

The Vale Academy

Newsletter Autumn 2016



Dear all

I cannot believe that the summer holidays (and weather) were only seven weeks ago. What a fantastically busy half term this has been.

It is always a challenging time for children (and parents) settling into a new class and routines. I am delighted to welcome our SEVENTY new Reception aged children and their parents and carers to The Vale Academy. We hope that all of your children now feel settled and are making good progress. If you do have any concerns then please speak with your child's form tutor, head of year or any member of the senior team.

Student Leadership

Myself, Mr Pearson and Mrs Veyres (governor) had the pleasure of interviewing a large number of pupils for the student leadership roles of Head pupils and Heads of Houses. Every pupil brought something exciting to the interviews and it was a challenge to make the final choice:

Head Boy and Head Girl: Keaton Herd and Harmony King

Deputy Head Boy and Girl: Oliver Bates and Ellize Mcevoy

Heads of Houses: Moriah Olatunde, McKenzie Ducker, Charlie Lauder, Levi Lambert, Louise Cox, Zeeshan Hussain, MiMi Wong and Romano Edwards

Other senior student leaders are:

Shaylah Jonson and Molly Clayton: Safeguarding Council Leads

Mia Davis and Moriah Olatunde: Teaching and Learning Leads

Jessica Hudson, Kayla Gaiger-Hurley and Kasey-Leigh Dalton: Prefects

We also have a further FIFTY children who have been voted to sit on one of the following:

School Council

Anti-bullying team

Eco-warrior team

Safeguarding Council

Teaching and Learning Council

Each of the above meet half termly and are working on ways to enhance our provision in the academy.

Parent and family member volunteers

A huge thank you to those of you who are working with our children and staff as volunteers. It does make such a difference to the progress of the individuals and groups. If you are a family member or know of someone in the community who would like to be involved with The Vale Academy please contact Jo Ratcliffe at The Vale Academy to arrange for a DBS (security) check.

Catering

As per the email sent out at the beginning of this week all of the catering at The Vale Academy will now be provided by Edwards and Blake. The price of the meals will be £2.35 and the menu is on our website.

Mrs Brotherton is leaving us this Friday. She has been a wonderful member of The Vale Team and we wish her well on her next adventure.

Joanne Gower will be working with the new catering team.

Sharnie will stay with us but in her new role as School Business Manager.

You should continue to pay for school dinners through SQUID or via Sharnie.

Have a wonderful half term and please stay safe.

Bex Howe

**Twitter: You can follow us @TSLTValeAcademy
and on Facebook**

Important Communication Notice

Please be aware that we now regularly communicate with parents/carers via e-mail rather than an actual letter sent home with your children.

It has come to our attention that sometimes our e-mails will deliver into your junk box. Please check your junk boxes regularly to ensure you are not missing important communications from us.

Please can you ensure we have a current e-mail address for you to receive information.

Also, check our website for information (all letters are posted here for your reference) and our half termly Newsletter which will outline all key dates for your diary. Key Dates are posted in the notice boards at the school entrance.

Thank you for your understanding.

Parking

This term has seen complaints from parents regarding unsafe driving and parking from others when dropping off and collecting children. This is a great concern for everyone's safety. No-one should be parking on the zig zag lines or in the red zones as per the signs on the lamp-post.

Please have consideration for our neighbours when parking at the beginning and end of the school day; unfortunately, there have been some incidents where driveways have been blocked to the residents' homes causing understandable frustration and upset.

Entrance to the school gates must be kept clear at all times for access and safety reasons.

Many thanks for your cooperation.



Any concerns or worries?

We now have Parent Drop-Ins to support you and your child

After half term we are offering Parent Drop-Ins with:

- Miss Dutton - safeguarding and social, emotional and behavioural concerns
- Mrs Howe - educational concerns.

Mrs Howe and Miss Dutton will be available Monday-Thursday 8.45-9.15.

No appointment necessary



Winners: Dunstable in Bloom Competition

Mr Hooft and the children at The Vale Academy worked tirelessly to transform the academy grounds over the past few months with a number of vibrant tyre flower beds across the site.

The creation of a fantastic transport themed main garden at the front of the academy won the Best Academy award at Dunstable In Bloom awards.



Bikeability

Well done to the 11 Year 5 and 6 pupils who completed their Level 1 & 2 Bikeability course. Congratulations also go to the 6 Year 4 children who completed their Level 1.

Halloween Disco

The Halloween Disco was a spine tingly fun time for all the children. Brilliant costumes adorned the school hall which had been transformed into a spooky venue for the ghouls, witches, skeletons and other monstrous creatures to party the afternoon away!



A super start to Year One!

This half term in Year One we have been looking at Superheroes, a topic the children have thoroughly enjoyed! As part of this topic the children have been taking part in a variety of different Superhero missions which included problem solving to save Super Meerkat and completing an assault course to save Mr Carrot and Mrs Broccoli from the evil Doctor Pepper!

Throughout the topic the children have had the chance to read a variety of superhero themed books and used these as a basis for some fantastic pieces of writing. The children really enjoyed making their own Supertato based on 'Supertato' by Sue Hendra and also got to design their own Superhero underpants based on 'Charlies Superhero Underpants' by

Paul Bright. Alongside this the children have been working on their use of adjectives and used these adjectives to describe a variety of Superheroes and Villains.

In art the children designed and made their own Superhero Cape using their initials and recycled materials and in Music they designed their own superhero and created a theme tune for them.

It has been a truly super start to Year One and we are very excited to see what the rest of the year brings!



Year of Reading

As part of our Year of Reading we have taken part in many activities across the half term.

Our first event was a celebration of Roald Dahl event, where parents came in and read Roald Dahl with their children, in our hall, which was decorated in Roald Dahl posters and huge characters that had been decorated by the classes. There was a Willy Wonka's chocolate fountain and plenty of Bruce Bogtrotter's cake for the parents and children to share.

Our next reading event is 'Sleepover at Hogwarts', where we celebrate our author of the half term, J.K. Rowling.



Star readers of the week have been given the opportunity to read with Mrs. Howe and Dennis; this has seen a large increase in readers across the school as all children are excited by the prospect of reading with Dennis.

Finally, we have been creating an interest in reading with our 'mystery reader' scheme, with Year 1 meeting Miss Chowdhary's sister, who is a nurse. She read to the children and talked to them about her job. The children absolutely loved it and cannot wait for their next 'mystery reader'.



Early Years

The EYFS has had a wonderful first half term; the children have settled well and are enjoying school life. We have been focusing on story books over this first half term, singing and acting out Gingerbread Man, Little Red Riding Hood and Goldilocks and the Three Bears. We have finished the topic with an in school production of Sleeping Beauty. M&M production came in and produced a fabulous show that both the children and staff thoroughly enjoyed



Harvest Festival

Our Harvest Festival is always a massive success due to the generosity of our wonderful parents and pupils; The Vale Nursery also made a superb contribution. An amazing display was produced in the main foyer and later collected by The Women's Refuge for distribution.

Thank you to everyone who made a donation.



World Space Week

At Vale Academy, we have been exploring space and the observation of Earth to celebrate World Space Week! Pupils from across the academy have participated in a range of activities, including making sundials, demonstrating how planets orbit the sun, as well as linking space to other subject areas by making a sports game suitable to play in zero gravity!

The week ended with our special visitor- Robin Mobbs, who works for the National Space Agency. He helped the pupils to have a greater understanding of what life would be like in space, and even dressed one of our lucky pupils up as an astronaut! He then visited each year group and showed real parts of planets! All this was to kick off an exciting new project that Vale will be taking part in for the rest of the year. We are very much looking forward to it!



Buy Books by Running

Vale Academy students put on their running shoes to raise money to buy books for the school. The children took on a unique course with determination, especially the Key Stage 1 children who ran for longer than anybody else! Money has been coming in steadily from children across the academy, with one child raising a staggering £65. It was fantastic to see everybody having a brilliant time, supporting each other and helping their friends complete the course.

Even Mrs. Howe had a go at the course, maintaining a decent pace to make sure she left Mr. Monahan trailing in her wake. The children really enjoyed seeing the teachers run the race and were very vocal in their support. Overall it was a fantastic event that showed the school at its best. Well done Vale!



The Vale Nursery

Nursery children have been very busy this half term learning about some traditional stories, The Three Little Pigs, The Gingerbread Man and Goldilocks and the Three Bears.

They have been junk modelling the pigs' houses, baking gingerbread men and enjoyed messy play with porridge.

We currently have spaces available for children age 2, 3 and 4. Please see the website page for further details or contact the nursery direct to arrange a look around! 01582 211173 or email valenursery@thesharedlearningtrust.org.uk

A Fantastic Start to the School Year – Thank You

We have had a great start to the school year with lots of exciting learning taking place. The children have settled back in really well and our new starters (both children and staff) are now very much part of The Vale.

Well done to all the children and staff for such a positive beginning as well as to all you parents/carers who provide such valuable support. We can now look forward to the next half term which is always an exciting one.

Make sure you rest over half term so you are ready for the very busy but fun-filled learning which leads up to the Christmas holidays!



Key Dates and information from independent clubs are available in separate documents sent with this newsletter.