



Valley Views

Silver Award

A big thank you to all of you who choose sustainable methods of journeying to and from school. I am delighted to announce that we have been awarded the Silver Award in recognition of the number of pupils who walk, scoot or cycle to school. My thanks also go to Miss Mole and the Junior Travel Ambassadors who worked hard to collect all the data and submit the application. Keep up the great work!



Although we have only been back at school for two and a half weeks, it's been a busy start to the Spring Term. Yesterday, we welcomed Mrs Johnson to the school who is pictured above speaking to members of the School Council. Mrs Johnson retired as a teacher from Valley back in 1985 and the pupils loved hearing about how the pupils back then had a daily lesson of PE and painting.

I would also like to extend a warm welcome to new members of staff: Mrs Ravenscroft joins the Admin Team and Miss Rublee has joined the Year 2 teaching team to cover 2PB as Mrs Broadrick will begin her maternity leave this term.

On Tuesday 31st January, I will be holding a parent presentation on the school's Core Values, priorities on this year's school development plan and informing you of the pupils' performance in the 2016 national tests. I hope that as many of you as possible can attend.

Finally, I would like to wish all of our families who are celebrating the Chinese New Year this weekend a Happy New Year.

Dates for the Diary

January 31st

Headteacher
Presentation at 7pm
in the Main Hall.

February 7th

Parent Teacher
Consultations
3.50 – 7.00pm

February 9th

Parent Teacher
Consultations
3.50 – 6.00pm

Lifesavers

Last week, 8 members of staff received their defibrillator training. In addition to this, 30 pupils across Y4 and 5 learnt basic life skills. They took part in role plays calling 999, knowing what information would be required. They learnt the basics of CPR and how this can save lives. They also learnt about the recovery position. All the pupils were incredibly diligent in their learning, worked as a team in calling for help and discussing safety aspects of various situations. Moreover, our children showed a maturity and understanding whilst having fun.



Active Kids

The school is now collecting the Sainsbury's sport vouchers. Last year we collected 15,000 which helped purchase a wide range of playground equipment. Please do start sending in any vouchers that happen to come your way.



And the teachers learn too!

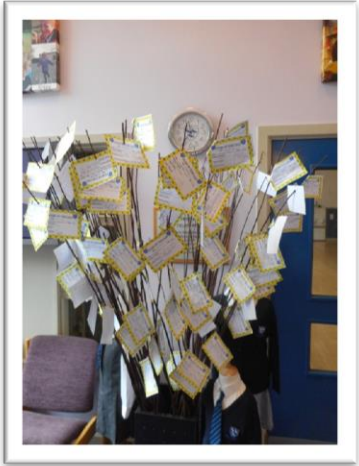
January 3rd saw the teachers back in the classroom as all staff spent the INSET day studying the many aspects of outstanding teaching.

Throughout the day, we explored the aspects of Feedback, Autonomy, Challenge and Engagement alongside discussing the school's shared vision for learning.

A great day was had by all and it has been lovely to see some of the strategies discussed being put into practice across the school.

As well as all the theory, staff were also tasked with teaching each other to juggle but, for some, there is plenty of room for improvement!





STARS OF THE DAY

As has already been mentioned in last term's behaviour assemblies, we are focusing on all those pupils who display excellent behaviour on a daily basis. Last September, we introduced the Star of the Day certificates. These are awarded to one pupil per class each day for a whole host of positive reasons. Pupils and parents also have a chance to comment on the success being celebrated and pupils are strongly encouraged to return the certificates to school to hang on one of the celebration trees found around the school.

Mid-Morning Snacks

Parents are reminded that pupils in Key Stage 2 should bring in a healthy mid-morning snack in the form of a piece of fresh fruit, carrot sticks or oatcakes. Chocolate bars and crisps are not permitted. Pupils in Reception and Key Stage 1 do not need to bring in morning snacks as they are given free fruit on a daily basis.

NUTS are not permitted in order to safeguard members of the school community who have known nut allergies.



Safer Internet Day

Tuesday, 7th February is Safer Internet Day. At Valley, we will be learning about e-safety as well as the positive ways people use technology.

<http://www.saferinternet.org.uk> has more information and a section of resources for parents and carers.



Feel the Force

As part of Year 4's current IPC topic, Bright Sparks, on Wednesday of this week, a representative from the Royal Institute visited Valley to share plenty of flashes, bangs, and wallops.

As the pupils deepened their understanding of electricity, they used a generator to explode gunpowder, used an electrical current to light up a pickle and felt the force of electro magnets.



Strictly Dance

Some of this year's Sport Premium Grant is being used to develop the quality of dance teaching throughout the school. Currently, pupils in Years 3 and 5 are enjoying a six-week dance programme in their PE lessons delivered by a visiting dance teacher. In the summer term, staff will receive some training during their weekly staff meetings.

Challenger Troop

20 members of Year 6 are halfway through their Challenger Troop course. This is a team building programme that looks to develop character and resilience in young people.

This week was spent donning the cam cream while practising patrols on the instructor's hand signals.

