

VALLIS FIRST SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

19th April 2024

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Dates for your Diary

Next week

- ◆ Monday 22nd April—Wednesday 24th April - Year 4 Osmington Bay Residential trip
- ◆ Monday 22nd April—EYFS Heights & Weights by NHS
- ◆ Friday 26th April—Green gang day—volunteers needed please!

Looking ahead

- ◆ Monday 13th May—Class Photos
- ◆ Monday 20th May—KS2 trip to Roman Baths
- ◆ Wednesday 22nd May—KS2 Chocolate Café—Family Learning Event
- ◆ 25th May to 2nd June—HALF TERM
- ◆ Monday 3rd June - Inset Day
- ◆ Monday 17th June—Sports Day
- ◆ Tuesday 25th and Wednesday 26th June—Year 3 Taster Day at Selwood Academy
- ◆ Wednesday 3rd July — Frome Schools Transfer Day
- ◆ Monday 22nd July—KS2 End of Year Production
- ◆ Tuesday 23rd July—Year 4 Leavers Party

Our planned TD Day for the remainder of this academic year is Monday 3rd June 2024. For term dates please see the [Somerset Council website](#).

Lost Property

All lost property is now stored outside of Crane Class (old Apollo) so if you are missing any items please come to the office and ask to have a look through.

Message from our Headteacher

On the last Monday before Easter, I went to the Cheese and Grain along with other members of staff and about 30 of our Year 3 and 4 children to watch them perform alongside some eminent opera singers in the Jackdaws OperaPlus project. It was an amazing evening and the children performed brilliantly along with the children from a couple of other local schools. It was great to see opera being made accessible to a younger audience and for them to see some polished performers in action.

Continuing the theme of music, our choirs have now started thanks to Mr Tilbrook and Mrs Krot who have given up an hour of their day to spend leading our children through some fun singing activities. It was great to see how many children wanted to be part of the groups and how enthusiastic they were - their singing sounded lovely.

On the last Thursday of the term, I was also able to watch Eagle class show the amazing progress they have made with learning to play the violin. For many of the children, this was their first time at learning an instrument and it was great to see how well they had mastered some of the basics of the violin - well done to you all in Eagle class.

As many of you will know, Adam Summers has been on secondment as Headteacher with Beckington and Mells schools since January. Adam has now been successful at interview for this post and we wish him all the very best in his new role. As they have been doing for the Spring term, whilst Mrs Molloy continues her treatment and recovery, Mrs Edwards and Mrs Higgins will jointly cover the Assistant Head responsibilities until the end of this academic year. We continue to send our love and best wishes to Mrs Molloy as she continues with her treatment.

In terms of the Headteacher role from September, positive progress has been made and there will be an update in the next couple weeks from the Governing Board.

The Summer term is always a busy one with lots going on so please keep your eye on key dates noted on the newsletter. On Monday, our Year 4s are off to Osmington Bay - we hope they all have an amazing time.

Have a great weekend.

Nick

Osmington Bay

Parent/Carers should have received an email yesterday with further details of the arrangements for the trip, and a reminder of the kit list. Any questions over the weekend, please email the office@vallisfirstschool.org.uk email. In addition:

- If you haven't paid the outstanding balance on ParentPay yet please do so over the weekend.
- Thank you to everyone who completed the online medical form. If we have yet to receive your response you will have received an email this afternoon with the link—please complete this by Monday morning. Any problems accessing the form please pop into the office first thing Monday.
- We have had a few queries in the office today about the need to take a pillow. The children will need to bring a pillow and sleeping bag/duvet, so please make these are included in their luggage.

Lunch bookings

Remember that all lunch bookings, even for children in EYFS and KS1 who have Universal Infant Free School Meals and children in KS2 who are entitled to Benefit Based Free School meals, must be booked using ParentPay now. Lunches for week commencing 29th April must be booked online by this coming Sunday evening (21st).

Green Gang Day

Prior to Covid we would regularly hold Green Gang days where volunteer family members come into school and help a team of staff and children to do small jobs to keep our grounds tidy. We will be holding a Green Gang day next Friday (26th) from 9:30am. Primarily this will focus on the Key Stage 1 playground and making this the best outdoor space possible for the children. We also need some planting and tidying of the raised beds around the school and our main playground.

If you can help or have any plants that you are splitting up ahead of the Summer and could donate please let the office know.

VSA News

SAVE THE DATE—Our Summer fair will take place on Friday 28th June from 3:00—5:00pm. More information coming soon.

Don't forget that you can support the VSA by:

- ◆ Ordering name labels from:
 - STIKINS—we receive commission on orders placed using our fundraising number 24296. You can order online at www.stikins.co.uk;
 - My Nametags—again we receive commission on orders using our fundraising number 35172. Order online at www.mynametags.com
- ◆ The Giving Machine—if you are shopping online from hundreds of well-known brands you can use The Giving Machine to raise money for our school. Sign up, choose Vallis First School as your cause and a percentage of your total spend is paid to the school as commission.

Local Community News

Expand your knowledge and awareness of autism and



The poster features a photograph of a woman in a blue top sitting at a table with a man, discussing energy advice. The table is covered with a blue cloth and has various energy-related materials, including a colorful quilted blanket and brochures. A black banner in the top right corner reads 'FREE POP-UP'. A circular logo in the bottom right corner says 'Healthy Homes' with a house icon. The text on the poster provides details about the sessions, including dates, times, and locations, and mentions free kids' activities at the Trinity Hall session.

Energy Advice Sessions

FREE POP-UP

Monday 29th April
9am - 4pm @ Frome Jobcentre
5pm - 7pm @ Trinity Hall

Drop in to talk to our impartial energy experts for free advice and support. Including lowering bills, tackling fuel debt, understanding your heating controls and tips for keeping your home warm in Winter and cool in Summer.

Plus free kids' activities at the Trinity Hall session to keep little ones happy while you talk.

No need to book. Just turn up & chat.

centre for sustainable energy **Frome**