



21st November 2014

Changes to the Valley School Uniform Supplier

Dear Parents/Carers

We introduced a new school uniform policy in March 2014 to smarten the appearance of our pupils following critical comments received over several years. After considerable research a decision was made to use Tesco's on-line embroidery service as the supplier of the items requiring a logo (school jumper for boys and school cardigan for girls). This decision was very much driven by pressure to keep costs as low as possible. At that time ties, book bags and PE bags were to continue to be supplied by Bromley Schoolwear.

Unfortunately both Tesco and Bromley Schoolwear have let us down. Both have been unable to supply the items they were asked to, and, in the case of Tesco in particular, we have been disappointed with the durability of the jumpers and cardigans even after this short time of use. There is also little prospect of improvement in the service. We are therefore discontinuing our accounts with both Tesco and Bromley Schoolwear.

However, after much research, we have found an independent and local company who will supply better quality items with a service level tailored to our school's requirements. They have much better supply arrangements too.

Graduates Schoolwear, based in Orpington High Street, will offer you the following services and you are free to choose the one that best suits you. You can:

- Visit their shop.
- Order online and have items delivered to your door.
- Complete an order form (available from the school office or you will be able to download one from our school website) and have your order delivered free of charge to the school.
- Buy and/or order items from their stall at our Christmas Fair on 6th December or from their 'pop up shops' which we will host in school throughout the year.



CARE – LEARN
AIM HIGH – BE HONEST
WORK TOGETHER – ENJOY WHAT WE DO
LOOK AFTER WHAT WE HAVE – IMPROVE ON PREVIOUS BEST



A copy of the school uniform list is attached as a reminder – the only difference we are introducing now is the change of supplier for the only compulsory logo'd item – the jumper/cardigan.

Our preference is for children to have a Book Bag and PE Bag with a school logo and these will also be available from Graduates. School ties will continue to be sold through the school office or may be ordered from Graduates. All other items may be purchased at any High Street, supermarket or on-line store.

The quality of the school jumpers and cardigans we have selected are superior to the ones offered by Tesco. They are a 50:50 mix of cotton and acrylic, ensuring they are more durable, warmer, keep their shape better and fade less with washing. They are unfortunately more expensive than Tesco's but we believe they will prove to be better value for money overall. Better durability will also mean that there will be availability of good quality second hand items available for purchase going forward.

Those children who already have Tesco items should of course continue to wear them until such time as they are outgrown or need to be replaced.

Our original date for full compliance of the new uniform policy was the start of the Spring term 2015. There will be a little leeway with jumpers and cardigans to reflect the problem that Tesco has created. Every child should, however, be wearing a school logo'd jumper or cardigan by the second half of the Spring term.


At this time, we would like to remind everyone of the importance of labeling school uniform items, and any other belongings brought into school, so that we don't have piles of unnamed items to find their owners. Sew-in or iron-on name tags are recommended, or failing that a permanent marker pen could of course be used. Your co-operation in encouraging Valley students to take responsibility for their belongings would be greatly appreciated.

As before, if any parents are in financial difficulties and have problems in purchasing school uniform items for their children, they may contact the school office in confidence.

Yours sincerely



Mr John Brown
Headteacher



Mr William Mitchell
Chair of Governors

VALLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

School Uniform from September 2014

Girls

Dark grey pinafore (KS1), skirt or trousers (KS2)

White polo shirt (Reception classes only)

White buttoned shirt (KS1 & KS2)

School tie (elasticated or normal, from Year 1)

Navy blue cardigan (all year groups with school logo)

White socks or dark grey tights

Black shoes

Summer dress – navy & white gingham

Boys

Dark grey trousers / shorts

White polo shirt (Reception classes only)

White buttoned shirt (KS1 & KS2)

School tie (elasticated or normal from Year 1)

Navy blue V-neck jumper (all year groups with school)

Grey socks

Black shoes

PE

Navy blue shorts

Plain white round-neck T-shirt

Plain navy blue sweatshirt & jogging pants