

Vale School Bulletin



Valuing All Learners Equally

Issue No: 47, Thursday 14th September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our first Bulletin of the new academic year and welcome too, to our new parents of children who have recently joined Vale School. All the new children have settled well into school life and we are looking forward to the term ahead. We are also pleased to welcome the following staff to the school:

- Mrs Wright (Teaching in Year 1)
- Miss Avis (Teaching in Early Years)
- Miss Aguado (Teaching in Year 1)
- Mrs Barnard (Supporting in Early Years)

We are also really pleased to welcome back Mrs Lindfield, who works in the front office.

Thank you to those parents of children in Years 1 - 6 who took the time to come along to our "Meet the Teacher" event on Tuesday, we hope you found this useful. If you were unable to attend, you can find a copy of the booklet handed out on our [website](#).

E-Safety

Our children are growing up in a world of technology and social media. The internet is an exciting place to explore and children love to play. But, with the digital world changing so rapidly, we need to make sure that your children are staying safe. As a school, we take a proactive approach to internet safety ensuring that children are taught safe practices when using different devices.

With an ever growing number of social networking sites, apps and games available, it can be hard to know how to keep your child safe on devices at home. Please could we ask that you have regular conversations with your child about appropriate use of the internet. The NSPCC [Net Aware](#) is a great resource where you can obtain information about the suitability, privacy, safety and support settings of the most popular sites, apps and games being used. It also gives the views of parents and children too.

Annual Finance Report

Attached to this Bulletin is a summary of the income and expenditure for 2016/17 for your information.

Sponsorship

We are seeking to find a new sponsor for our regular Bulletins. If you know a company or individual who would be interested in supporting our school, please contact Mrs Hilary Carpenter, School Business Manager.

A Few Reminders

As we all settle back into the routine of another school year, we would like to take this opportunity to remind you of a few basic things that we would appreciate your help and co-operation with.

- The front gates open at 8.25am and children can then enter the school building at 8.35am, ready for registration at 8.45am for Years 3 - 6 and 8.50am for Early Years, Year 1 & 2. It is vital that children are in school ready to start the day at this time. The gates will close at 8.50am.
- If your child is unable to attend school because they are unwell, please call and leave a message on our absence line on the morning of their first day of absence. In addition, if your child is absent due to sickness and/or diarrhoea, they must stay away from school for **48 hours** after the last bout. This helps to prevent the spread of any nasty bugs within school.

- Please do not send nuts (or peanut butter) in to school either as a snack or in your child's lunchbox. We have a number of children in school who have an allergy to nuts and exposure to them could be very harmful.
- It is very important that all items of clothing are clearly named. There was a large amount of uniform left at the end of last term and unless it is named, we can't return items to the rightful owners.
- If your child is cycling to school, please ensure that they wear a helmet. If they bring the helmet into school, please ensure it is clearly named.
- Please remember to update your Chartwells account with your child/ren's new class/es.
- If you have changed your email or mobile phone number during the summer, please remember to inform the school office and update your ParentMail/PMX account.
- We are no longer able to accept cash or cheque payments. The online system is now live to accept payments for trips and events for children in Years 1 - 6.
- During PE lessons children should wear the white t-shirt as detailed in our uniform criteria. The coloured House t-shirts that Friends of the Vale organise are for use during House related events only (ie cross-country/sports days). Please also provide micropore tape if your child has pierced ears and is unable to remove their earrings.
- For their safety, please can you ensure that younger children are supervised at the start and end of the day in the car park, whilst you are waiting at the front gates.
- Please give due consideration to our neighbours in the surrounding roads at drop-off and collection times. We occasionally receive calls and emails from residents advising us that parents have parked or driven without any thought to their properties.
- Please can you ensure that the Early Years resources in the outdoor area are not played with at the start and end of the day.
- Please do not allow your children to climb or play on any of the railings around the school grounds - staff have noticed some younger children doing this and are concerned for their safety.

School Photographer

Our school photographer will be in school on Monday 25th and Tuesday 26th September to take individual and sibling group photos of the children. You may wish your child to wear their winter uniform for these photographs. Can we also ask that you ensure your child has their jumper or cardigan with them for both days. Due to time and space we can only accommodate siblings who are in school and not younger members of the family.

Uniform Supplier

First4Uniform have issued us with an apology for any issues that parents may have experienced in relation to orders placed with them.

Other News.....

Music Lessons

Would your child like to learn to play the drums? Our drum teacher Milo Fell offers lessons during the school day. No need to have a drum kit at home. Prices start at £6.75 for a shared lesson. Visit www.milofell.com or email milofell@hotmail.com for more details and to book lessons.

Group or individual woodwind lessons (clarinet, oboe, saxophone, flute) are also available. Free trials can be arranged by emailing egn2702@yahoo.co.uk and further information can be obtained via www.westsussexmusic.co.uk.

Festival of Rugby

Worthing Leisure Centre are hosting a Festival of Rugby on Saturday 3rd October from 4pm - 10.30pm. There will be activities for all ages, from rugby tots to walking rugby, and there is also the chance to watch England V Australia in the Rugby World Cup on a big screen. All activities are free of charge and everyone is welcome. To find out more call 01903 905050 or email enquiries@southdownleisure.co.uk.

Findon Valley Residents Association (FVRA)

A27 Improvement Proposal from Highways England

Highways England organised a series of presentations on a proposal to improve the A27 between Worthing and Lancing from July to early September. The FVRA joined forces with High Salvington Residents' Association to hold a Public Meeting on 5 September at Vale School for their communities to have their say. The result of this meeting was clear – the need for a bypass. To read all about this visit:

<http://www.worthingherald.co.uk/news/bypass-is-the-only-answer-residents-have-their-say-on-a27-worthing-scheme-1-8137453> .

FVRA Website

For the FVRA website, we are looking to develop **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 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.

FVRA Art Exhibition

The FVRA Art Group held an **Art Exhibition** of their work on Saturday, 12 August and they were pleased that over 70 people came along. Findon Valley certainly has talent is a good way to describe the Art Group's abilities in watercolour, pastel, oil, acrylic, pencil work and pen & wash. Visit this web link to see their stunning work: http://www.findonvalley.org/p167_artexhibition2017.htm The Art Group meets every Monday, 2-4pm at Findon Valley Free Church, £2 entry. There is also a Crafts Group held every Saturday, 2-4pm at the same venue and the same entry price. If you want to know more about these groups or indeed have any art or crafts materials you have and no longer use, think about donating them – please call Maureen Denton, FVRA Arts & Crafts Group Officer on 01903 872004.

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.

You can read more about the FVRA by visiting www.findonvalley.org.

Outdoor Gym on The Gallops

On 7 September the final designs of the outdoor gym equipment were presented to people on The Gallops. The Parks & Offshore Dept. at Worthing Council were keen to get feedback from local residents. We wait to hear what the conclusions are.

Other News

For your information **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.sussexsaferroads.gov.uk that provides advice, news and support to all road users across Sussex.

Fostering Opportunities: Support, believe, foster

Could you support a child who is going through a difficult time in their lives by becoming a foster carer? West Sussex County Council is looking for more people in West Sussex to become approved foster carers. In return you will receive local training, support and a competitive fostering allowance.

The County Council would be especially keen to hear from people from ethnic minority backgrounds and people who could support a parent and child in a foster placement.

A series of local information events is taking place; dates and times below:

- 20 September 6.30-8.30pm, Broadfield Children & Family Centre
- 26 September 6.30-8.30pm, County Hall North, Horsham

- 28 September 6.30-8.30pm, Angmering Village Hall
- 4 October 6.30-8.30pm, The Wave Centre, Worthing

You can also call the Fostering Recruitment Team on 0330 222 7775 or visit www.westsussex.gov.uk/fostering

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. The school cannot police any issues.

Dates to Remember.....

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| Friday 20th October 2017 | Inset Day 2 |
| Monday 23rd - Friday 27th October 2017 | Half Term Break |
| 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 |