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## **The Valley Newsletter** **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

It is lovely to welcome back our students after their half-term holidays. We have had a very industrious week with trips to London, Church Farm and Shepreth Wildlife Park, complementing our usual timetabled lessons.

### **Strike Action Wednesday 1st March 2023,**

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

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

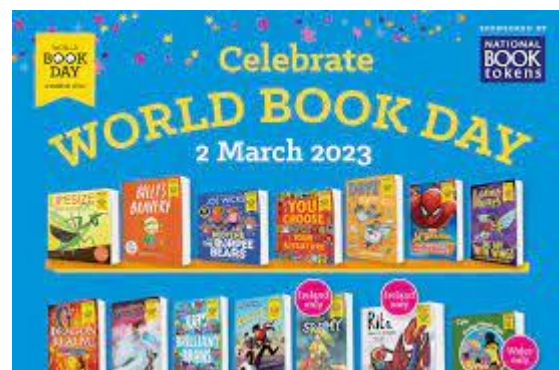
A number of our teaching staff have notified me that they intend to strike and an even larger number of staff are unable to come into school as they have to provide childcare for their own children, whose school are also taking strike action.



As a consequence we are asking parents to only send children in to school on Wednesday 1st March 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.

### **World Book Day**

World Book Day is on Thursday 2nd March. Staff and students are being encouraged to dress up as a character from a book to celebrate reading. Dressing up is optional and does not have to be a bought costume – an accessory associated with a story would work equally as well. There will be activities for the students to complete in their English lessons and a themed assembly. Students will also be taking part in a competition to decorate their form room door as a book cover.



## Church Farm

On Tuesday Mr Hugo and Ms Kitchener took a group of KS4 students Church Farm in Ardeley as part of the experience of work programme. Students were there for the full day. They spent their time looking after and caring for the small animals and mucking out the goat pen. After lunch they fed the new lambs and the tutor said that it was the best group she had ever had. Like on every trip the students made us very proud by taking risks, learning new skills and being excellent ambassadors for the school.



## Stepping Stones

The childcare group attended Stepping Stones pre-school this week. They were amazing, they all used their professional childcare skills, engaged and supported the children in the



Hungry Caterpillar activities without any support from the staff. They were very helpful and the children are excited to see them again next week.

## Design and Technology

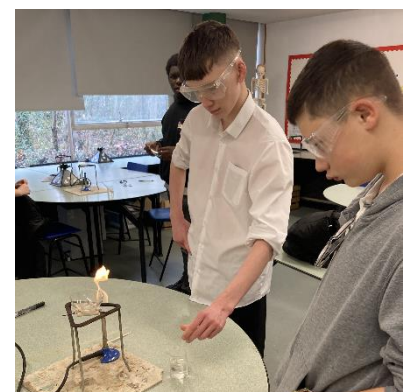
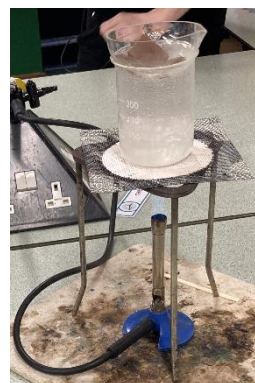
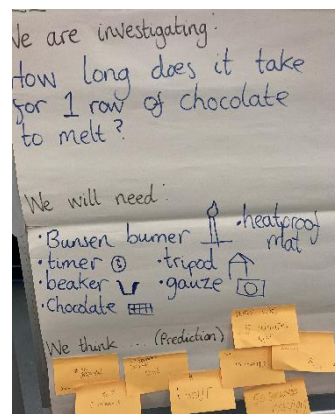
Immy has made a custom built medal holder for all her trampolining medals. We thought this was an excellent idea and she was very proud and pleased with how it turned out!!



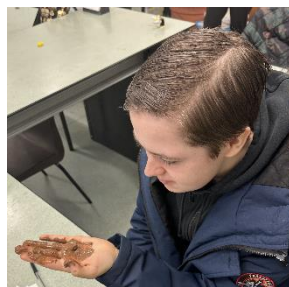
The Year 7s are helping the bees for the spring by making Mason Bee Houses to take home.

## Science

This week in Year 10 and 11 the students have begun their new topic 'Physical and Chemical Change'. During the lessons the students have really enjoyed



using the Bunsen Burners to carry out investigations involving melting and evaporating. The Year 11 Sky Group had great fun exploring how chocolate can change from a solid to a liquid state as it melts with heat.



### **Year 11 Students Leaving Arrangements**

Our Year 11 students leave us on Friday 9th June 2023 although transport will run until Friday 16th June.

The students and staff will plan a number of trips and visits in the first few days after half-term, in celebration of their time at the school.

All of the Year 11 students will be provided with a sign off sheet, which when complete will allow them to leave school. Every member of staff that teaches a Year 11 will identify the work that needs to be completed for them to finish their course. The teachers will sign these when the work is completed to an appropriate standard.

When all the teachers have signed the sheets off, Miss Heller will check and counter-sign them, allowing the student to finish their education at The Valley School.

The dates between Monday 12th June and Friday 16th June will be used to mop up any incomplete work and support students until they are done.

The Year 11 Prom will be held on Thursday 22nd June at Stevenage Football Club. This will be an opportunity for students to dress up in formal wear, have a meal, music, speeches and celebrations of their time at The Valley School.

If you have any questions about the Year 11 leavers' dates, then please contact us to seek clarification.

### **FoVS Fundraising Meeting - Monday 27 February at 7.30pm**

We will be meeting next Monday, 27 February, at 7.30pm to discuss fundraising ideas which will help towards playground equipment for our children's use.

We will be hosting this meeting online to make it more accessible to everyone. ALL welcome to join us and help us generate some ideas. Please forward this information on to anyone who is interested in joining / supporting us.

Topic: FoVS Fundraising Meeting

Time: Feb 27, 2023 19:30 London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73879117254?pwd=sXBFj3TKKT6qbgWjBGKCmyObCkN8UI.1>

Meeting ID: 738 7911 7254

Passcode: nYxy4H

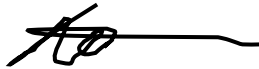
### **After School Clubs**

The list of students expected to attend clubs is attached to this newsletter. There will be no clubs on Wednesday next week as this is a strike day. 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](mailto: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.

We wish you a safe, relaxing and enjoyable weekend

Yours sincerely

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

David Pearce  
Headteacher