

# VALLIS FIRST SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2022**

Last week, guitar lessons started for those children who had expressed an interest in Years 3 and 4 and from talking to a few of the children, they have really enjoyed the first week. The brass and violin lessons are continuing too, enabling the children to experience a range of instruments. Moving forward, we are hoping to offer further instrument lessons but at the moment we are restricted by what the local authority music service can offer us.

The leadership team had a look at the writing books across the school this week and one thing that stood out for me was the range of writing genres the children are learning about and the links the writing has to their topics. These cross-curricula links really help the children to see a purpose in their writing whilst also learning about their topic.

Unfortunately, to try and stop the spread of the virus we did have to close the Year 1 classes for part of this week due to high numbers of COVID cases. We are hoping that with a five-day break, the spread will slow down and we are planning on reopening both classes on Monday - please see the separate email sent out with details about what tests need to be done and when for those children who have tested positive for COVID.

As I am sure you will have seen on the news, the Government have relaxed the requirement to wear masks after the 27th January. Due to the high numbers of cases we have in school at the moment and the speed in which it is spreading, we would still encourage all adults to wear masks in and around the school until February half term.

Our Star Powerful Learners this week were: Sonny from Sun; Harry from Saturn; Max from Neptune; Alex from Apollo; James from Galaxy, Lexie-May from Milky Way and Freddie from Mars. Well done to all of you for showing some great learning skills.

Nick Firkins  
Headteacher

## Reminders

- Please do encourage your KS2 children to access TTRockstars at home (see your child's class teacher for log-in details). It is a fabulous resource that will support the children in learning their times tables and will help prepare the Year 4 children for the end of year statutory times tables check. They really do enjoy it as well!

### Dates for your Diary

- Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January – SEND Workshop for Parents
- Friday 18<sup>th</sup> February – Last day of half term – finishing at 3pm
- Monday 28<sup>th</sup> February – Back to school
- Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April – last day before Easter Holidays – finishing at 3pm
- Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April – INSET DAY
- Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> April – Back to school

### Parent Contacts for Severe Weather Closure of the School

Kirsty Chapman	Parent contact – FS	07919 096293
Jeff Evans	Parent contact – Yr 1	07522 030600
Finola Bevan	Parent contact – Yr 2	07813 633656
Claire Beale	Parent contact – Yr 3	07870 795786
Helen Loughlin	Parent contact – Yr 4	07740 463973

Should there be a school closure due to severe weather, please call (after 7.30am) the parents' link mobile telephone number for your child's/ren year group to confirm the closure. It will also be announced on the VSA Facebook page.