally are very stretched at the moment and waiting lists can be quite long. There are many groups locally in Frome that can help and support. The website findfrome.co.uk has Frome's Family Information Network Directory on there and it is an easy to use and up to date platform for you to find the information you need for your family all in one place. It is certainly worth having a look to see what support and groups are available in and around Frome.

Just a reminder about posting comments on social media and the impact it has on individuals who inevitably find out even if names aren't used and you're on a closed group. It can be hurtful to the person involved and there are also legal implications. We ask that you are always mindful of what you are posting and remember Be Kind!

In last week's Friday assembly, Buzzard class shared some of their learning this term. Amongst other things, we saw some lovely art work that they had done and heard them sing a times tables song. Well done and thank you to Buzzard class.

From next week we will be sending these newsletters every second Friday, but will continue to send emails and texts of pertinent information if necessary. We are still looking at the various systems like Class Dojo and evaluating which would best suit our school community so look out for more news on this soon.

Have a great weekend.

Nick



Thank you Frome Rotary Club!

The Key Stage Two staff were delighted to receive a donation of £300 from the Frome Rotary club recently to spend on new reading material for the children. Mrs Powrie really enjoyed selecting from the wealth of books available at Winstone Books on Cheap Street for our older children and online from Harper Collins for the younger children. The children are excited about the titles Mrs Powrie chose and have said they are looking forward to settling down to read them!

Design and Technology Family Learning

Friday 9th February at 9.00-10.00.



KS1 would love parents/carers to come and help children to make a building out of junk modelling.

Children have been learning about the architect Hunderwasser and the buildings he designed.



We also need **building materials** such as corks, boxes, clean plastic bottles...



Thank you.

KS1 Team

We need your help please!

We mentioned in an earlier newsletter that children will be working with a local artist to make felted birds to match the class names. For this project we need some additional items which we are hoping we can source from your household recycling!

We need the following:

- ◆ Sheets of bubble wrap;
- ◆ Plastic bottles with sports caps ;
- ◆ Plastic plates with a slight rim.

If you have any of these items , please drop them into the office by the end of next week. Thank you!

Other useful items

In addition to the items for the project above, if you have any tights and socks in sizes suitable for EYFS children, or swimming goggles that would fit KS2 children that you no longer need and would be happy to donate to the school so we can keep some spare items in classrooms please also drop them into the office.

VSA News

Feel Good Friday

Next week it is the turn of Robin Class for Feel Good Friday. Children can wear their own clothes in exchange for a donation that goes directly to the class to spend on class treats.

Easter Raffle

We will be holding an Easter Raffle next term with tickets on sale in the middle of March. As part of the prizes, we are hoping to have a number of our fabulous hampers on, so we will be holding a Mufti Day on Friday 23rd February where children can wear their own clothes in exchange for items like Easter Eggs, boxes of chocolates, biscuits, smellies and bottles of alcoholic and non alcoholic drinks. Raffle tickets will go on sale from 11th March with the raffle drawn in the last week of term.

Secondhand Uniform Sale

Our next sale will be next Friday from 2:45pm in the KS2 Playground. You can buy secondhand items at reasonable prices or swap items for the next size up.

Coolmilk

If you are in receipt of Benefit Based Free School Meals and would like your child to receive a small bottle of semi skimmed milk each day please pop to the office with your details.

Deputy Safeguarding Lead

We want to congratulate Sue Cobb on receiving her certificate following completion of the Advanced Child Protection Training programme. Sue is now our Deputy Safeguarding Lead with Nick Firkins as our Designated safeguarding Lead.

The Great Garden Birdwatch

Don't forget that this weekend it is the RSPB Great Garden Birdwatch! Go to

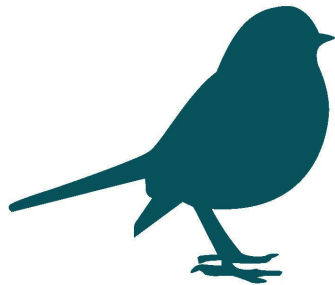
www.rspb.org.uk/whats-happening/big-garden-birdwatch/submission

to sign up

The Merlin Bird ID is also a website recommended by Mrs Lucey to check the sounds of the birds to help you identify them.



Your how-to-guide and tally chart



Big Garden Birdwatch
26–28 January 2024

Taking part is as easy as 1, 2, 3

- 1 **Count the birds you see in your garden, from your balcony or in your local park for one hour between 26 and 28 January 2024.**
Use the tally boxes on the next page to count and record the birds you spot. Transfer your count to the results form. This chart shows some birds you might see. You may see others, if so record those on the results form too. Where we don't show male and female birds, the sexes look similar, but are not always identical.
- 2 **Following these simple rules makes it easy to count the birds you see.**
Only include birds that land, not those flying over. Count the highest number of each species you see at any one time, otherwise you could count the same bird twice. For example, if you saw a group of eight Starlings but then towards the end of your hour you saw six together, record '8' as your final Starling count.
- 3 **Go online and tell us what you saw at www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch**
Submitting online is quick and easy and it means we can spend more on saving nature as it reduces our costs. Whatever you saw – even if nothing at all – please tell us. The more results we have, the better the picture we will be of how garden birds are faring.
If you are unable to submit your results online, please complete and send us the print-from-home form.

Helping you make your Big Garden Birdwatch count

Get involved on our social channels

Throughout the Big Garden Birdwatch Long weekend, you can join in the conversation on our social channels. See what other nature lovers are spotting across the UK and you can upload pics and comments about your Birdwatch. Go to #BigGardenBirdWatch

Get ID tips and expert advice

You'll find lots of advice on identifying birds by sight and sound, as well as expert insights into garden wildlife at www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch

The RSPB is a registered charity in England and Wales 207076. In Scotland SC037654. Illustrations by Mike Largman (rspb-images.com) 356-23-24 BCBW-24

 Female Male Blackbird + + + + + + + + + +	 Blue Tit + + + + + + + + + +	 Female Male Chaffinch + + + + + + + + + +	 Coal Tit + + + + + + + + + +
 Dunnock + + + + + + + + + +	 Female Male House Sparrow + + + + + + + + + +	 Long-tailed Tit + + + + + + + + + +	 Collared Dove + + + + + + + + + +
 Greenfinch + + + + + + + + + +	 Goldfinch + + + + + + + + + +	 Robin + + + + + + + + + +	
 Magpie + + + + + + + + + +	 Great Tit + + + + + + + + + +	 Woodpigeon + + + + + + + + + +	 Starling + + + + + + + + + +