

VALLIS FIRST SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

15th September 2023

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Message from our Headteacher

It has been great to be in school for most of this week as I wasn't needed for jury service beyond Monday - I am not needed next week either now so I will be in school as normal. Wandering around the classes during the week has been lovely and all the children seem to be settling in well, especially our new EYFS children.

Our new routines are steadily bedding in; thank you for working with us on this. In KS2, we are taking the children to the playground before handing them over as it is safer than trying to do it at the bottom of the school stairs where it gets congested and it can be very difficult for staff to see who each child is going with. Could I ask all parents to enter the games court through the corner gate, where the children will be handed to you from their class lines - this will really help in a smooth end of the day. Staff will be available to speak to once all the children have been handed over.

Just a quick reminder about bags - children should not be bringing rucksacks or big bags into school please as we do not have a place to store them. The corridors are narrow and large bags become a trip hazard - thank you for your help with this.

Sadly this week, we were made aware of the misuse and posting of inappropriate content unrelated to VSA activities on some of the VSA Class WhatsApp groups. Unfortunately as a result of the concerns raised with us by parents, we have had to take the decision to ask the VSA to close the groups down. We were already looking at how we can offer a more formal version of this communication method following feedback at the Headteacher's Coffee Morning held by Adam in July, perhaps using the stream function on Google Classrooms, so we will keep you updated as soon as we have an alternative solution to trial.

If you'd like to know about what your child is learning this term, please take a look at the curriculum tab on our website as there is lots of information. We do tweak and update these plans and we will upload any changes onto the website as soon as they are agreed.

I hope you have a great weekend.

Nick

Snacks and Packed lunch reminder

Please remember to send your child/ren in each school day with a healthy snack (fruit/vegetable—dried or fresh) for your child to have at the afternoon breaktime in EYFS and KS1 and in the morning in KS2. EYFS and KS1 are provided with a fruit or vegetable snack in the morning as part of the Government's School Fruit and Vegetable scheme.

Please also remember that we are a nut free school, so please do not include any nuts or nut based items (like spreads or dips) in your child/ren's lunch boxes. Some of you may be aware that in the past we have had a child with a sesame allergy in the school. The child has now left so at the moment, please feel free to include Hummous in packed lunches.

Bank MSA Vacancy

If you would be interested in being a casual lunchtime supervisor at Vallis, please pop in or contact the School Office by phone or email.

Runtober

Our Parent Governor, Holly Lawton, is organising the following fundraiser:



RUNTOBER

**RUN 100K IN OCTOBER
FOR VALLIS SCHOOL**

Sign up to run 100k at your own pace over the month of October. Join Team Vallis to help raise money for new outdoor play equipment.

SIGN UP TODAY

**If you are interested please email
Office@vallisfirstschool.org.uk**

The poster features a dark green background with white silhouettes of three runners. One runner is in the foreground, another is slightly behind, and a third is further back with arms raised in celebration. A yellow starburst graphic contains the text 'SIGN UP TODAY'. The text is in various colors: yellow for the main title and starburst, and white for the sub-headline and contact information.

Spare Underwear plea

If you have any spare, clean, boys pants and socks that you could donate to the EYFS team (so sizes Age 3 to Age 5) please drop them into the school office or straight to the EYFS classrooms.

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 is open now 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/>

Middle School Open Days

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

Oakfield Academy are holding their Open Day on Thursday 21st September with daytime tours by appointment at 9:15am and 11:30am and an Open Evening from 6pm to 7:30pm. To book a tour you can call 01373 462539.



Let your light shine before others"
Matthew 5 v16



OPEN DAY & EVENING
Selwood Academy

TUESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2023

Open Evening: from 5.00pm - 7.00pm
Tours available throughout the day - and every day!
"Every Day is Open Day at Selwood"

We would like to invite prospective parents, employees, volunteers and community users to visit our wonderful school. See our pupils and staff at work, speak to staff and trustees, view our grounds and check out our resources and spaces available to hire.

Join our remarkable, thriving school and let us show you why you should be part of a community dedicated to letting your light shine before others.

Selwood Academy Berkley Road, Frome, BA11 2EF
Tel: 01373 462798
Email: selwoodacademy@selwood-academy.co.uk
www.selwood-somerset.sch.uk

Facebook icon | Twitter icon

Wisdom • Hope • Community • Joy



**OAKFIELD ACADEMY**
Let us inspire and challenge

Our core purpose is to inspire all pupils to believe in their abilities and to achieve their highest level.



Open Day / Evening 2023
Thursday 21st September 2023

Daytime Tours: 9.15am & 11.30am (by appointment)
Open Evening: 6.00pm—7.30pm
Head's Presentation: 6.00pm

T: 01373 462539
E: oakfield@oakfieldacademy.co.uk

Gold Trophy at the Frome In Bloom awards!

We are thrilled that once again the hard work and dedication of Mrs Lucey, Mrs Boorer and the Forest School team, as well as all the children who attend Forest School regularly, has been rewarded by winning Gold at this year's Frome In Bloom Awards. At the awards evening on 2nd September, members of the team were presented with The Stickley Star trophy and Gold Certificate, recognizing how beautiful our Forest School area is as a "Natural or Wildlife Garden for children up to 12 years". Congratulations to everyone involved. Mrs Lucey has already declared this year to be the year of the allotment, so fingers crossed for the 2024 awards!



VSA News

The VSA Committee held their first meeting of the year on Wednesday and have started planning this year's fundraising events.

Important dates for this half term are:

- ◆ Friday 29th September: Mufti day - donations of wine, chocolates and smellies for the tombola stall at the...
- ◆ ...Family Fun afternoon on Friday 6th October from 3pm to 5pm
- ◆ Friday 20th October: Pumpkin trail—a family trail in the local area.

Look out for more details in a future newsletter, as well as letters for this year's Hundred Club.

Thank you for your continued support.

Dates for your Diary

- ◆ 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
- ◆ Friday 6th October—School Photos
- ◆ Tuesday 10th October—Harvest Celebration @ 9:30am at Holy Trinity Church
- ◆ Tuesday 17th October—SEN Coffee Morning
- ◆ HALF TERM—Monday 23rd October to Friday 27th October

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](#).

Local Community News



Ride Kids Ride...

TO BE HELD AT THE OLD SHOWFIELD, FROME
Sunday 17th September 12:30–3:30

Children, come along with friends and family to see how many laps you can achieve in 30 minutes!

... ride your BICYCLES, SCOOTERS or SKATEBOARDS!!

Parents must be responsible for children's safety

There will be laps in two distances round the showfield

- shorter - around the football field - suitable for primary school age
- longer - around the whole field (4 laps is 5K) - suitable for middle school age

FREE Raffle, a chance to win
A BIKE AND HELMET
plus one year's maintenance

£2 Entry Fee

Every participant will receive a medal!

BBQ and refreshments

Event organised by the Lions Club of Frome.
See website for further details



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Discover the secrets to healthy family relationships and wellbeing

New online learning for all Somerset residents worth **£100**

- **Baby on the way?** Manage your emotional and physical health and build strong bonds with your baby
- **Parents, grandparents and caregivers:** learn more about your amazing child and what makes them tick
- **Teenagers:** learn about your wonderfully complex mind and emotions

This free service is commissioned by Connect Somerset, a partnership between Somerset Council, Somerset NHS, Early Years settings, Schools, Colleges and the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprises.

Connect Somerset inourplace UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD'S SOLIWEILL APPROACH



3 easy steps to start your learning journey now:

- Use the QR code on your phone, or go to: bit.ly/LearnForLove
- Enter code **'dragon'**
- Choose your topics for learning – as many as you like!

Respecting your privacy: All you need to access the courses is an email to log in and track progress. We don't use this email address for anything else and we don't share it with anyone.