

# The Valley Newsletter

## 16th February 2024

Another action packed half term has drawn to a close. It has been extremely busy but also very rewarding. The most notable event has been the move into our new building, where we have turned backs on non-flushing toilets, leaking roofs and having to wear coats indoors, to enjoy first class facilities in all areas.

We hope you take the opportunity to come and look round during one of our open mornings.

### Open Mornings

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March we are holding two open mornings to provide an opportunity for visitors to look around the new school.

An email with booking information has been sent out so that you can sign up.

A plan of the morning can be seen below.

Parents/carers will be divided into different coloured groups on arrival. To mitigate against visitors being rushed/having to hang around, we have organised a 'mop-up' group for late arrivals.

Please do not arrive before 9:30am as this will disrupt our 'Taxi Drop Off' arrangements.

	Group 1 BLUE	Group 2 RED	Group 3 GREEN
9:30 – 9:50	Parents arrive Top/Bottom car Park and Muga	Parents arrive Top/Bottom car Park and Muga	Parents arrive Top/Bottom car Park and Muga
9:30-10:00	Early Refreshments (Enterprise Group)		
10:0 - 10:30	Tour of School <b>David</b> Start Dining Room finish Dining Room	Tour of School <b>Taney</b> Start Dining Room finish Dining Room	Late refreshment to 10:15  Tour of School <b>Iona</b> Start Dining Room finish Dining Room
10:30	Leave		
10:45			Leave

### Teddy Visits Teal Class

Teddy, Ms Flynn's 2.5 year old Cockapoo visited The Valley School on Wednesday. He spent most of his time in the Year 9 area and Teal class. All of the children were fantastic and so caring and kind to Teddy and he is now an honorary member of Teal class.

Teddy had a calming effect on the children and was a lovely addition to the class; the children have already been asking when he can come back.



### EHCP Annual Review Days

Year 10 EHCP Annual Review Day is taking place on [Wednesday 28th February](#).

Paperwork in preparation for this has been sent home this week to Parents/Carers.

Year 10 students will not be in school on that day as all their teachers will be involved in meetings.

The reviews are being conducted virtually, for which you should have already received an invitation via School Cloud. A reminder will also be sent nearer the time.

Annual Review days for other year groups will follow the same format and are as follows:

[Years 7 and 8 - Wednesday 13th March](#)

[Year 9 - Thursday 9th May](#)



### Immy Wins Regional trampolining Competition

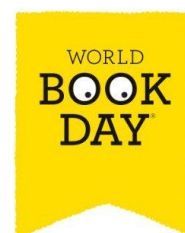
As a school we are celebrating Immy's success in her Regional trampolining competition. She performed amazingly well, achieving her highest ever score.

Well done Immy, we wish you further success in the future.



### World Book Day

We will be celebrating World Book Day on Friday 8th March this year. We are encouraging students and staff to wear something they feel comfortable in and will therefore be having a non-uniform day. Students are still welcome to dress up as their favourite character or bring in story-related props if they wish to do so. Throughout the day, students will be partaking in a range of activities to demonstrate our love for reading at The Valley, including a themed assembly and competitions.



### Teal class celebrated Lunar New Year

Teal class celebrated Lunar New Year with some Chinese snacks and fortune cookies, using chopsticks. They were each given a lucky traditional Chinese coin.





### Year 7 Cinema Trip

We are very excited to let you know that on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March Sky Class will be heading out for the day. We will be watching 'Trolls Band Together' at Vue Cinema in Bedford, this is a free showing for schools. We will then travel to Baldock Services where students will use their reward money to purchase their lunch from McDonalds. Students do not have to buy their lunch if they want to save their points, however if they choose not to, they will need to bring a packed lunch or order one from school.

We will be leaving promptly at 9am using school vehicles and making our way to Vue Cinema in Bedford to see a showing of the Trolls Band Together Movie, which has a U certificate. Following the film we will be travelling to Baldock Services for lunch. After lunch we will return to school in time for usual end of day arrangements.



If you would also like to provide a small nut free snack for your child to eat during the film please do so because we will not be able to visit the shop at the cinema. Filled water bottles should also be provided. We will be representing The Valley School while we are out, so full school uniform must be worn.

### Archie Visited the Valley School

Archie decided that his learning needed a little top-up and so attended The Valley School today. He helped with some break and lunch duties, patrolled the corridors, and was always ready if anyone needed a cuddle.



### Attendance

#### Attendance Guide for Parents/Carers

##### What YOU will do:

Report your child's absence to the school office. Try to telephone or email by 9am.

Tell the school in advance of any medical or dental appointments, using the Leave of Absence form that is on the school website. A hard copy can be obtained from the main office.

Check the NHS guidance if you are unsure whether your child is well enough to be in school. The guidance is clear that it is fine to send them in with a minor cough or cold, provided they don't have a temperature.

Have a backup plan if your child misses transport.

##### What WE will do:

Check your child's attendance every day.

Phone home to discuss your child's attendance with you.

Our Family Engagement and Therapies Lead will work with you to offer support or guidance.

## Attendance Matters



Invite you into school for attendance meetings if we are concerned.

### **Working together to improve attendance**

We understand that attending school can be tricky sometimes. We want to work with your child and you to ensure they feel confident to come to school.

If you and your child are experiencing difficulties with school attendance the talk to as a first step so that we can work together to help.

If you need to ask for absence during term time for exceptional circumstances please submit the Leave of Absence form that is on the school website or available from the main office.

Please note that if your child has 90% attendance by the end of the school year, they have effectively missed a months' worth of schooling.

### **Year 8 Science**

Across this half term Year 8 have been learning about 'Everyday Materials' in Science. They have been exploring states of matter, separating mixtures, chemical reactions and the Periodic Table. To end the topic for Gold Class, they had a carousel of activities where they made Oobleck, had to inflate a balloon and also made lava lamps. Well done Gold Class!

### **Year 7s Studying Water**

Year 7 made their own water filters and tested them by purifying dirty water



## School Clubs

### Performing Arts Club

Mrs Crosby is unavailable to run Performing Arts Club on the first two Wednesdays after half term. We are very fortunate that Ms Shears and Miss Casey have agreed to facilitate the running of the club during these two weeks, with help from our fantastic Year 11 leaders. We will be offering the club to specific year groups on these two occasions.

**Wednesday 28 February: Year 7, Year 9, Year 11 leaders**

**Wednesday 6 March: Year 8, Year 10, Year 11 leaders**

**Performing Arts Club will run as usual on Wednesday 13 March**

We are delighted to announce that our show this year will be Aladdin! Performances will be on Wednesday 26 and Thursday 27 June at 6.00pm. Students will be learning the songs and choreography in their Performing Arts lessons starting after half term. We had a fantastic first meeting of the principals this week. We would also like to say a massive 'thank you' to Mrs Doolin who has donated a tiara to the production. It is modelled here by our very own Jasmine.

After half term after school clubs will continue to be on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

The list of students expected to attend clubs on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 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](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.

