

Curriculum plans and topics for this term: On the back of the Thursday Note you will find our topic webs for KS1 and Foundation Stage. KS2 have made a start with their very popular chocolate topic - details will follow next week.

Playground Project update: Many of you are aware that the playground project is being developed in line with an audit that was carried out, with a number of suggested phases developed through discussions with children and staff. We have been gradually developing areas of the playground. The first phase was launched with a 'Green Gang' day when parents moved the playpods and benches and had a big tidy up with the help of the children. Last summer the all-weather surface was installed, paid for with our Sports Grant and VSA funds. The children have really appreciated the extended area for play and the fact that the apparatus is available all year round. We have also been offering a rota of playpod activities throughout the week which are put out at morning play and kept out for lunchtime play which has increased the opportunities to play with the equipment as well as giving children more choice. We still employ a play leader three times a week at lunchtime to organise games on our games court area. The children asked for boards to be fitted to stop balls from rolling out of the playground and these have now been installed. You will see that the children have also been enjoying using the tyres in various ways to increase their play. Our most recent addition is our den building area and equipment which was introduced in an assembly this week and over the next few days every class will have a chance to explore the opportunities before adding this equipment to our general playpod rota. At the most recent review meeting of our working party the construction of a stage area for singing and dancing was discussed. If you might be able to help us with this or help us to source materials please give your contact details to the School Office so that we can set up a working party to complete this next project. At the same time we may look at enhancing the appearance of the railings which was a suggestion from one of our Parent Forum forms.

School trips and parental contributions: On our Parents Forum feedback forms we have had feedback requesting more trips out to venues outside Frome. We are very fortunate that our children are able to access so many additional opportunities either for free within the town of Frome or heavily subsidised. Although schooling is free in Britain, school budgets only pay for the basics but not the extras such as swimming and trips. Most trips now cost £10 or more including the cost of entrance to a venue and the coach. We have surveyed our parents in the past about the sums they are prepared to pay for a child to go on a trip and the majority said they would pay £10-£15 but not too often. Our VSA kindly subsidise the cost of the coach which reduces the contribution parents make but still means that we are limited to one major trip a year. We most often make this trip in the Summer so you may want to start putting aside some money to help pay for these especially if you have more than one child in the school.

Casual Lunchtime Supervisors: We are still looking for Casual Lunchtime Supervisors. If you are interested in joining our bank of casual Lunchtime Supervisors, please contact the School Office. Vallis First School is committed to safeguarding children and a Vetting and Barring Disclosure will be required as well as suitable references.

VSA News - Cake Sales: Saturn class made £64 in their cake sale. Well done Saturn Class ☺. It is the turn of Mars class tomorrow. Please buy or make some cakes to sell.

Disco Tickets: These will be on sale at the Friday cake sale or Monday from 2:45 at the School Office. Tickets are £3.50 each.

Bunnings Sausage Sizzle: At short notice we will be running this on Saturday in the car park of the newly opened Bunnings store (where Homebase used to be). Please stop by if you can to support us - all profits will go to the school!

Dates for your Diary 2018

Friday 20th April - Mars class cake sale

Friday 27th April - Milky Way class cake sale

Friday 4th May - Satellite cake sale

Friday 4th May - VSA school disco

Monday 7th May - Bank Holiday - School closed

Friday 25th May - Last day before the Whitsun holiday

Monday 4th June - Back to school

Saturday 16th June - VSA School Fair

Friday 6th July - Sports Day

Friday 20th July - Last day of school before Summer holidays - 2pm finish