

Welcome back to the new term and Happy New Year! Christmas performances seem a distant memory but we wanted to let you know that the final total raised in aid of Frome Food Bank and Save the Children was £516. Thank you for your generosity! We are still in the throes of winter but will continue to take the children out and about as part of our topics so please ensure they have warm clothes at all times. KS2 have already been on a river walk as part of their new topic.

We are looking forward to another exciting term at Vallis with plenty going on. Our Year 2s are swimming this term but some of our Year 4s will be involved in our first FLP Swimming Gala which will take place this month. We also have some coaches coming in each week to support PE as well as continuing to support active play at lunchtime. With many children receiving technology of various kinds over the Christmas period please be vigilant about appropriate security settings and keep reminding your children about the rules for safer internet use. We will once again take part in Safer Internet day which is Tuesday 5th February and has the theme 'Together for a better internet'.

We will once again be taking part in the FLP Schools music project which is 'The Year of the Flute'. A professional group will perform to the whole school and then some of our violinists will accompany a schools concert in the Cheese and Grain on 26th March. After half term we are planning to take part in National Science week and to raise funds to support this week we will have a mufti day on the Thursday 14th March which is the day children break up for the half term holidays. Children can come dressed as super heroes, scientists or explorers or just their own clothes in exchange for a donation towards the cost of special resources we would like to buy for this week.

Our Year 4s will be looking forward to their residential at Osmington Bay and our KS2 team will once again welcome the Young Shakespeare company into school for a performance of Hamlet (thanks to a very generous donation from one of our parents). We will also take part in this year's Frome Schools Travel Challenge which takes place this term at the end of March. Look out for the topic information for your child on the back of next week's Thursday Note and please contact your child's class teacher if you can help out with artefacts or information.

Raising Aspirations Project: Part of our vision at Vallis is to introduce our children to the joy of learning, in all areas of the curriculum. We want to open their minds to the thought that in their future they can continue to enjoy learning and possibly find work which involves using a favourite subject or subjects. For the first time last year we contacted parents who would be willing to come into school to talk to the children about their work. We were delighted that a number of willing volunteers came forward. If you are happy to come and talk to our children from Years 2, 3 and 4 about your work then we would love to hear from you. We are happy to work around your availability during this term or next. Please email vallisfirstschool@educ.somerset.gov.uk if you are happy to help out, with the dates that are convenient for you. Thank you for your support!

VSA NEWS

Our first sale of 2019 falls to Sun Class tomorrow (Friday 11th January). Please bake or buy some goods for sale, if you can help pack cakes tomorrow morning please hang around in Sun Class after drop off and members of the VSA will be there to help. If you can help sell in the afternoon please let Mrs Kerton know.

Uniform Shop: Our secondhand uniform shop will be open tomorrow in the room opposite the school office from 2:45pm tomorrow - you can swap or buy school uniform to keep up with the growth spurts!

VSA Committee meeting: The next meeting of the committee will take place next Wednesday afternoon in Saturn Class at 3pm. A crèche for children will be provided. Anyone who wants to get involved and help with our fundraising is very welcome to attend.

Clubs: There are places left on Multi-Sports (Tuesdays) and Archery (Wednesdays). Please come to the School Office if you would like your child to attend and book and pay for a place.

Wellies Wanted: If you have any spare pairs of Wellies sizes 1-4 please bring them to the School Office as Forest School would be hugely grateful for them. Thank you.

Dates for your Diary 2018/9

Thursday 14th February - Mufti Day in aid of Science week and last day before half term holiday

Friday 15th February - INSET day

Monday 25th February - Back to school