



Vallis First School Newsletter

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Headteacher Mr Nick Firkins

Friday 2nd December 2022

It was great to see so many of you at the Christmas Bingo last night - it was the first one we have held for a few years and the money raised will all go to support the children. Many thanks to all the VSA team who do such a good job in organising the event and also to Mrs Higgins and Mrs Lucey who kindly gave up their time to oversee the video room.

The school has started to feel a lot like Christmas this week; some very excited children helped me decorate the tree on Tuesday and it's looking great. The sound of Christmas songs has also began to float around the corridors as classes start practicing for their performances in a couple of weeks. Thank you to the VSA for adding a little sparkle to the tree in the front playground too.


I would like to say a massive thank you to Michelle Woods who has raised an incredible £700 for the school through cake and coffee sales. This is a great achievement and the whole school is truly grateful for this contribution which we will ensure goes towards supporting the children.

It was Mars class's turn to celebrate their learning in our Friday assembly last week and they shared some lovely descriptive writing that they have done using the Book Journey as their inspiration. The Journey has no words but tells its story through pictures and this has really encouraged the children to be creative and imaginative in their writing. They also shared their RE learning with the story of Rama and Sita. Well done Mars class for all your hard work this term.

I wish you all a lovely weekend.

Nick





Tickets for the Christmas performances will be available to pick up from the School Office on Friday 2nd December from 2.30pm. The tickets are limited to 2 tickets per child. If there are spaces left on the day in any of the performances, please come to the School Office for more tickets.



CHRISTMAS JUMPERS

We have had some lovely Christmas jumpers donated by our very kind parents and carers. Please come to the school office if you would like one for your child to wear on the Christmas Jumper Day on Thursday and the Christmas Meal on Friday.





CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES

Monday 12th December

1.30pm – KS1 Performance (Apollo, Neptune & Saturn Classes)

Tuesday 13th December

9.30am – KS1 Performance (Apollo, Neptune & Saturn Classes)

1.30pm – Foundation Stage Performance (Sun & Moon Classes)

5.30pm – KS2 Carol Service at Holy Trinity Church

Wednesday 14th December

9.30am – Foundation Stage Performance (Sun & Moon Classes)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 8th December – Christmas Jumper Day (In aid of Save the Children)

Friday 9th December – Christmas Meal Day

Friday 16th December – Last day of term – school finishes at 2pm


INSET DAYS

- **Tuesday 3rd January 2023**
- **Monday 17th April 2023**
- **Friday 26th May 2023**

Should I keep my child off school?

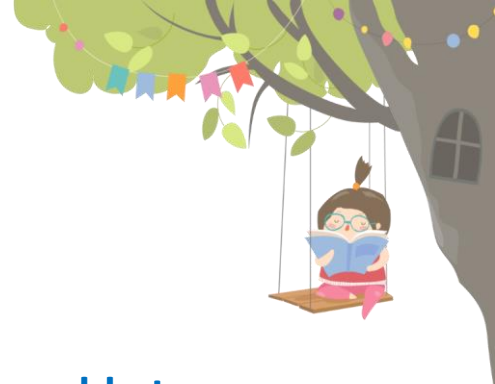
Attached with this Newsletter is a poster called ‘Should I keep my child off school?’ It is a quick guide to childhood illnesses and gives advice as to when and how long you should keep your child off school if they are ill.

We have had a number of children viruses, coughs, colds, temperatures and Diarrhoea & Vomiting. Please do not bring your child back to school until 48 hours are their last episode of D&V, and if your child has a temperature please do not bring them back to school until it is normal and they are well enough to attend. Thank you.



SEN Update

Dear Parents / Carers,



Thank you so much to the parents who were able to come along to our SEN coffee morning on Tuesday. It was lovely to see you there and spend some time talking with you in a more informal setting.

Our coffee mornings offer a space where you can meet other parents, talk about children's needs, share your experiences, have a chat and ask questions about provision in the school. We also use the coffee morning as a chance to ask for your feedback and share key updates. This week we had a quick look at Somerset's Graduated Response Tool:

<https://beta.somerset.gov.uk/the-graduated-response-tool/>

This tool guides users through how barriers to learning could be identified, and the strategies that might support children and young people with SEN in overcoming barriers.

I would like to encourage you to have a look at this tool as it offers guidance that could be helpful for all children.

For more information about how we can support you as a family, please also have a look at the SEN Information Report on our website:

<https://vallisfirstschool.org/send-information-report/>

I look forward to the next SEN coffee morning and hope that you can join us!

Adam Smith

Special Educational Needs Coordinator

