



# Valley Views



## BYMT Visit

Last Friday afternoon, pupils in Key Stage 2 were lucky enough to be entertained by a small group of musicians from Bromley Youth Music Trust. The pupils enjoyed a selection of both old and new songs, learnt more about the instruments in a wind band and some even assisted with the percussion line in one of the upbeat numbers. As a school we extend our congratulations to the Senior Concert Band of BYMT who achieved a silver medal in an international music festival in Holland at the beginning of the summer holidays.

The new school year is now well and truly under way. Yesterday, we welcomed our newest members of the school community as the Reception classes began to settle in to 'Big School'. I extend a warm Valley welcome to all new Reception parents as well as pupils and their families who have joined the school in other year groups. All new parents to the school are invited to come along to the PTA Coffee Morning on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September. The autumn term is set to be a busy one and the PTA have already communicated the dates for their events for the term. I cannot stress enough the importance of supporting the PTA throughout the year and I urge you all to play your part in helping to raise essential funds to offer those added extras for all of our pupils. As the summer building work nears its completion, I would like to thank all those parents who have offered such positive feedback regarding the improvements that have been made to the school environment – your comments are very much appreciated.

## Dates for the Diary

**September 22nd**  
Sponsored Walk-a-  
Thon to raise  
money for our  
Crossing Patrol

**September 26th**  
Meet the Teacher  
at 3.50pm &  
4.30pm

**October 13th**  
World Food  
Festival.  
Main Hall at  
3.30pm

## Valley Care Club Manager

After the recent recruitment process for Care Club Manager, I am delighted to announce that Miss Karen Griffiths has been appointed to this role. Miss Griffiths is a past parent of the school and joins the team at Valley from Harris Academy Kent House. Miss Griffiths starts with us on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> September and I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of the Care Club team for the excellent work they have done in the absence of a manager during the last academic year.



## Outstanding Success

Ofsted inspected the Topmark Sports holiday club at the beginning of August and I am pleased to inform you that the club was graded Outstanding in all areas. Many congratulations go to Mr. Hyland and his team of coaches.



## CSAT MAT Update

By now, many of you will be aware the decision was taken to join Connect Schools Academy Trust (CSAT). Originally, we had hoped for a September 1<sup>st</sup> conversion but, due to the purdah period during the General Election, the conversion date has now been delayed. The school's application to join CSAT goes before the Department for Education's Headteacher Board on the 5<sup>th</sup> October and, once approved, the legal process will begin. We are now aiming for formal conversion by Christmas. Despite this delay, Valley is now working jointly with all the schools in the trust on many aspects of school improvement.



## New Staff at Valley

We also welcomed many new members of staff to the Valley Team last week. Miss Nicholson joins the Reception staff as Sparrows Class Teacher. Miss Twyman joins us in Year 3, Miss Wilson is the Class Teacher in 5JW, Miss Ali joins the Year 6 teaching team and Mrs Harvey has joined the Administrative Team. I'm sure you will join me in helping all of our new members of staff settle in well.

## E-Safety

Many of our students use online messaging services such as WhatsApp and Instagram messenger to talk to each other away from school. The age restrictions for these services are 16 and 13 years old respectively, but lots of primary school parents are happy for their children to use them. Whilst the large majority of Valley pupils use these apps responsibly, a growing number of reports have been made by pupils who have experienced bullying by their peers. Talking to your child – openly, and regularly – is the best way to help keep them safe online. For more information on how to have a conversation with your child about what they do online, please visit the NSPCC website.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/talking-your-child-staying-safe-online/>

## Key Autumn Term Dates

### September

26<sup>th</sup> – Meet the Teacher Event at 3.50pm and 4.30pm

28<sup>th</sup> – PTA AGM at 2.45pm

### October

11<sup>th</sup> – Harvest Assemblies 9.30am for KS1 & 2.30pm for KS2

13<sup>th</sup> – World Food Festival

31<sup>st</sup> – Secondary School Application Deadline

### November

10<sup>th</sup> – PTA Discos 5.30 & 6.45pm

14<sup>th</sup> – Parent Teacher Consultations 3.50pm – 7.00pm

16<sup>th</sup> – Parent Teacher Consultations 3.50pm – 6.00pm

### December

2<sup>nd</sup> – PTA Christmas Fair

8<sup>th</sup> – Key Stage 2 Carol Service at 2pm

14<sup>th</sup> – Key Stage 1 Christmas Celebration at 9.30am & 2.00pm

15<sup>th</sup> – Reception Christmas Celebration



## Polite Reminder

Parents are kindly reminded that any change to their child's collection arrangements should be communicated to the Class Teacher first thing in the morning. It is also extremely helpful that the children themselves know exactly who is picking them up at the end of the school day. All PE kit and kit required for extra-curricular clubs should arrive at school with the child in the morning. Thank you!



## Autumn Clear Out

Many of you might be having an autumn clear out ahead of your children writing this year's Christmas list. If that's you, please think about sending some of your old toys and games our way. The Reception team would very much welcome toy cars and small world toys.

Complete board games and dressing up costumes would also be welcome to add to our current resources for playtimes.

## Safe Crossing

Following an e-mail from a concerned passer by, I kindly remind all parents to model good, safe practice to our pupils when crossing the road. Wherever possible, the zebra crossing near Bromley Signs should be used or crossing with the assistance of our Lollipop Lady. It has been reported that some families are crossing at quite dangerous points in the road.

To keep visibility for drivers as high as possible, I also ask all parents to refrain from parking on pavements and the yellow zig-zag lines at drop off and collection times. Thank you all for your co-operation in this matter.



## Irma Aftermath

Following the devastation caused by hurricane Irma recently, we hope that relatives and friends of members of the Valley community are safe and well. If any family here at Valley have been affected in any way by recent events in the Caribbean, please do come and speak to us for support and advice.