

# Vale School Bulletin



*Valuing All Learners Equally*

Issue No: 48, Thursday 28th September 2017

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Dear Parents and Carers,

It's hard to believe how quickly we are approaching the half term break. All the children seem well established in their new classes and routines.

## **Harvest Celebration**

This year the children will be celebrating Harvest on Monday 2nd October. From tomorrow, Friday 29th September we would welcome any donations of the following items which have been specifically requested by Worthing Churches Homeless Project: *squash, coffee, fruit juice, sugar, salt & pepper, scourers/brillo pads, sandwich bags, mayonnaise, rice pudding, dried herbs, sandwich spread/paste, stuffing, chutney, tinned tomatoes*. These items will then be passed on to the charity. Please bring any donations to Reception.

## **Safeguarding Matters**

If you are dropping your child/ren off at the start of the day before the gate is open, please can you ensure that they are supervised by an adult. Children, particularly from Early Years to Year 4, should not be left unsupervised, nor expected to supervise younger siblings.

To ensure children are safe at after school clubs and Cherrytree Childcare, we ask that parents do not stay to watch clubs on the field. If there is a match, then we will make arrangements so that parents can stay, but for normal clubs we ask parents to wait outside the green gates. May we also add that no parents should be entering the Changing Rooms either before or after a club. Thank you for your help in ensuring we keep all children safe at school.

At the beginning and end of each day, half of the main grey gate is kept closed to prevent cars entering or leaving the car park. There should be no movement on site between 8.15am - 9.15am and 2.30pm - 3.30pm. Please do not open the gate if anyone is trying to arrive or leave during this time.

## **Dogs on Site**

Please be reminded that dogs (other than assistance or guide dogs) are not permitted on school grounds, either on a lead or being carried. Dogs must not be tied to the front gate nor left unsupervised. Thank you for your co-operation.

## **Starting School - September 2018**

If you have a younger child who is due to start school in September 2018, online registration for places opens on Monday 2nd October. All applications must be made no later than Monday 15th January 2018. Further information can be obtained via [www.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/admissions). Please pass this information onto any friends or family members who may also have children due to start school next September.

## **Parent Post Box**

If you have a letter or anything else to hand in to Reception, please use the Parent Post box that is in the outside wall to the left of Reception. This is emptied daily and will save you time having to queue at the Reception desk.

## **Movement Around School**

When bringing your child into school and collecting them at the end of the day, please use the pupil exits, as directed, rather than the main Reception doors. If you need to speak to the front office or look for lost property please re-enter via the front entrance door.

Since the beginning of term, a number of parents have started coming into school at the beginning and end of the day. This not only causes congestion but also presents us with the difficulty of not knowing which adults are in the building. Apart from Early Years and Year 1 parents, we do ask all other parents to wait on the playground for their child. If you wish to speak to your child's teacher there may be an opportunity when they bring their class out, or you can leave a message at the reception desk. For Year 1 and Early Years parents, you have specific arrangements in place for the start and end of day.

At the end of the day we have 180 children leaving from each of the main exits. If parents use the corridor as a shortcut from the Early Years playground, it becomes difficult for the teachers to dismiss the children easily. Please use the path if you need to go to the main playground.

### Inter-House Cross Country (Years 1 - 6)

Don't forget to come and cheer the children on in their cross-country races on Friday 29th September. Below is a reminder of each year group's times:

9:00	Year 3 Warm Up	10:15	Year 6 Warm Up
9:05	RACE 1: Yr 3 Girls	10:20	RACE 7: Yr 6 Girls
9:15	RACE 2: Yr 3 Boys	10:30	RACE 8: Yr 6 Boys
9:25	Year 4 Warm Up	10:40	Year 1 Warm Up
9:30	RACE 3: Yr 4 Girls	10:45	RACE 9: Yr 1 Girls
9:40	RACE 4: Yr 4 Boys	10:55	RACE 10: Yr 1 Boys
9:50	Year 5 Warm Up	11:05	Year 2 Warm Up
9:55	RACE 5: Yr 5 Girls	11:10	RACE 11: Yr 2 Girls
10:05	RACE 6: Yr 5 Boys	11:20	RACE 12: Yr 2 Boys

### Other News.....

#### Music Lessons

We have a new violin teacher to the school who actually started her lessons as a child, here at Vale School. Mrs Sanderson is delighted to be teaching here and is really keen to increase the number of children in her violin team. Lessons are available from year 2 and a taster session can be arranged. Please email [Sally.Sanderson@westsussexmusic.co.uk](mailto:Sally.Sanderson@westsussexmusic.co.uk) for further information

### Findon Valley Residents Association (FVRA)

#### FVRA Website

We are currently working on a new design for our website, which we are planning to have uploaded during October. In this process we are looking to feature a new web page on **the history of Findon Valley**. We are gathering an interesting collection of historical articles from the library, the two parish churches, Limetree Surgery and Vale School. If you have any old photographs taken in Findon Valley from 1950 onwards for us to upload on our website please email them to [archive@findonvalley.org](mailto:archive@findonvalley.org) or call 07935 967617 for us to scan and return the photos. If you would be happy to share your memories of yesteryear in the Valley, or you know someone else who would, please call 07935 967617 for one of our team to arrange a meeting.

#### 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](mailto:chairman@findonvalley.org) to show your interest.

You can read more about the FVRA by visiting [www.findonvalley.org](http://www.findonvalley.org)

### **News from Jeff Swann, FVRA Highways Environment Officer:**

**Worthing Driving Test Centre** will be closing on Friday 27 October 2017. The operations will be relocating to DVSA Lancing when car testing starts from 6/7 November 2017. This means that residents of Findon Valley should now hopefully notice a reduction in driving schools using our local roads.

**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 [www.susseksaferroads.gov.uk](http://www.susseksaferroads.gov.uk) that provides advice, news and support to all road users across Sussex.

### **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 in the surrounding roads?*

A: Any issues should be logged via [www.operationcrackdown.org](http://www.operationcrackdown.org). The school cannot police any issues.

### **Dates to Remember.....**

Friday 20th October 2017	<b>Inset Day 2</b>
Monday 23rd - Friday 27th October 2017	<b>Half Term Break</b>
Wednesday 20th December 2017	<b>Last Day of the Autumn Term</b>
Thursday 4th January 2018	<b>First Day of the Spring Term</b>
Monday 12th - Friday 16th February 2018	<b>Half Term Break</b>
Wednesday 28th March 2018	<b>Last Day of Spring Term</b>
Thursday 29th March 2018	<b>Inset Day 3</b>
Friday 30th March - Friday 13th April 2018	<b>Easter Break</b>
Monday 16th April 2018	<b>First Day of the Summer Term</b>
Monday 7th May 2018	<b>Bank Holiday</b>
Monday 28th May - Friday 1st June 2018	<b>Half Term Break</b>
Friday 20th July 2018	<b>Last Day of the 2017/2018 Academic Year</b>
Monday 23rd July 2018	<b>Inset Day 4</b>
Tuesday 24th July 2018	<b>Inset Day 5</b>