



The Vale Primary School

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Friday 12th January 2018

Inspiring All

Happy new year 2017 and welcome back to school after the holidays.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Every accomplishment starts with the decision to try

NEW YEAR, NEW TEAM, NEW CHALLENGES, NEW OPPORTUNITIES!

It gives me great pleasure as we begin this new calendar year and new beginning to introduce myself in my new appointed role as your new Co-Headteacher. Working alongside Mrs Leyland and the rest of the team, I look forward to the coming months and years ahead. Together, I have great confidence that we can maintain and build upon the successes of the school to date and strive for excellence as part of our continuing journey.

I look forward to meeting you all individually in my new role and know that through great collaboration and high expectations we will be a place where we 'Inspire All'!

Mrs Cathy Browne

MATHS WEEK – 'BUILDING OUR MATHS!'

We have had a superb first week back with a variety of exciting, enriching and challenging maths activities and investigations. The week started with the whole school investigating how large the giant must have been who left the footprint in the playground! Building upon that we have had maths trails using the whole school environment; class investigations; and exploration of maths found in other areas of the curriculum. The children across

the school have linked their maths and art to create some wonderful display work. We had an excellent enrichment day learning about 2D and 3D shapes and using nets led by Matthew Donald using Magformers. More information about this resource can be found at: <https://magformers.co.uk/>. An Interhouse Maths Challenge with a special 'beat the teacher' round was held for the Juniors with eight teams competing. The winning house overall for this was Shergar who were represented by Harley, Oliver, Isabella, Cameron, Casius, Scarlett, Vincent, Aidan, Harry and Finton. A big well done to all those who participated. Many thanks also to parents, Governors and former pupils who have come in to talk about maths in their lives and supported the events of the week, as well as the staff who have put much time and thought into planning engaging and challenging activities.



MATHS PARENTAL WORKSHOP

We will be holding a maths information session on **Wednesday 24th January 5.30pm – 7pm**. We will begin in the hall with an overview of whole school changes to how maths is taught at the Vale, followed by workshops led by class teachers in classrooms that are age group specific and outline the progression in calculations; the use of concrete resources, pictorial representations and abstract methods; and illustrate an overview of the expectations in maths for each year group. There will be a crèche available for younger siblings in the school library. Please do support us in helping you support your children.



POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

This week we have introduced some new positive behaviour expectations about conducting ourselves around school. Your children may come home talking about the smart 'Vale walk' to assembly – you could ask them to demonstrate!

We have also introduced 'Recognition' boards in each class. This is a collaborative approach to demonstrating learning behaviours. The class will have a target behaviour that is being worked on and 'looked for' by the teacher e.g. To take turns and have one voice sharing ideas in a group at a time. The aim is that each child in the class will have their name written up on the board when they have demonstrated this positive behaviour. The whole class can feel proud when each child's name has been displayed. The targets will be changed frequently.

HEADTEACHER'S HOT CHOCOLATE!

As a school we would like to recognise further those children who go above and beyond the expected, by introducing the Headteacher's Friday Hot Chocolate. This will be a reward for one child in each class weekly who has been recognised for being an excellent role model. Class teachers will decide on a weekly basis who this will be and those pupils will be invited to enjoy a Hot Chocolate and a chat with Mrs Browne after playtime on a Friday morning.

UNIFORM

With the beginning of the new term, please ensure your children have the correct uniform for school. It is important that the children wear school shoes and have smart presentation to show their readiness for learning.

MOBILE PHONES

It has come to our attention and we are concerned that some children are sending inappropriate messages. In accordance with our e-safety policy and the agreement that both parent and child have signed please ensure that messages are suitable and age related. Thank you.

E-SAFETY

Safer Internet Day has the theme this year of 'Create, Connect & Share Respect: A better Internet starts with you' and is later in the half term on Tuesday 6th February. There are a huge number of apps available that enable children to talk to other people – be that friends or strangers. Many of these apps have age ratings but it is very easy for children to get around this. Below are some of the more common social media sites/apps and their age restrictions. Whilst adhering to age restrictions is very important, it is also worth noting that many children will disregard these. It is very important that you open lines of communication where your child doesn't fear talking to you about any problems they may encounter.

Age Restrictions On Social Media					
13	14	16	17	18	18
Twitter Facebook Instagram Pinterest Google+ Tumblr Reddit Snapchat	LinkedIn	WhatsApp	Vine Tinder	Path	(13 with parents consent) YouTube Keep Foursquare WeChat Kik Flickr

CLUBS

The teacher led clubs information has been distributed this week. These commence the week beginning 15th January. To enable the clubs to start early in the term you will not be notified unless your child hasn't been allocated a place in their chosen club.

HOUSE SYSTEM

At The Vale we have a house system which supports groupings and rewards in school. Siblings are placed in the same house as one another. Our Power Gem rewards count towards house points. A girl and a boy from Voyager class is voted as a House Captain each September. We use the house system for mixed playtimes, art sessions and sports day. Each of the four houses is named after a Derby winner. **The winners for last half term were Hyperion and they have earned a mufti day on Thursday 18th January.**



HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR CHILDREN AT HOME

TIMES TABLES

Please keep practising! Children need to know their times tables with rapid recall by the end of year 4, which supports division, fractions and decimals work for example.

MATHS PROBLEM OF THE WEEK

How many interesting ways using all 4 operations (+, -, x and divide) can you make the value:

2018

SPELLING STRATEGY

Practise your spellings by building pyramids:

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Vegetabl
Vegetable

ATTENDANCE

Our weekly attendance figures are listed here, we do aim for children to have a 100% attendance. We are grateful to all our families who see that school is an important place and ensure that appointments and holidays are taken out of term time.

Week beginning 8th January:

Sun Class	97.60%
Moon Class	90.45%
Star Class	97.33%
Eclipse Class	96.25%
Solar Class	97.92%
Comet Class	98.52%
Apollo Class	94.80%
Voyager Class	92.07%

The attendance figures for the last half term are

Sun Class	95.63%
Moon Class	94.85%
Star Class	93.73%
Eclipse Class	92.60%
Solar Class	94.79%
Comet Class	94.35%

Apollo Class	95.37%
Voyager Class	94.69%

SOCK PUPPETS!

Year 3 and 4 are putting out a plea for anyone who can help them by donating clean socks (can be ODD!) for the children to use to make Sock puppets to begin their 'Lights, Camera, Action' Topic this half term. Please do leave with the office – I know the staff will be very grateful.

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

Our Open Morning for prospective parents have now taken place for children who will start school in Reception from September 2018. If you or someone you know would still like to visit our school, please contact the office who will arrange a small group tour. The Surrey information about the application process is accessed online at: www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/school-admissions/apply-for-a-school-place. **All applications must be sent by 15th January 2018.**

FACEBOOK PAGE

Please follow and like our Facebook Page. Search for 'The Vale Primary School' and our icon is our woodpecker logo, with a white background.

HALL HIRE

Our hall is available for hire over the weekend. It makes a great venue for parties from £12 per hour plus a £6 insurance charge. There is a minimum hire of 3 hours, for example a half hour set up, 2-hour party and half hour clear up. Please contact Mrs Potter if you are interested.

LETTERS THIS WEEK

<u>Parentmail</u>	<u>Hardcopy</u>
Data Letter	



COMMUNITY NEWS

Thursday 15th February

Epsom & Ewell's Rainbow Group – A group for children from 0-5yrs with additional needs will be held at St Martin's Sure Start Children's Centre. Please see the attached flyer along with the current timetable of other services and groups provided by the centre.

28 th March		
Thursday 29 th March	End of Term	1.30pm
SUMMER TERM		
Monday 16 th April	Start of Summer term	8.30-8.50am
Monday 28 th May – Friday 1 st June	HALF TERM	1 week
Friday 29 th June (additional date)	INSET: no school for children	Day
Friday 20 th July	End of Term	1.30pm

WRIGGLES & GIGGLES

Each Tuesday our local 'stay and play' community group meet in our school hall from 9.45am to 11.45am. It is a popular group for parents and carers for babies to pre-schoolers and open to everyone. For a small fee of just £2 for children aged over 1, £1 for children under 1 and siblings, visitors have a range of toys and activities on offer. Please spread the word and come along.

Cathy Browne and Sarah Leyland Co-Headteachers

JANUARY 2018		
Tuesday 16 th January	PTA Meeting	6.30pm
Wednesday 24 th January	Maths Parents Workshops	5.30-7pm
Wednesday 31 st January	Family Forum	2.30pm
Friday 2 nd February	PTA Infant/Junior DISCO	TBC
Wednesday 7 th February	Woodland Tree Planting for Y4,5 and 6	Morning
12 th – 16 th February	HALF TERM	1 week
Friday 2 nd March	World Book Day	Day
Monday 5 th March	Junior Citizen for Y5 & 6	Day
Tuesday 13 th March	Pedals for Y2	Morning
Wednesday 14 th March	Parents Consultations	Afternoon/Evening
Tuesday 20 th March	SATs Information Evening for Y2 and Y6 parents	6pm
Tuesday 27 th March/Wednesday	Epsom & Ewell Music Festival for Infant Choir	Evening

