

VALLIS FIRST SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



Friday 21st January 2022

We are now over half way through Term 3 and the children are all engaged in their new topics. This week, I have been reading some lovely writing from KS2 children linked to the book they are reading in class called 'The Ice Palace' and when I have asked them about it they have been able to confidently tell me about the story. In KS1 the children have also done some amazing art work linked to their key book of 'The Snail and the Whale' and I've also seen some great geography learning linked to this. Our children in EYFS have now been in school for 5 months and whilst chatting with them in their playground this week, it is lovely to see how well the relationships are developing between them all and the friendships they have made.

COVID restrictions nationwide have been relaxed this week but due to the high numbers we are still experiencing in school, we are keeping the current measures in place until half term. Staffing has continued to be extremely challenging but where the children have had different adults in their class to normal, they have been amazing and I have had some lovely, positive comments from visiting teachers about the school and children.

Our Star Powerful Learners this week were: Elody from Neptune; Sophie from Apollo; Rowan from Galaxy; Sapphire from Milky Way and Nikola from Mars. Well done to all of you.

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!
- If it is your child's birthday they can celebrate it by wearing an outfit of their choice to school on that day rather than bringing in cakes or sweets.

Dates for your Diary

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

We are currently in the process of creating a ‘Safe Space’ for all our children. This will be a calming, sensory room that any child will be able to access, if needed, for some time-out of the classroom. The benefits of a ‘Safe Space’ are: -

- **That it teaches emotional regulation**
- **It can give children self-awareness and self-management**
- **It helps to practice identifying feelings and calming down strategies**
- **It can help children to control impulsive behaviours**
- **It can allow children to feel OK with big emotions**
- **It can add structure and consistency**
- **It can help prevent ‘meltdowns’**
- **And can help to develop communication skills**

There are still some things that we need to create this space and would ask if anyone has any of the following that they can donate to the school?

- **Soft, tactile rugs**
- **Pictures for the walls**
- **Cushions**
- **Scented candles (used for smell and not to be lit)**
- **Potpourri**
- **Music/story CD’s**
- **Headphones**
- **Green, leafy plants**
- **Storage baskets**
- **Large soft toys (need to be clean and in good condition)**
- **Someone who can sew some simple loop type curtains.**

Many thanks in advance for any help you can offer, the children will really benefit from your kind donations.

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.