

VALLIS FIRST SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

8th September 2023

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Message from our Headteacher

Welcome to our first newsletter of the year. It has been great to see the children back in school this week and seeing them all settling in to their new classes. I would like to say a big welcome to all our new parents/carers in EYFS as well as those joining us in other year groups. It was lovely to see all the new EYFS children in this morning, the team had a great morning and the children took it all in their stride - we hope they enjoyed themselves. We look forward to getting to know you and working with you over the coming years. The beginning of a new school year can be an anxious time for children and parents and I would encourage you all to please come in and speak to us if there are any things you are not sure about. Your child's class teacher is always the best place to start but please feel free to come and have a chat with myself or pop into the office.

As I mentioned in my letter earlier in the week, there has been a lot of work done in school over the last few months and I am very grateful to all who have put time and effort in to making things happen. We are planning a couple of parent welcome meetings on Tuesday 19th September where you will be able to hear some key messages for KS1 and KS2 - more details to follow. Additionally, on Monday 25th September we are having an open classroom event where you will be able to come into your child's classroom, chat to their teacher and ask any questions. Key dates will continue to be on the weekly newsletter but we will be putting these onto the website too.

There have been a number of changes this year in the layout of the school and this has meant that some routines like drop-off and pick-up have needed to be adapted. As with all these things, they do need a little time to bed in and I would ask that you bear with us while the new routines settle down. We are always open to improving things so if you have ideas or suggestions, please do share these with us.

There has been a lot of media coverage recently surrounding RAAC and the closure of some schools for safety reasons. We have not been notified of any issues by the local authority to date but we are monitoring the situation and confirming this with county. In my most recent update from the local authority, they said, "The process of undertaking confirmatory survey continues. DfE national guidance is that schools should only consider closure if RAAC has been confirmed. At this time no RAAC has been confirmed in any LA maintained school." I will of course keep you updated if this changes.

I hope you have all managed to stay cool in this hot weather - have a lovely weekend.

Nick

Somerset School Admissions

If your child is due to transfer to a secondary or upper school (middle school to Frome College in Frome) in September 2024, the online portal will be open on 11th September 2023 up until 31st October 2023.

If your child is due to start school or transfer to junior or middle school in September 2024, the online portal will be open on 25th September 2023 until 15th January 2024.

For more information and to access the portal go to the following page on the Somerset Council website:

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/children-families-and-education/applying-for-school/>

Selwood Academy Open Day

Selwood Academy will be holding their Open Day on Tuesday 19th September. Please see the poster on the next page for more details. Parents/carers can book a tour during the day via the Selwood Academy website or by contacting the school direct on 01373 462798.

Frome Youth & Community Centre

Please take a moment to read this message from Rachel Atter at Bath University:

I am a master's student from the University of Bath and I am working on a group project to raise awareness and funds for the YMCA Brunel Group, a charity that works to support and improve the lives of young people in Bath, Bristol and Mendip. Specifically, we are aiming to raise awareness concerning their youth work and hopefully funds to keep the well-loved Frome Youth and Community Centre open.

Youth centres are crucial to young people's well-being and offer new opportunities to learn skills, make friends and experience new things. However, over 760 youth centres have closed in the past decade, leaving young people more vulnerable to antisocial behaviour, anxiety and deteriorating mental wellbeing as they lack access to a safe space and fail to receive support from youth workers.

We have launched a [JustGiving](#) page which goes into more detail about why we want to raise money for the Frome Youth Centre and the importance of youth centres. You can also find a short [YouTube](#) video that we filmed and edited on the page where you can hear more about the Youth Centre from the young people and youth workers themselves. It is quite inspiring and enlightening to hear from them. Any support would be immensely appreciated.

Dates for your Diary

- ◆ Wednesday 13th September—VSA Committee Meeting @ 3pm in The Library
- ◆ Tuesday 19th September— Key Stage 1 & 2 Parent Welcome Meeting @ 9am in the Hall
- ◆ Tuesday 19th September— Key Stage 1 & 2 Parent Welcome Meeting @ 2:30pm in the Hall
- ◆ Tuesday 3rd October—Headteacher Coffee Morning @ 9am in the Community Room
- ◆ Tuesday 10th October—Harvest Celebration @ 9:30am at Holy Trinity Church
- ◆ Tuesday 17th October—SEN Coffee Morning

Our planned Inset Days for this academic year are 2nd January 2024 and 15th April 2024. One more date is still to be decided. For term dates please see the [Somerset Council website](#).