

Playground Project update:

We have been making better use of our playpods in our main playground by opening them up at morning play as well as lunchtime. This has been enthusiastically received by all the children and staff. We are continuing to fund a Sports Coach to supervise lunchtime games on the games court three times a week using some of our Sports' Premium grant. All of this has led to much happier playtimes and as a result happier afternoon sessions. We are reviewing the quality of the equipment and will replace the equipment which is not robust enough to stand regular use. Five years ago we developed a Play Policy with our children and parents which celebrates and values play as the heart of childhood and central to the learning process. We believe that play teaches children life skills such as risk taking, social skills, motor skills, building friendships and learning about boundaries. We celebrate opportunities in play to have fun, be imaginative, be active, take appropriate risks and learns skills. As part of developing our playground we have invested in an area of all-weather surface which the children love as it means the trim trail and equipment is available to use throughout the year. Part of our policy at Vallis is to include the pupil voice in what we do and so teachers are currently carrying out a review with their classes. The children have requested the opportunity to set up a 'Skid Alley'. The area is coned off and one child at a time uses the alley. This is an example of risky play as there is the scope to get grazes or to fall when using the alley. After rain the surface can be wet and children can get damp. We would like to get some feedback from parents about the principles of the Play Policy and your thoughts about the Skid Alley suggestion as we are aware that not all parents have had the opportunity to influence the principles promoted by our Play Policy. Please complete the tear off slip below with the answers to our questions. Feel free to add your views on the back. You will find our Play Policy on our website www.vallisfirstschool.org. Thank you. Naomi Pauley (Headteacher)

Sawdust tins: Does anyone have any empty baby milk tins they could donate to the school? Please bring them to the School Office if you have. Thank you.

KS2 Lost Property: We have amassed a wealth of lost property. We will be putting this out in the front playground tomorrow at the end of school. Please claim any articles that you may have lost as we will be donating unclaimed items to the VSA or clothes banks. Thank you.

Christmas plays: The children will be performing their plays on the following dates and times in the School Hall:

Monday 18 th Dec - 10am - Sun & Moon	
Monday 18 th Dec - 1.30pm - Apollo & Neptune	Monday 18 th Dec - 2.15pm - Jupiter & Saturn
Tuesday 19 th December - 9.30am - Apollo & Neptune	Tuesday 19 th December - 10.15am - Jupiter & Saturn
Tuesday 19 th December - 1.15pm - Galaxy & Mars	Tuesday 19 th December - 2.15pm - Milky Way & Voyager
Wednesday 20 th December - 9.20am - Milky Way & Voyager	Wednesday 20 th December - 10.20am - Galaxy & Mars
Wednesday 20 th December - 2pm - Sun & Moon	

Please come to the school office to order your tickets. In the first instance, 2 tickets per family are allocated for you to attend one performance by your child. If spare tickets are available, you can apply on the date of the performance. Young siblings can come along on the understanding that they sit in your lap. There will be a charitable retiring collection after each performance.

Dates for your Diary 2017
 Thursday 30th November - Christmas Bingo at 6pm
 Friday 8th December - Mars Class Cake Sale

Play Policy Feedback - (Please return to the School Office by 8th December 2017)

Name of child..... Name of parent(s).....

Please circle your answer:

- I agree with Vallis Play Policy YES/NO
- I agree that the children should have opportunities to explore risky play eg. Skid Alley YES/NO

Signed:..... Please add any additional views on the back of the slip.