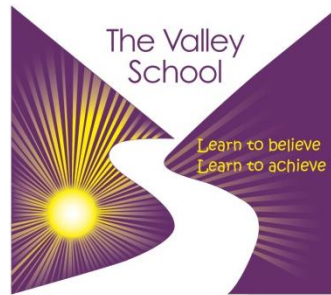


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The Valley Newsletter **Friday 28th April 2023**

On a daily basis I am showing parents of Year 5 students around the school and every one of them is impressed by the quality of what they are seeing. I wanted to take this opportunity to pass on to you, as parents, the raft of compliments we are receiving about the behaviour, work ethic and politeness of your children. They are an absolute credit to you, and I am sure you are extremely proud of them.

FURTHER STRIKE ACTION Tuesday 2nd May

The largest teacher's union, the NEU, have voted to Tuesday 2nd May 2023.

Unfortunately this action will prevent us from running a normal school day on this 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 this day 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. We have canvassed staff to let us know their intentions.



Lion King – Visit from Gary Hind

On Friday, Gary came in to school to visit our cast of The Lion King and spend time with them over lunch and whilst they were rehearsing.

Gary Hind has been a Musical Theatre composer and conductor for over 30 years. In London West End Theatre, as a conductor or orchestrator, he has worked on *The Lion King*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Sunset Boulevard*, *Peggy Sue Got Married*, *Annie*, *Starlight Express*, *Tell Me On A Sunday*, *The Pirates of Penzance*, *Jolson* and *The Goodbye Girl*. He works primarily now as a composer and Musical Supervisor for the world's largest pantomime company,



Crossroads Pantomimes Ltd and his shows at the London Palladium have included many nominations and a win at the Olivier Awards for Cinderella, Dick Whittington (winner), Snow White, Pantoland at the Palladium and Jack and the Beanstalk.



Until 2019, Gary, as Children's Musical Director was integral in the musical training of the children for the lead roles in the UK productions of Disney's The Lion King as part of their Cub School programme.

He is based near Hertford and lives with his wife Yvonne.

Gary spent a few hours with the students, sharing his experiences and coaching them on their own performances.



The students really enjoyed spending time with him and invited him and his wife to one of the shows later on in May.

We are pleased to say that Gary and his wife Yvonne will be returning on Wednesday 24th May for the second night of our production.

Lion King Tickets

We will be sending out a Google Form so that you can book your Lion King tickets. These are free of charge but there is only capacity for 158 per night and these will be allocated on a first come first served basis.



Year 10 Carpentry

Mr Holop is very proud of the Year 10 carpenters that completed the BTEC frame making project which is an essential component of the course. He wanted to pass on the following message: "Well done to you all!!"



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.

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

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.

Science

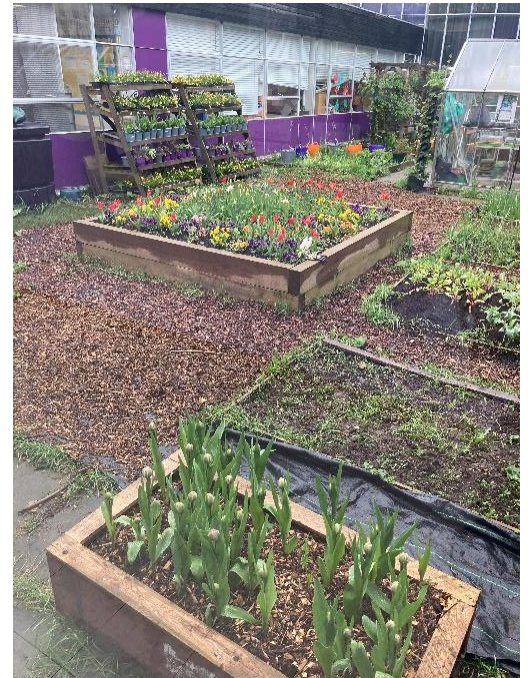
We have had some new residents join the Valley School this week in the guise of baby chicks. We have had a 'cracking' time watching our chicken's eggs hatch. So far we have two healthy chicks and eight eggs still unhatched. They will soon be moved from the incubator to a brooder where



they will remain for the whole of next week. All students will have the chance to handle a chick if they wish.

Outdoor Learning

A massive thank you to the team at Waste-Not-Want-Not that have supported our students in their outdoor learning. Not only have they volunteered their time but also provided all the plants to totally transform our quad into a beautiful garden.



Volunteer Readers

With our literacy drive across the school and us celebrating a culture of reading, we are always on the lookout for volunteers who would be willing to listen to children read and/or read to them. If you have a couple of hours to spare and think that this is something you would like to do, then please contact us for more information through the school office.

Displays

Thank you to our team of Learning Partners and Teachers that have worked hard to refresh our displays around the school. It is lovely to see the how creativitvity can transform our dilapidated old building. The photograph shows a forest school theme complete with marshmallows cooking over a lit fire.



New School

We are very excited with the progress of our new school and we can't wait until October when we can move in. You can see the most recent drone footage using the link below.

<https://vimeo.com/821191833/72453f61f5?share=copy>



After School Clubs

Performing Arts Club 3, 10, 17 May

For the next three weeks, we will be using the time during Performing Arts Club as rehearsals for the principals in the Lion King. Therefore, if your child does not have a principal role in the show they will not be required to come. Performing Arts Club will recommence as usual after the show and students who usually attend will NOT need to reapply. Please see the attached list which confirms those students who should be there on Wednesday.

Rafiki	Miami	Paul	7 Gold
Mufasa	Byron	Houghton	9 Silver
Sarabi	Chloe	Stevens	11 Yellow
Zazu	Megan	Gosden	9 Silver
Scar	Lou	Fortey	11 Green
Young Simba	Kyle	Reece	8 Teal
Adult Simba	Ankit	Chopde	11 Green
Young Nala	Bessie	Vannorden	7 Gold
Adult Nala	Gwen	Robinson	11 Green
Shenzi	Alfie	Wright	10 Maroon
Banzai	Cody	Hennessy	9 Orange
Ed	Milo	Collins	9 Violet
Timone	Samuel	Bromley	8 Teal
Pumba	Immy	Day	8 Purple



In addition to the above, the list of students expected to attend clubs on Wednesday and Thursday 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.

There will be no clubs on Tuesday as alternative arrangements have had to be made due to strike action.

Thank you for your support with this.

We wish you a safe, relaxing and enjoyable bank holiday weekend

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'David Pearce', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Pearce