

Vallis First School Thursday Note

 Spring Term – Thursday 6th February 2020

 www.vallisfirstschool.org

My last three assemblies on Mondays have focused on reading. This week, I challenged the children by reading the first page of a range of children’s books and I was very impressed at how many of them from across the school could tell me which book the extracts were from - even the tricky one which was ‘War Horse’ by Michael Morpurgo. I hope my enthusiasm for reading has come across to the children as I know I couldn’t imagine not having a book on the go. Please keep encouraging your children to read for pleasure as I know once they get into a good book, be it fiction or non-fiction, they won’t be able to put it down.

In Celebration assembly last Friday, we said well done to our Star Powerful Learners who were: Laylah in Sun, Thomas in Moon, Ted in Jupiter, Freddie in Saturn, Jessica in Neptune, Ollie in Apollo, Olivia D in Galaxy, Wyatt in Milky Way and Tove in Voyager. Keep using those learning muscles.

Nick Firkins

Headteacher

**VSA News**

**Cake Sales**: Thank you to everyone who helped Galaxy Class raise a wonderful £125 last week in their cake sale ☺. It is the turn of Voyager Class next week (14th February), please bake or buy some items for sale. Please do remember we are a nut free school however!  If you are able to help pack (in the morning 8:50-9:15) or sell (in the afternoon 2:45-3:05) please let Mrs Edwards know or pop along to the community room in the morning.

**Spring Disco:** Our next disco will be held tomorrow from 3:15 to 4:45pm in the school hall. All available tickets have been sold, but we will be holding a reserve list - please leave your child’s name with the office.

For those with tickets please remember that children need to be picked up by a parent/carer at 3pm as usual, changed (teachers will usually allow children to do this in their classroom) and signed in at the Forest School entrance near to the Hall. No money is needed - all food, drink and activities are included in the ticket price.

**Uniform shop:** Our secondhand uniform shop will be open tomorrow by the community room from 2:45 to 3:15. Please do stop by if you have any donations or your little ones have had another growth spurt! Thank you for your continued support.

**Shoe Appeal for RAISE**: RAISE are collecting any pre-loved, waterproof and clean shoes for refugee camps across Europe. If you have any old shoes you can donate, please tie them together and bring them to the office and we will arrange collection.

Autism Somerset offers a wide variety of support for parents and carers. Training courses are directed at raising autism awareness for parents and carers with workshops to improve emotional wellbeing, resilience, employability and mental health.

They include:

* Free autism awareness workshops
* Anxiety, behaviour and coaching workshops – also free
* A 12 Step Anxiety Program by parents for parents which leads to a continuing peer-support group.

Autism Somerset’s activities benefit individuals, their families and carers who are affected by autism. You can find more information at <https://autismsomerset.org/>

The [Community Inclusion and Activity Team Calendar](https://www.somerset.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/children-with-disabilities-service/) is now available to view and download at <http://online.pubhtml5.com/fuxz/kpmy/>

In it you’ll find details of some great days out, including

on Monday 17th February sensory play, storytelling, nature walks, music therapy, games and art therapy

at St Michaels Church in Shepton Mallet.

**Clubs**: There are still a few spaces available on the following after school clubs for next term:

Forest School - Tues and Wed

Tennis – Wed

Boxercise – Thurs

Please see the office if you would like to take up any of the places.

**Dates for your Diary**

Friday 7th February – Disco 3.15 to 4.45pm

Friday 14th February – last day before half term

Monday 24th February – back to school

Monday 16th to Wednesday 18th March – Year 4 Trip to Osmington Bay

Friday 3rd April – last day before Easter Holidays

Monday 20th April – INSET Day

Tuesday 21st April – back to school