

VALLIS FIRST SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

5th January 2024



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Dates for your Diary

Next week

- ◆ Friday 12th January—Feel Good Friday—Eagle Class

Looking ahead

- ◆ Monday 15th January— Primary and Middle School application submission deadline for current Nursery and Year 4 children
- ◆ Tuesday 6th February—Safer Internet Day
- ◆ Monday 12th February to Friday 16th February—Half Term
- ◆ Wednesday 28th February—Headteacher's Afternoon Tea @2:15pm
- ◆ Thursday 14th March—whole school Science Morning
- ◆ Tuesday 19th and Thursday 21st March—Spring term Parent/Teacher meetings

Our planned TD Days for the remainder of this academic year are 15th April 2024 and Monday 3rd June 2024. For term dates please see the [Somerset Council website](#).

Message from our Headteacher

Welcome back to a new term and a new year. I hope you all had a great Christmas break with your families and you are all looking forward to the year ahead.

Although it has been a short week this week, we have been very busy in school. The Nest, which is where our nurture groups learn and also some 1:1 interventions take place, has been moved to Kingfisher classroom (the old Jupiter). The space is bigger and far more suitable for the children and as they settle in there, we hope to develop it further.

There are a number of things that we are working on at the moment in school which I would like to tell you about:

- The office is in the process of setting up parent pay which is an electronic payment system meaning that there is an alternative to cash. The team are just going through the onboarding and training process and then will be in touch as soon as possible with details to help you set up your parent accounts.
- We also met with representatives from Cosmic Monkey in the week before Christmas and by the end of January they will be our preferred supplier for all our logo uniform items, as well as a one stop shop for non branded items like PE kit. Cosmic Monkey is a local company who work with many of the schools in the town already and offer the chance for you to pick up uniform all year round, including during the school holidays. Once they are set up in terms of our page on their website we will send out more information.
- Those of you who have had children at the school for a couple of years will know that we carry out a review of the data we hold for children each academic year to make sure it is correct and current— information like emergency contact names, numbers, addresses etc. Previously we have sent home paper copies of the data but this year we will be trialling the SIMS Parent App Lite to do this (this is a free add-on to our internal people management system which some of you may have had experience of through the Middle Schools). Again, this will involve setting you up with a parent account on the SIMS App, but in terms of data security and reducing the amount of paper we use, as well as making the process more efficient, we feel this will be a positive step forward. The ladies in the office will be in touch with information on how to sign up to the app once all the setting up is complete.
- For some time, we have been looking into a class communication system along the lines of ClassDojo which some of you may be familiar with. There are a lot of options out there so if you have had experience of any systems - good or bad - please let the office know so we can try and make an informed decision on the best one for Vallis.

Along with the VSA, I am looking into further developing the outside area of the school with possible new equipment. If you have any thoughts or ideas as to what you think would work well, please let the school or a member of the VSA know.

We have another busy term ahead of us but as always, if there is anything you are not sure about, ideas you would like to suggest or any concerns/queries, please let the office know.

Have a great weekend.

Nick

Materials needed for Art Project

This term the children will be taking part in an art project to make felted birds for each of our classrooms with a local artist. If anyone has any bamboo sushi mats or bamboo blinds that they no longer use, or any bubble wrap that you are looking to recycle please pop it into the office when you are next passing.

VSA News

EYFS Teddy Bear Movie and Snacks event



The VSA have lots of events planned for this term starting with a Teddy Bear's picnic and movie for EYFS children (Wren and Firecrest) on Thursday 18th January from 3pm to 4:30pm in the Old Apollo classroom. You do not need to pick up the children at 3pm as we will pick up them up and take them to the room. It will cost £3 per child and a snack and drink will be provided. All the money will go to Wren and Firecrest classes to spend on extra toys and treats.

Unwanted Christmas gifts?

We are always collecting items for our raffle hampers and tombolas, so if you have any unwanted gifts including toiletries, toys etc or any goodies like alcohol and chocolate that have a longer use by date that you are able to donate, please bring to the school office.

Feel Good Friday

The first Feel Good Friday will be next Friday (12th January). It is the turn of Eagle Class. The children can wear their own clothes in return for a donations to the class pot for extra treats and goodies.

Secondhand Uniform Sale

We will be holding our first one of the year on Friday 12th January from 2:45pm in the Key Stage 2 playground (weather permitting!). If you can't make the sale but need some items please email vallisvsa@gmail.com with what you need and we will get back to you.

VSA Committee Meeting

Our next meeting will be at 3pm next Tuesday (9th January) in the library. It should last for about an hour and there will be childcare provided. If you have time to get involved and help at any of our events please do come along.

School admissions deadline

Remember, if you have children due to start first school this coming September or move up to one of the Middle Schools, the deadline for submitting the application form is Monday 15th January. For more information on the process, please see the Somerset Council Website under School Admissions.