

Headteacher:
David Pearce



The Valley School
Broadhall Way
Stevenage
Herts SG2 9BN
Tel: 01438 747274
admin@thevalley.herts.sch.uk

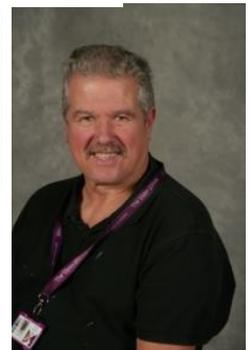


The Valley Christmas Newsletter

Friday 16th December 2022



After an inauspicious start of the week I am happy to say that our heating, power and fire alarms are all working properly again. We did have another burst pipe on Wednesday afternoon, but some great work by Mr Deamer from the site team managed to get the hot water and heating up and running again. We apologise for any inconvenience caused through us having to shut the school.



Students enjoying the snow

On Monday we asked students to take some pictures of themselves making the most of the 'Snow Day'. Some preferred to take artistic photos, others stayed warm inside, and many explored their more adventurous side.



Snow Fun and gnome whittling in Year 7

The Year 7s had some great fun taking advantage of the snowy conditions and made snowballs and whittled and painted gnomes whilst talking about relationships.



Snow Day Learning

Students were tasked with exploring why snow melted faster in some areas of their house than others. They also compared the volume of snow with that of water left in the cup after it had melted. Tom from Year 8 took some pictures of the work that he was doing.



Attendance

We are very proud of the opportunities we offer the students at The Valley School and we would like to ensure that every child has the chance to take advantage of them. The majority of our young people have an excellent attendance record, and we really celebrate this, but there are a few that still have work to do.

We are conscious of the fact that attendance is a joint effort between the child, parents and the school. We thought that it would be a good idea to explain the school and County's attendance processes so that all students have the opportunity to make a really positive start in the New Year.

Making sure your child comes to school on time everyday has a massive impact on their future life chances. **For this reason we follow County guidance and holidays during term time will not be authorised.**

To ensure parents have plenty of notice if there are any concerns, they will be contacted early, explaining why their child has been flagged. This will then provide us with an opportunity to address any issues and support where we can.



Our school target for attendance is 97%.

Many people aren't aware that when a child has an attendance of less than 90% over the time that they are in school will have missed one whole year of teaching and learning.

Although we would never want it to get to this stage, all parents have a legal responsibility to ensure that their children attend school which means that, unfortunately in the most extreme cases parents may be prosecuted.

If you have any worries or concerns about getting your child into school, please contact our Attendance Lead, Ms Taney Howarth (Deputy Headteacher). Telephone number 01438 747274 so we can put support in place early. Thank you for your ongoing support with this.

Christmas Dinner

Due to the snow and heating failure we had to postpone the Christmas dinner until today. The students were not charged for this meal which was a traditional turkey roast or Quorn fillet with all the trimmings.

They enjoyed Karaoke singing, crackers and a really festive atmosphere.



Christmas Jumper Day

We combined our Christmas dinner with Christmas Jumper day. We did not ask for money donations as part of this day. However, if you would like to help us support the local 'Feed Up Warm Up' charity, you can still send in a food item (packet or tinned only please) as we will be making food parcels to help support those in need.

Cinderella Pantomime Trip

We ran a school trip to see the pantomime 'Cinderella' at the Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage, on the afternoon of Wednesday 14th December. The students had an amazing time and some took the opportunity to have photographs taken whilst sat in Cinderella's carriage.



End of term arrangements (Wednesday 21st December 2022)

Our last day of term is Wednesday 21st December.

The plan for the day will be as follows:

Time	Activity
9:00 – 9:20	Registration and Breakfast
9:20 - 11:00	Periods 1, 2 and 3 as normal
11:00 – 11:20	Break
11:20 - 11:35	Form time
11:40 – 12:00	Assembly in the theatre
12:00 – 12:35	Lunchtime

12:35 – 12:40	Form time
12:40 – 12:50	Departure

The first day back will be Friday 6th January where taxis will pick up students and the school will be open at the normal time.

WinterFest '23, Thursday 19 January, 6.00pm - 8.00pm

You should have received a letter home about this event. Please put the date in your diary. All KS3 students will have the opportunity to perform which will include many of the students who have had instrumental lessons with Matthew and Jim.

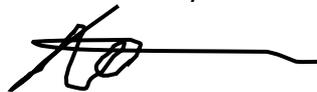
After School Clubs

There will be no clubs after school next week. They will start up again in earnest in January.

Merry Christmas

We wish you a very merry Christmas and a happy, safe and relaxing New Year. Best wishes from me and everyone at The Valley School.

Yours sincerely



David Pearce
Headteacher

