

# VALLIS FIRST SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

8th March 2024

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Dates for your Diary

Next week

- ◆ Thursday 14th March—Whole school Science Morning

Looking ahead

- ◆ Tuesday 19th and Thursday 21st March—Spring term Parent/Teacher meetings
- ◆ Tuesday 26th March - Osmington Bay Parent Information Session, Buzzard Classroom, 3pm
- ◆ Thursday 28th March—Last Day of Term
- ◆ Friday 29th March—Sunday 14th April—EASTER HOLIDAYS
- ◆ Monday 15th April—INSET Day
- ◆ Tuesday 16th April—Back to School
- ◆ Monday 22nd April—Wednesday 24th April - Year 4 Osmington Bay Residential trip

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

School Uniform

To order uniform please go to the Cosmic Monkey website, click on Schoolwear and scroll down to our Vallis logo. You can get items delivered to your home or to the school, or collect from the Cosmic Monkey premises on the Frome Flyer estate.



## Message from our Headteacher

It has been a busy few weeks in school. Last week, KS1 visited the Hunting Raven bookshop in town to meet an author and they also received an exciting visitor in class related to their topic. The visit to the bookshop was linked with our celebration of world book day yesterday where the children met author Moesha Kellaway and witnessed the creation of a window display for her new book, "Slug Life." It was great to see all the children dressed as a word and trying to guess what they could be. During an assembly in the afternoon, we also listened to some well known authors talk about their favourite books and places they like to read.

As part of the world book day events, we have been running two competitions - thank you to all of you who entered. Winners to be announced soon.

We are looking forward to our science morning next Thursday - all the children will be mixed up so every teacher has a group made up of children from all the year groups. They will all be doing four different experiments based around the theme of colour.

In this week's newsletter, there is some information from Io Fox, SENCO, about Somerset guidance called Graduated Response. There is a lot of great information and links to support you if you have any concerns about your child. Please have a read and if there is anything you are not sure about, please pop in and ask us.

Just a reminder - at Vallis, children should not be bringing in toys from home or trading cards like Pokémon or football ones. Could you please remind your children regarding this as we are seeing an increase of these in school and occasionally children are getting upset, particularly with the trading and swapping of cards. Thanks in advance for your help with this.

I hope you all have a great weekend.

Nick

## Spring Parent/Teacher meetings

Our Spring Term Parent/Teacher meetings will be taking place on the evenings of Tuesday 19th and Thursday 21st March. Please go to our School Cloud account to book your ten minute slot which is on a first come, first served basis. If you meet with your child's teacher as part of the APDR meetings, please speak to the teacher before booking a slot. Mrs Blundell will be at the meetings for Wren Class on the Tuesday and we have released slots for Goldfinch Class but we may have to reschedule these depending on possible sickness absence.

The link for School Cloud is on the information sheet at the end of this newsletter.

## Dropping off

As we are now over halfway through the year, those of you who have had children with us since before Covid will know that at this point we try to encourage the children to be dropped off without parents/carers coming into the building. From Monday 11th March, it would be great if you could encourage your child/ren to come in on their own via the following doors:

- EYFS—their classroom door
- KS1—the old EYFS entrance at the Griffin end of the building
- KS2—the main middle door

A member of the KS1 and KS2 team will be on the door to take any queries or information that you would like to feedback to class teachers. Thank you for your help with this.

## Graduated Response

Over the past twelve months or so, we have been working on our strategy and procedures regarding the way we work with our Special Educational Needs (SEN) children. Io Fox, our school SENCO (Special Educational Needs Coordinator) has been working with the local authority and staff in school in relation to a tool called the Somerset Graduated Response Tool (SGRT).

The SGRT sets out the barriers to learning that children and young people may have and the strategies and provisions that could be in place to support them. Somerset's Graduated Response Tool has been created to support all users to understand the Graduated Response to Special Educational Needs in the context of current legislation. The document makes it clear 'what to expect' in terms of what is provided and is written for parent/carers, children and young people, school staff and those who provide services to families.

The tool sets out the provision that is ordinarily available in Somerset schools at both the Universal and Special Educational Needs (SEN) Support levels. The following link will take you to Somerset Council's web page where there is lots of information.

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/children-families-and-education/the-local-offer/education/graduated-response-tool/>

As always, if you have any concerns regarding your child, the best person to speak to first is the class teacher who will be able to guide you and discuss suggestions and strategies to support your child both in school and at home.

Mrs Fox will also be holding a SEN Coffee Morning on Wednesday 20th March at 9am to talk to any interested parents/carers about the tool.

## Parent Pay update

You should have received your activation letter on Monday to set up your ParentPay account with us. Please activate this as soon as possible as next week we will be coming out with the new Lunch menu for the Summer Term and your child's choices for lunch and payment will all be through the ParentPay meal manager system.

## Car Park/ing Update

Please continue to be safe and considerate when parking for drop off and pick up and remember to use the pavements when walking to and from the School. We are arranging a meeting with Somerset Highways and the Road Safety Team to look at what we can do to our access road and car park to try and improve the flow of pedestrians and cars in the area. Please also be mindful of our neighbours and do not block driveways, turning areas or park in private parking spaces even if you think you will only be a few minutes. The traffic wardens patrol regularly and will issue fines for any illegal parking .

## Osmington Bay

Just a few reminders for all parents/carers of Year 4 children going on the Osmington Bay residential on 22nd April to 24th April:

- Any outstanding balance is due by the end of this term. Please use ParentPay to pay this;
- Please complete the medical form that was emailed home last week by 22nd March.
- Miss Harrington is holding a Parent Information session on Tuesday 26th March in Buzzard classroom at 3pm to answer any questions you may have about the trip.

## World Book Day 2024

We had a great day yesterday celebrating World Book Day. Wilfie in Year 4 said “Everybody had amazing costumes and I really enjoyed the trip to the library. We visited the library in the town centre to look at the books and read together as a class.”

Thank you to everyone who dressed as a word, here are just a few costumes from the day from the day...



## VSA News

### Easter Raffle

We will be outside the school selling raffle tickets from on Monday and Friday until the last day of term—we have some fantastic hampers for you to win—see our VSA Facebook page for pictures!

### Easter Egg Trail

On Thursday 28th March between 3pm and 4:30pm we are holding an Easter Egg trail. Maps and entry forms are available from the School Office and cost £3.00 per child. Work out the Easter phrase by finding the eggs with the letters on them and come back to the school to claim your yummy treat.

### Treasurer Vacancy

The VSA are looking for a new Treasurer. This is an exciting opportunity for anyone who has some business acumen and a great sense of community. You will be supported by the wider team and can get involved with all aspects of the VSA events. For more information drop Hannah a line at

[vallisvsa@gmail.com](mailto:vallisvsa@gmail.com)

# CREATIVE MAKERS



Great news! Creative Makers is running art camp for children aged 5-10 during the at Avanti park school. The sessions will be run by a qualified and experienced Art and Design teacher.



Over the sessions, students will explore the work of various artists and create works that are inspired by them. They will also work in groups and use a range of materials to create paintings, prints, sculptures and large installations pieces. At the end of each day, all students will have creative work to take home. Each day is a fresh project, so you can attend one or all days and still have a unique experience.

All materials needed for the Art camp will be provided.

The camp will run from 9am -3pm each day



Places are limited, it is recommend that you sign up as soon as possible by heading to [creative-makers.co.uk](http://creative-makers.co.uk)

The art camp is a great opportunity for your child to explore their creative side and fun during the holidays



Dates: 2nd and 3rd April





# FAMILY EVENTS

## SAT 16TH MARCH

**Kindness Festival Market Stall** 9-3pm People's Market  
**Skip, Swing and Stitch** 10-12, Victoria Park  
**Frome Town Band** 1-1.45pm, Boyle Cross  
**Tea Dance for Young & Old:** 1-3pm, Rook Lane Chapel

## SUN 17TH MARCH

**Kindness Assembly for Families** 2-3.30pm, Bennett Centre  
**Keys to Kindness: A Children's Piano Concert** 2.30-3.30pm, Christchurch

## MON 18TH MARCH

**Babies and Children Clothes Exchange** 9.30-11am, Wesley Methodist Church

## THURS 21ST MARCH

**Afterschool Toy Swap** 2-4.30pm, Silk Mill

## FRI 22ND MARCH

**Scallop Shells Children's Choir: Songs of Kindness** 4.30-5.15pm Christchurch  
**Festival Wrap-Up with Frome Street Bandits** 6-9pm, Kind Bank

**ALL WEEK!** **Kindness Storytime** Mon-Fri 4pm, Frome Library  
**Visit Kind Bank** By the Boyle Cross, 10 - 4pm daily

ALL EVENTS FREE OR BY DONATION

BOOK TICKETS AT [WWW.THEGOODHEART.UK](http://WWW.THEGOODHEART.UK)



Browse to <https://vallisfirst.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

## Step 1: Login

Fill out the details on the page then click the *Log In* button.

A confirmation of your appointments will be sent to the email address you provide.

## Step 2: Select Parents' Evening

Click on the date you wish to book.

Unable to make all of the dates listed? Click *I'm unable to attend*.

## Step 3: Select Booking Mode

Choose *Automatic* if you'd like the system to suggest the shortest possible appointment schedule based on the times you're available to attend. To pick the times to book with each teacher, choose *Manual*. Then press *Next*.

We recommend choosing the automatic booking mode when browsing on a mobile device.

## Step 4: Select Availability

Drag the sliders at the top of the screen to indicate the earliest and latest you can attend.

## Step 5: Choose Teachers

Select the teachers you'd like to book appointments with. A green tick indicates they're selected. To de-select, click on their name.

Teacher	Student	Subject	Room
17:10 Mr J Sinclair	Ben	English	E9
17:23 Mrs D Mansford	Ben	Mathematics	M2
17:43 Dr R Morreanta	Andrew	French	L4

## Step 6: Book Appointments (Automatic)

If you chose the automatic booking mode, you'll see provisional appointments which are held for 2 minutes. To keep them, choose *Accept* at the bottom left.

If it wasn't possible to book every selected teacher during the times you are able to attend, you can either adjust the teachers you wish to meet with and try again, or switch to manual booking mode.

	Mr J Brown SENCO (A2) Ben	Miss B Patel Class 10E (H5) Andrew	Mrs A Wheeler Class 11A (L1) Ben
16:30			
16:40			
16:50			
17:00			

## Step 7: Book Appointments

Click any of the green cells to make an appointment. Blue cells signify where you already have an appointment. Grey cells are unavailable.

To change an appointment, delete the original by hovering over the blue box and clicking *Delete*. Then choose an alternate time.

You can optionally leave a message for the teacher to say what you'd like to discuss, or raise anything beforehand.

Once you're finished booking all appointments, at the top of the page in the alert box, press *click here* to finish the booking process.

September Parents Evening			Tuesday, 14th September
2 appointments from 16:15 to 16:45			In-person
<a href="#">Print</a> <a href="#">Amend bookings</a> <a href="#">Subscribe to Calendar</a>			
This is to allow parents and teachers to discuss progress and will take place on 13th and 14th September. Note that on the 13th there will be sessions available both in-person and via video call.			
Teacher	Student	Subject	
16:15	Mr Mark Lubbock	Jason Aaron	English
16:30	Miss Bina Patel	Jason Aaron	Religious Education
September Parents Evening 2 appointments from 15:00 to 15:45			Monday, 13th September
			In-person
September Parents Evening 2 appointments from 15:00 to 15:45			Monday, 13th September
			In-person

## Step 8: Finished

All your bookings now appear on the My Bookings page. An email confirmation has been sent and you can also print appointments by pressing *Print*. Click *Subscribe to Calendar* to add these and any future bookings to your calendar.

To change your appointments, click on *Amend Bookings*.