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The Valley Newsletter

Friday 27th January 2023

Although we have only been back to school for three weeks, it is hard to believe that we are already half way through this half term. We continue to keep our students busy and engaged in a number of activities inside and out of school.

Please can I ask that you read the arrangements for after school clubs carefully within this newsletter as we have had a few disappointed students unable to stay behind after school as we have not received permission from parents.

Strike Action

The largest teacher's union, the NEU, have voted to strike on Wednesday 1st February 2023.

Unfortunately this action will prevent us from running a normal school day.

A number of our teaching staff have notified me that they intend to strike and an even larger number of staff are unable to come into school as they have to provide childcare for their own children, whose school are also taking strike action.



As a consequence we are asking parents to only send children in to school on Wednesday 1st February if they absolutely cannot make any other arrangements for childcare, or they are designated as 'Key Workers' as we will only be able to operate a very limited service.

Please return the reply slip indicating your situation by Monday 30th January.

New Appointments

To replace Ms Houghton in Year 8 and Ms Scott as a Learning Partner, when they left us at the end of last term, we have been successful in recruiting Alison Pearce as Year 8 teacher and Literacy Lead and Katie Byrne as Learning Partner, after a rigorous interview process which included answering really tough questions from our student panel. We would like to congratulate them on their appointment and wish them a happy and successful time with us at The Valley School.



Year 8 Assembly

The Year 8 ran an assembly this morning celebrating the Chinese New Year. All of the Year 8 classes were involved in either presenting on stage or building props. The Year 8 Bronze Class made a Chinese Dragon out of cardboard boxes, tape and string.



Bobby's Bake Sale

Bobby has been working with the Interventions team to raise money for a local charity. He made a trip to the Salvation Army to hand over his donation of £37.85.

Bobby raised this money through his "Bobby Bake Sale" event which turned out to be a huge success.

The Interventions Team were delighted with how well Bobby planned, organised and delivered the whole event.

Year 7 Science

In Lime class this week we have been investigating floating and sinking. We made predictions about everyday objects and tested our ideas. We had great fun making boats using foil and testing them to see if they floated. We put cubes on the boats to see which one would hold the most. Henli's boat held 189 cubes and was pronounced the winner!



Year 7 studies about the Titanic

Year 7 Gold class spent a lesson looking at the various meals that were available on board the Titanic. They learned about the class system and how the quality of the menu depended on which class they were in.

Design and Technology

The Year 7s have been making moveable snakes in DT. Be on the lookout as some may have escaped the DT room!

The Year 10 DT option group prepping wood for making custom upcycled wooden plant boxes for spring flowers around the school.



Building a greenhouse

Bobby and the Interventions team's next venture is to build a greenhouse so that they can plant and nurture a number of plants and vegetables. They will need to collect over 1500 plastic bottles and they would appreciate your support with this.

If you have any used 2L plastic bottles could they please be delivered to the Interventions Rooms.

Friends of The Valley School (FoVS)

Following on from the election of our Friends of the Valley School (FoVS) committee in the autumn term we would like to call an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) with the intention to adopt a constitution for FoVS.

All parents/carers are invited to join us at this meeting and the proposed constitution was sent out earlier this week.

The FoVS EGM will be hosted as an online meeting, to make it as accessible as possible to all, on Tuesday 21 February at 7.30pm. Please see the agenda below:

- Welcome and introductions
- Apologies
- Vote to adopt constitution

Heather Blakey is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: FoVS EGM

Time: Feb 21, 2023 19:30 London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/78021142671?pwd=YNfJCZBjOUbUYkEiOIGAEA92UverQZ.1>

Meeting ID: 780 2114 2671

Passcode: u74SSn

We look forward to welcoming you at the EGM.

A green and white poster for a recycled greenhouse project. The title is "Recycled greenhouse" in white text on a green background. Below it, "The Valley School" is written in white. There is a small photo of a greenhouse made of plastic bottles. Text boxes contain: "We are in desperate need of 1,500 plastic 2L bottles as we are creating a plastic bottle greenhouse." and "We are building this to grow our plants in such as: Mini cucumbers, strawberries, sugar snap peas." A large green box contains the text "Any donated bottles please bring to interventions." At the bottom, it says "Contact Interventions for more details" and "Bring in as soon as possible".

After School Clubs

The list of students expected to attend clubs next week 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 have 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.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Pearce', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

David Pearce
Headteacher