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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.



Please do not smoke around the school gates.

Thank you



Mobile Phones



We have a no mobile phones on site policy. Could you please adhere to this policy when dropping off or collecting your child from the school premises.

Thank you for your understanding and 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

School Dinners: Reception – Year 2 Pupils:



In order for your child to receive a nutritionally balanced meal, eating the food you know they enjoy, we need you to provide their meal choices. This is to ensure we know your child is eating food that you have authorised and you can discuss in advance with your child what you have chosen for them to eat that day so they are prepared.

From Monday 9th January you will be asked to select your child's dinner choice. Information will be emailed home with the menus and you will have to send the meal choice to Sharnie by Friday 6th January. It will be a three week rolling menu which you run for the term. You will need to make the choices for the term from these menus using the form that will be supplied.

This is compulsory, if you do not wish to make these choices please send your child with a packed lunch.

Payments to the School



To ensure the safe and accurate recording of monies received, the office will no longer be taking payments of any kind. Please do not ask them to take payments as they will have to refuse. The black box in Early Years will no longer be available for posting any payments either.

If you have to pay an account of any sort please see Sharnie in the dining room between 8.35-9.00 and 2.45-3.15.

Lunches and some trips will still be available to pay on Squid; you will be advised which trips these are.

The Vale Nursery

This autumn term the nursery children have had lots to celebrate: Halloween by creating pumpkins; Diwali by making our clay divas; firework celebrations with the main school and making our own rockets. We attended the Remembrance Assembly and laid a poppy wreath, we also took part in the cross country race and had lots of fun exploring the Forest School area playing with leaves and making autumn crowns; additionally, we helped prepare Elliott the tortoise for hibernation.



We are delighted to announce that at our recent Ofsted inspection on the 1st November 2016 the nursery was grade as **OUTSTANDING**.

Please contact the nursery direct on 01582 211174 or email valenursery@thesharedlearningtrust.org.uk to enquire about places.

SMSC

Tolerance Patience Collaboration

The Vale Academy

Theme for Spring 1 is:

Caring for the Environment

*Turn the lights off
when a room is empty*

*Make sure we turn taps off
properly*

*Help to maintain the
Bug Hotel and
Allotment*

*Ensure that we
don't waste food*

*Ensure all rubbish
is in the bin*

*Look after furniture and
equipment*

Compassion

Fairness

Respect

Fundraising

We have been raising money for Keech Hospice – a charity close to many people at The Vale. Representatives from Keech delivered an assembly to the children thanking them for their efforts. We had a fabulous cake sale and we held a mufti day; everyone was asked to wear a Christmas jumper, blue or purple (Keech’s colours) and pay for the privilege to raise funds for this worthwhile charity. A staggering £388.51 has been banked.



Our Poppy Appeal raised an amazing £183.94 from the sale of poppies

Another fantastic fundraising day was held with our Macmillan Coffee morning raising £362.30



Our Sponsored Maths Challenge was accepted by the whole school and raised an incredible £1166.96 for the NSPCC. Wow!

A fantastic effort and attendance at the Christmas Fair generated a magnificent £1551.00 to support your child’s learning.

Well done and a huge thank you to everybody who has generously donated time and/or money for our worthwhile causes this term; a brilliant community response.

Apology and correction: Unfortunately, the wrong charity was named in the last news letter regarding donations from the Harvest Festival; the donations were received by the Food Bank in Dunstable.

Year 1

As part of our topic this half term we had a 'Bring a Toy to School Day'. The children all chose one toy to bring into school and shared this with the class during show and tell. The children all loved hearing about their friends different toys and asked some fantastic questions about them.

After the children and shown their toys to the class they completed a piece of descriptive writing all about their toy. The children all worked very hard on this and were really inspired to write about their toy.



During the morning we also had a toy picnic where the children sat with their toys and had a cup of squash and a chocolate crispy cake that they had made the previous day. The children all loved this special treat and it was nice to see them trying to share their picnic with their toys!

To finish the day off the children played with their toys and also watch some of Toy Story 3. The day was brilliant fun and really helped to finish off a great and very interesting topic all about toys!

Year 2 have had a fantastic term and have really enjoyed our Celebrations topic. We used the Forest School to have a campfire and sing songs just after bonfire night, and had toasted marshmallows to eat!

In the last few weeks we rehearsed hard for our Christmas performance, doing our own version of the Jolly Postman at Christmas. If you managed to come and see the show, I think you will agree that the children all did a fantastic job. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from Year 2!

Year 2





Year 5

After studying Dinosaurs for the last half term, Year 5 went to the Natural History Museum in London to discover more about the beasts that once walked our planet. Despite some traffic problems, the year group were in excellent spirits as we weaved through London, discussing which dinosaur fossils they were most excited to see. One name came up often, the T-Rex! As we walked in, we saw Dippy the Diplodocus standing proud in the centre of the hall, the children were amazed by its size! We also went hunting for the Ichthyosaurus, as that was the first discovery by Mary Anning, who we have studied in history this half term. We couldn't believe that something as big as the Ichthyosaurus could be found on our shores.

Finally, we found the T-Rex and it was a scary as we expected, we saw some fossils, but then we came across the animatronic version of it, and that moved and roared, some of the children didn't want to get too close. After we had finished with the Dinosaur section, we looked around the rest of the museum and it was fantastic to see the children so excited about history. They wanted to look at all the exhibits, especially the ones that were interactive. Overall we had a brilliant time, and the children loved the trip!



Year 6...

...have been studying Mountains, Maps and Magic this half term.

In their English lessons they have been reading *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*, where they have written instructions about how to make potions, created their own wands and written newspaper reports. To complete the topic the pupils went to The Making of Harry Potter in Watford.

All pupils and teachers had a fantastic time and where extremely well behaved, although a few did try to cast spells and turn the teachers into chocolate frogs!!!!

