



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the second half of the Autumn Term and we hope you all had an enjoyable break, last week.

Deliberate Practice

One of our principles for effective learning is the need to provide children with opportunities to deliberately practice the skills and knowledge they have recently learnt, to ensure this new learning gets stored in their long term memory.

We need to give children:

- time to practice to help them retain this new knowledge
- opportunities to identify mistakes, and learn from these mistakes

Homework is an excellent tool to help with deliberate practice, and our recent introduction of Knowledge Organisers, where we capture all the key knowledge children need to learn for a theme, is one tool we are using to help. Another useful tool to provide children with opportunities to practice is through the use of IT programs. As the children move through the school we are using a number of IT programs in lessons and for homework that give the children opportunities to practice at the appropriate level for them.

We have been using Times Table Rock Stars for a while now and have found this to be an excellent way of improving children's times table knowledge. Children also use Sumdog to support their Maths and Spelling. Recently we have introduced Read Theory in Years 3 - 6. This program asks children to read a passage and answer multiple-choice questions at an appropriate level. With all the software programs we use, the teachers receive detailed feedback about the strengths and areas for development for each child. They can use this information to help plan the learning for the next theme.

I would like to thank all the parents who have helped their child access these programs as part of their homework. If your child is unable to complete the set activities at home, there will be opportunities for them to catch up at a lunchtime club run by the teachers. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact your child's class teacher, or speak to them at the parent's evenings later this month.

Food Technology - Help Wanted!

Are you a keen cook or do you know someone who is, and have some time to spare? We are looking for a volunteer to come and help Mrs Bullard with her Food Technology lessons. We are looking to enlist some help Monday, Tuesday & Thursday afternoons and all day Wednesday. If you, or anyone you know, would be interested in helping on some or all of the days, please email: office@valeschool.org.

Staff News

Thank you for all the support shown to Mrs Payne regarding her nomination for the Pearson Teaching Awards. Winning the Silver Award was such an achievement, we are all very proud of her.

However, I must inform you that Mrs Payne will actually be leaving us at the end of this term to take up the position of Deputy Headteacher at another West Sussex school.

We are delighted that Mrs Payne has been offered this amazing opportunity, but are obviously sad to see her leave Vale School after more than 4 years with us. We know that Mrs Payne will rise to this new challenge and have a positive impact on the children and staff alike at her new school.

Please be assured that we are currently in the process of appointing a replacement for Mrs Payne and as soon as we have further information about this, we will contact you again. Mr Brookes will be taking on the role of Year 5 Leader after Christmas, following Mrs Payne's departure.

We are also pleased to let you know that Mrs Nicole Dixon will be joining us in Early Years as a part-time Teaching Assistant, from Monday 6th November.

Attendance and Punctuality

The law requires pupils to attend school regularly and this includes arriving on time each day.

Children are able to enter the school premises at 8.25am and can go to their classes at 8.35am. Since the start of the new academic year we have been closing the green gates at 8.50am and any child arriving after that time has been recorded as late. We have been carefully monitoring this and have noticed a marked improvement, so thank you for your support in ensuring that your child arrives promptly for registration.

Teachers carefully plan morning activities that practice and reinforce previous learning and we really don't want your child to miss out. Arriving 5 minutes late each day actually adds up to missing 3 entire days of school by the end of the year.

Ms Charbonneau (our Inclusion Leader) and/or Mrs Granger are at the gate each morning, so if you have any concerns about your child's punctuality please do go and chat to them.

Uniform Reminders

Children are now encouraged to wear their winter uniform (shirts and house-coloured ties) between now and the Spring Term. Footwear should also be appropriate for school - black sensible shoes (no boots). As the weather starts to cool down, please ensure your child has a **clearly named** coat in school.

May we also remind you that children with pierced ears should only wear stud earrings (no hoops). Children are also required to provide their own micro-pore tape to cover the earrings during PE lessons, if they are unable to remove them.

Pre-loved uniform is available to purchase through our Friends of Vale volunteers. Requests for specific items can be made via the [Friends of Vale Facebook Page](#).

Poppies

Mrs Cooper and Mrs Green have made some knitted poppies for pupils to buy next week. There is a limited amount and pupils can buy one each until they are gone. These poppies will be sold for £1 with all profit going straight to the British Legion to support The Poppy Appeal.

Road Safety

If your child cycles to school, please ensure they wear an appropriate helmet (which is named) and that they are aware of other pedestrians when cycling on the pavement.

NSPCC

Thank you to all the children in Years 1 - 6 who took the time to collect sponsorship, following our visit from the NSPCC. The children participated in fun 'circuit' type activities during PE lessons and raised an amazing £1800 for the charity. Well done to everyone involved! It's not too late to bring in any further sponsorship money - this can be given the front office.

Book Fair

Don't forget that the Book Fair is taking place next week in the Studio Hall from 6th - 9th November 2017. We are only taking payment by cash at the fair but you can buy gift vouchers online for your child to spend at the fair, where you will save 20% (a £12 book voucher costs £10 online, a £6 voucher is only £5). Vouchers can be purchased via www.bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/parents. After purchasing your voucher, you will receive an email with the voucher attached - please bring a printed copy to the Book Fair.

Each child will visit the book fair with their class and we will also be open for you to browse the books with your child at the following times:

Monday 6th November: 8.25am - 8.40am and 3.00pm - 3.20pm

Tuesday 7th November: 8.25am - 8.40am and 3.00pm - 3.20pm
Wednesday 8th November: 8.25am - 8.40am and 3.00pm - 3.20pm
Thursday 9th November: 3.00pm - 3.20pm

Forthcoming Key Dates

Below is a list of dates for this half term, that you may wish to note on your calendars:

Friday 10th November, 9.45am: Year 5 Remembrance Assembly
Saturday 11th November, 8.00am - 1.00pm: Inter Schools Cross Country Competition (Gallops)
Tuesday 21st November, 3.30pm - 7.00pm: Parents Evening
Thursday 23rd November, 3.30pm - 7.00pm: Parents Evening
Friday 8th December, all day: Friends of Vale Christmas Fair
Tuesday 12th December, 9.30am: Early Years Nativity
Wednesday 13th December, 9.30am: Early Years Nativity
Wednesday 13th December, 2.00pm: Year 6 Carol Concert
Thursday 14th December, 9.15am & 2.15pm: Year 2 Christmas Production
Monday 18th December, 9.15am & 2.15pm: Year 1 Christmas Concert
Tuesday 19th December, 9.15am & 2.15pm: Year 3 Christingle
Wednesday 20th December, 9.00am: Whole School End of Term Assembly

Further information regarding each specific event will be sent out in due course.

For your information, our 'Public Calendar', which highlights key school events, can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

Parking

May we please remind you to park considerately in the surrounding roads - it has been brought to our attention, once again, that cars are being parked in a way that minimises the amount of space available to others. Your co-operation with this very emotive issue, would be very much appreciated.

Message from Friends of Vale

Welcome back, we hope you all had an enjoyable half term.

Just before the half term break we had our first event committee meeting of the year, thank you to those that came, the minutes are attached.

The Inter-Schools Cross Country run is taking place on Saturday 11th November. FOV always provide refreshments to the spectators and participants and we need lots of help. We will be on site from 7am and setting up our stall on The Gallops, getting hot drinks and food ready for the first arrivals at about 8.30am - we are normally all done by midday. if you have any time at all during the morning we would be very grateful for your help, we need help getting tables and gazebos from school up onto the gallops as well as people to bbq, serve drinks and take money, we also need runners who can collect water from the school and bring it up to the gallops to keep our urns full.

Next we have our Christmas Fair donation day and we need a number of volunteers to help on Friday 24th November from 8-11, to collect the donations which are given in and help to sort them, all helpers are very welcome (including those with small people - we are quite used to finding little jobs for them to keep them busy).

If you can help with either of these please drop me an email & don't forget the xmas fair day which is Friday 8th December.

Do you know anyone with a small business that would be happy to provide a hamper for the Xmas raffle then please let me know.

And finally, if you have any teddies in good condition that we can spruce up for our rehoming stall can you give them into the school reception asap? No battery operated ones please.

Thank you for all your help and look forward to seeing you at some of the above events or our next meeting which I shall advise on when finalised.

FOV team x

Chartwells - National School Meals Week

Chartwells is the catering partner chosen to provide tasty and nutritious meals in your child's school and to coincide with National School Meals Week, we'd really love to know what you think of our school meals. Last year thousands of you completed our survey and it provided us with really valuable feedback. It helped us to understand what you like and what you think needs improving and we've been able to use the information to make changes and build plans around our food for the future. Complete our survey for a chance to win some fantastic prizes! Go to westsussex.mealselector.co.uk/nsmw to take the survey.



Other News.....

Findon Valley Residents Association (FVRA)

FVRA Residents' Surgery

On Saturday 4 November 10am to 12 noon we are holding the first of our Residents' Surgeries in Findon Valley Library. Anyone is welcome to come along to discuss issues and concerns, to find out who and how to contact those who should put things right and to chew the fat on things that matter to you. Come along and meet members of your committee every first Saturday of the month. Maggie Winter & Jeff Swann will be at the November surgery and on 2 December Clive Sanders & Jim Booth will be attending.

FVRA Autumn Open Meeting

This will take place on Friday 10th November 7.30pm at Findon Valley Free Church Hall. Our guest speaker will be Dr David Mannings of Lime Tree Surgery, who will be giving a presentation on changes and services within the practice and introducing the new Lime Tree Patients' Group. The FVRA will be presenting other topics for discussion so we look forward to seeing you. Everyone is welcome.

FVRA Website

Our new website is now online so please visit www.findonvalley.org and see how it looks! Jim Booth has developed the new design and has taken over the role of Website Officer with Alex Clouter concentrating on Publicity and assisting Jim with some of the web content. Alex is currently developing the history of Findon Valley on the website. If you have any photographs taken in Findon Valley from 1950 – 2000 that you'd like to share for everyone to see please email them (and please write any captions/date the photo was taken in an email message) to archive@findonvalley.org. If you only have printed photos (black & white or colour) please call Alex Clouter on 07935 967617 for us to collect, scan and return the photos.

We would also like to add any interesting or fond memories from local people, about any aspect of Findon Valley. If you would be happy to share any stories with us, or you know someone else who would, please call 07935 967617.

Can you help us?

As a Residents' Association, we're passionate in everything we do to serve the Valley community. We have an enthusiastic and hardworking team of volunteers on the FVRA Committee looking after key responsibilities. However there are some vacant positions for some keen people to come forward and join our committee:

- Vale School Liaison Officer: maintaining a vital link on various issues in a half termly meet with the Headteacher
- Secretary: compiling and publishing the minutes of the monthly committee meeting
- Community Events Officer: organising a few social events to bring people together encouraging a friendly community spirit
- Nature/Conservation Officer: assisting in projects to improve the natural beauty of the Valley
- Subscription Collectors: look after some roads once a year to collect membership subscriptions from residents

Please call Maggie Winter on 01903 263038 or email chairman@findonvalley.org to show your interest.

Operation Crackdown (OC)

Following numerous complaints from residents about rat running, speeding and antisocial driving in Maytree/Lime Tree Avenues and Long Meadow/Shepherd's Mead, with the help of Cllr Elizabeth Sparkes the FVRA has obtained OC leaflets to be distributed to every household in these roads. It is important that residents report incidents to the police via OC in the hope that action will ensure to reduce complaints. Unless problems are reported then the police will assume that all is well. We can only do this with the support of everyone who is concerned. Call the Crackdown Hotline on 01243 642222 or report online at www.OperationCrackdown.org.

Sussex Safer Roads Partnership has involved teams from Sussex Police, East & West Sussex County Councils, East & West Fire & Rescue Services, Brighton & Hove City Council and Highways England combining their expertise to make

Sussex roads safer and reduce collisions. Please visit their very informative website www.sussexsaferroads.gov.uk that provides advice, news and support to all road users across Sussex.

Love West Sussex App

Click [here](#) to report to West Sussex County Council on any potholes, graffiti, fly tipping, etc through your mobile phone. Authorities can manage and respond via the Council's integrated services.

Frequently Asked Questions.....

Q: If my child has sickness or diarrhoea, how long must they stay off school?

A: All children must remain absent from school for a total of 48 hours following the last bout. This is to help reduce the risk of bugs spreading further within the school.

Q: What do I do if my child is prescribed medication?

A: Any medication that is prescribed 4 times a day can be administered in school - there is paperwork that must be completed at the front office. If it is prescribed 3 times a day, this must be given around the school day (ie before and after school and at bedtime). If your child requires inhalers, two must be provided (with spacers) in the correct packaging - paperwork must also be completed for this.

Q: What do I do if my child isn't attending a club on a particular day?

A: Please call the school office to record their absence, this prevents any unnecessary calls home.

Q: Do clubs take place in the last week of term?

A: Clubs don't run during the first and last weeks of a full term (two weeks at the start of a new academic year). They do, however, run right up to and straight after each half term break.

Q: How do I report bad parking or driving in the surrounding roads?

A: Any issues should be logged via www.operationcrackdown.org. The school cannot police any issues.

Dates to Remember.....

Wednesday 20th December 2017	Last Day of the Autumn Term
Thursday 4th January 2018	First Day of the Spring Term
Monday 12th - Friday 16th February 2018	Half Term Break
Wednesday 28th March 2018	Last Day of Spring Term
Thursday 29th March 2018	Inset Day 3
Friday 30th March - Friday 13th April 2018	Easter Break
Monday 16th April 2018	First Day of the Summer Term
Monday 7th May 2018	Bank Holiday
Monday 28th May - Friday 1st June 2018	Half Term Break
Friday 20th July 2018	Last Day of the 2017/2018 Academic Year
Monday 23rd July 2018	Inset Day 4
Tuesday 24th July 2018	Inset Day 5

Access our Public Calendar by clicking [here](#).