

The Valley Newsletter

1st December 2023

School Lunches from January

Cypad Meal Selection is being introduced into school for all lunch meal ordering from 9th January 2024. This means that parents will be able to order school meals up to 10 weeks in advance.

Ordering will be done through a SchoolComms account – details on how to set this up will be sent out to you shortly.

Parents will need to have sufficient funds on their account to be able to order meals. If you start to pre order meals with insufficient funds it will give you 2 hours to top up. If the top up isn't made within the 2 hours the meals ordered will be deleted.

Please ensure that any outstanding meal balance on Arbor is cleared before Monday 18th December.

EHCP Annual Reviews

EHCP Annual Review Meetings

In response to feedback we have made changes to the annual review process. Year groups will be reviewed on the following dates:

Y11	5 th December 2023
Y10	28 th February 2024
Y7 & Y8	13 th March 2024
Y9	9 th May 2024

The Y11 reviews will be held on TEAMS, with the joining links being sent out in advance. The rest of the school reviews will be held remotely on SchoolCloud, which is the same platform we use for parent consultations. As usual, you will receive a paper copy of an amended plan 14 days before the review date, in order for you to prepare for the meeting.

If you have any questions, please contact senco@thevalley.herts.sch.uk



EDUCATIONAL
HEALTH & CARE
PLAN

Donation of DT Equipment

On behalf of The Valley School we would like to extend a massive thank you to the Doolin family. They have very generously donated hundreds of pounds worth of tools and equipment to the DT department. The students have already started to benefit from this new range of equipment; using it regularly to enhance the quality of their projects.



Festive Showcase Jingle All The Way

You are warmly invited to attend our Festive Showcase. This will be held from 5.30pm on Thursday 7 December in the school theatre. The performance will consist of some KS3 classes singing, songs from our school bands, some instrumental music, a special performance from the Performing Arts Club and a short pantomime from our Year 11 Performing Arts students.

All KS3 students have been learning the songs in their lessons and it would be fantastic to have as many as possible participating. KS4 Performing Arts students and Performing Arts Club have been rehearsing hard this half term and are all performing. If your child has instrumental sessions with Matthew and Jim and is in a school band, they have been rehearsing hard and have some fantastic songs to share. Participating students will need to be back in school by 5.15pm. They should wear something festive; reindeer antlers and Father Christmas hats are particularly encouraged! Please give consent for your child to participate via Arbor. There is no charge for tickets, but do indicate how many you require.



Sleeping Beauty Pantomime Sleeping Beauty School Trip

On Wednesday 6th December we will be running a trip to The Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage to see their production of Sleeping Beauty. Unfortunately finish times of the show will be after taxi pick-up time (4:00pm) so students will need to be collected from the Leisure car park or school by parents/carers if they are going to attend.

FSM students attending the Panto will be provided with a HCL packed lunch. Students not in receipt of Free School Meals will need to bring a packed lunch with them on the day.

We are asking for a voluntary contribution of £10.00 per student. If your child is in receipt of Free School Meals the amount will be £5:00. Please contact the office if you require any support in funding this trip. Payments can be made through Arbor. The letter for this went out on the 23rd September. The final date for confirmation has passed.



Hedgehog Houses and Christmas Gifts

During their DT lessons students have been working on Hedgehog houses which will be positioned around the new school. We are hopeful that they will be inhabited by little hedgehogs in the very near future.



The students have also been making some small Christmas gifts for their loved ones. They had a variety of figures to choose from.

Year 11's at North Herts College

This week our Year 11 students experienced the new immersive suite at North Herts College. They absolutely loved their time exploring the space, the students have responded so well to it. They were

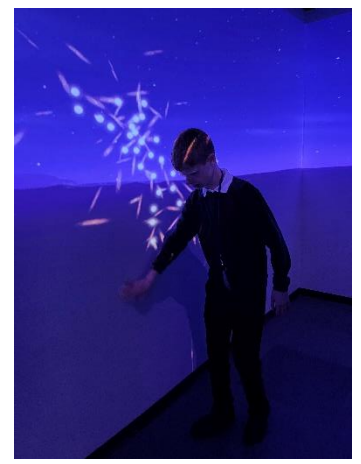


lucky to be one of the first groups to spend time in the new room.

HAPpy camps are back this winter!

Hertfordshire County Council is once again launching its free winter activity camps for children and young people in Hertfordshire.

Fully funded holiday activity camps return for the festive break, providing eligible children and young people with the chance to meet friends, learn new skills and enjoy nutritious food.



Bamboozle Production

We were visited by Bamboozle Theatre Company on Thursday who performed their intimate and highly creative show, 'Storm' to a group of our students. The company specialise in performances for children who might not be able to access a show in a conventional theatre setting. The students were fully engaged throughout and it was wonderful to see them interacting with the performers.

'That was xxxxx amazing'

I loved that they sung my name when they said hello and goodbye

I want to see those actors again

I loved it

Thank you to Happy Days who funded this opportunity



The HAPpy programme, funded by Hertfordshire County Council and the Department of Education (DfE) via the government's Holiday Activity and Food programme, and coordinated by Herts Sport and Activity Partnership and the Hertfordshire Community Foundation, is running approximately 100 activity camps with nearly 9,000 free places from 21 December – 3 January 2024.

At the sessions, eligible children and young people can enjoy free food, free sports and free craft activities. They will also receive advice on nutrition and cooking skills to enhance their health and wellbeing.



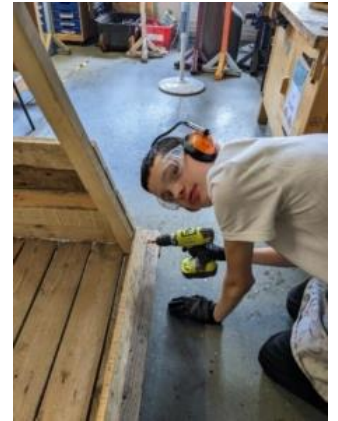
Ask your school office if you haven't already received your code and your child is eligible.

Free places can be booked from midday on Wednesday 22 November via the Herts Sport and Physical Activity Partnership's website: <https://bit.ly/3MHkFH8>

After School Clubs

Afterschool Clubs Next Week

We have a very busy week at school next week which has resulted in a number of Afterschool Clubs being cancelled to accommodate special events such as Year 11 EHCP day, the visit to the Pantomime and the Christmas Show Performance.



Therefore, the only clubs still on next week as a result are as follows:

Tuesday - Cricket Club with Mr Russell
Tuesday - ICT Club with Mr Choudhury
Clubs

The list of students expected to attend clubs on Tuesday will be sent as a separate email 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.

