

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Headteacher:
David Pearce

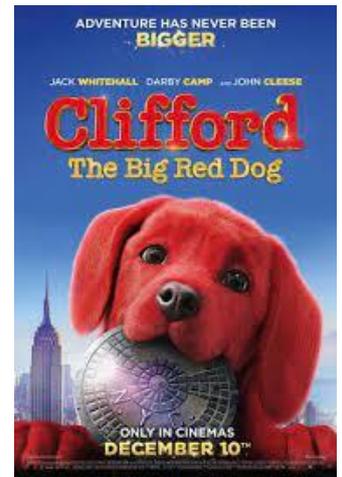


The Valley School
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Friday 18th November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a lovely week at The Valley School, culminating in all years having a trip to the Cinema to see Clifford the Big Red Dog or The Croods 2. Everybody had a wonderful time and the students will now be using the trip as a stimulus for some of their lessons.



Friends of the Valley School Launch (Tuesday 15th Nov at 7pm)

On Tuesday we relaunched the Friends of the Valley School. It has been several years since The Valley has had a PTA and a group of parents were keen to relaunch as Friends of the Valley School (FoVS), to help support the school and the students by fundraising and volunteering. This is the same as a PTA but allows wider access and membership and is inclusive of extended family and the wider community.

Much was discussed but one of the outcomes from the meeting was that I was asked to list where we would benefit from help and support across the year. There is obviously no expectation but any support for the following would be gratefully received.

- 1) Swimming Monday and Tuesday 11:00am - 12:30pm
- 2) Tuck shop 11:35am – 11:50am every day
- 3) Lunchtimes to free up staff to run clubs 12:55pm – 1:45pm every day
- 4) Waste-Not-Want-Not work experience Monday and Tuesday 1:45pm to 3:00pm
- 5) Performing Arts Club Thursday 3:15pm – 4:30pm
- 6) Farm Trip 9:00am – 3:00pm 30th November
- 7) Cinderella Pantomime trip 12 noon - 4:00pm December 14th
- 8) New Year celebration 4:00pm – 6:00pm 19th January

Other events that are coming up in the future



- 1) Royal Albert hall concert 30th April all day
- 2) Duke of Edinburgh Award Expeditions

Areas where businesses may be able to support us through donations or discounted prices

- 1) Website provision and design with new branding to coincide with new school build.
- 2) Signage provision and design with new branding to coincide with new school build.
- 3) Mock job interviews for KS4 students preparing for post 16
- 4) Work experience opportunities.

Parents' Evening (4:00pm – 7:00pm 1st December 2022)

Parents evening for years 7, 9 and 11 will take place online via video call on 1st December 2022. This is an important evening and provides you with an opportunity to discuss your child's learning and achievements at The Valley School. To facilitate the evening the school will be using School Cloud, an online appointment booking system. This will allow you to choose your own appointment times with teachers and have them confirmed via email. Appointments can be made from Wednesday 18th November 2022 at 3:30pm and will close on Wednesday 28th November 2022 at 3:30pm. Appointments for this evening will be available from 4:00pm to 7:00pm. You have the opportunity to book a maximum of 3 appointments with different staff members. We strongly recommend booking an appointment with your child's form tutor and two optional additional appointments with subject teachers that you feel you need to discuss anything else.

Please visit <https://valleyschool.schoolcloud.co.uk/> to book your appointments. A short guide on how to add appointments is included with this letter.

Student Feedback

Between 31/10/22 and 11/11/22 we spoke to a whole range of students across all subjects and key stages. Below is a summary of their responses. We think it clearly shows that we have very satisfied and happy students, which is a testament to all of your support and reflects all the hard work and investment by The Valley School staff in our young people.

Questions	Percentage Positive Responses
Do you enjoy your lessons?	91%
Do teachers make it clear what they expect of you?	91%
Are you able to ask questions in lessons?	89%
Do you learn new words?	70%
Is behaviour good in your classes?	92%
Do your teachers read to you?	94%
Is the work set at the right level for you?	89%
If you were worried or upset is there someone you can talk to?	98%
Are you rewarded for good work?	100%
If you told a teacher/Head that you were being bullied do you think it would be dealt with effectively?	98%

When seeking clarity on a few points the following became clear:

- Students felt they were taught new words but they just couldn't remember them. We have already started putting strategies in place to help them with this.
- The students recognised that sometimes work is too easy while staff are working out what they are capable of, and is sometimes too hard in an effort to stretch them.

School rebranding competition

With the build of the new school and the change of colour scheme (green and grey) to blend in with the valley in which the build is situated, we are looking to launch the 2022-23 academic year with a new school logo.

We are opening this up as a competition to our community.

The design needs to be simple enough to be printed on letter heads, signage and the school website.

We are not looking for superb artists as we would have the final design drawn up by professionals; it is an amazing concept that we are hoping for.

If you would like to submit an idea, please scan and send your designs to admin@thevalley.herts.sch.uk by 3:00pm, Tuesday 31 January. There will be prizes for the ten shortlisted designs and a prize for the winner and runners up.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if your design was chosen as our new The Valley School logo?

After School Clubs

The list of students expected to attend clubs next is attached to this newsletter. If your child is on this list then it means that we have received your permission and that arrangements regarding transport home for your child has been agreed with you. If this is not the case you need to contact admin@thevalley.herts.sch.uk so we can address any anomalies well before the evening. Students will not be able to join a club after this list has been published, until the following week, as organising transport and supervision is too complex to do well with very short notice.

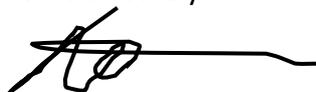
Thank you for your support with this.

Safeguarding

We have a robust safeguarding process in school but occasionally the need to report a concern arises outside of school hours. If you have any concerns about the safety or welfare of a child or young person please call **0300 123 4043**. You can report anonymously.

Wishing you a relaxing, safe and very enjoyable weekend.

Yours sincerely



David Pearce
Headteacher