

# The Valley Newsletter

## 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024

It was lovely to welcome all the students back to our new school after half term. It is amazing how quickly we have all become used to our new environment. The students have worked very hard all week and thoroughly immersed themselves in their learning. They took the disruption of the Year 10 EHCP Day in their stride.

### **Aladdin - Wednesday 15th May at the Milton Keynes Theatre**

We are delighted to inform you that we have secured tickets to see a matinee performance of Aladdin at the Milton Keynes theatre on the afternoon of Wednesday 15th May 2024.

This trip will run as an enrichment opportunity for all students, though will be of particular interest to those students who are intending to be involved in our production of Aladdin later in the year.

We will be leaving school at 1.00pm and travelling by minibus to Milton Keynes. Students will have their lunch in school before we leave. Please order a lunch as usual if your child has school dinners. We will arrive back at The Valley at approximately 6.15pm, traffic allowing. Your child will need to be collected from school at this time. Please see further information about the production by following the link below:

<https://www.atgtickets.com/shows/disneys-aladdin/milton-keynes-theatre/>

The subsidised cost of this trip will be £10.00 (£5.00 for those students in receipt of Free School Meals).

In order to secure a place on this trip, you will need to give consent via Arbor for your child to attend, confirming your child will be collected at 6.15pm from school and have paid in full.

All consent/payment must be received by Friday 22nd March.

We hope as many students as possible will be able to take advantage of this fantastic opportunity to see a professional production of Aladdin. If we have more students than the fifty tickets allocated, wanting to go, we will try to secure additional tickets. If these are unavailable the students will be selected through a lottery to ensure the process is as fair as possible.

### **Open Mornings**

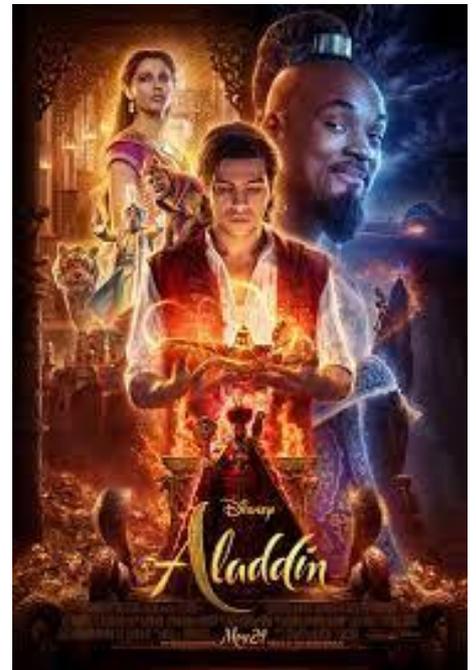
On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March we are holding two open mornings to provide an opportunity for visitors to look around the new school.

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	Parents arrive Top/Bottom car Park	Parents arrive Top/Bottom car Park
9:30- 10:00	Early Refreshments (Enterprise Group)		
10:0 - 10:30	Tour of School <b>Mr Pearce</b> Start Dining Room finish Dining Room	Tour of School <b>Ms Howarth</b> Start Dining Room finish Dining Room	Late refreshment to 10:15
			Tour of School <b>Ms Varol</b> Start Dining Room finish Dining Room
10:30	Leave		
10:45			Leave

### Years 7 and 8 EHCP Annual Review Day

Years 7 and 8 EHCP Annual Review Day is taking place on [Wednesday 13th March](#)

Paperwork in preparation for this will be sent home to Parents/Carers.

Year 7&8 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 day for Year 9 will follow the same format and is on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2024

### Year 11 Childcare

Ms Hale and Mrs Rea were so proud of the year 11 childcare students on their first nursery visit of the half term. Even the rain didn't stop them from joining in with the nursery children, jumping in muddy puddles and "trying" the concoctions they came up with in their mud kitchen! Our students were fantastic and a real credit to the school; the nursery students can't wait for them to return next week. Well done Year 11!



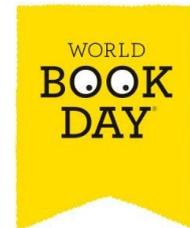
### Year 11 Art

The Year 11 BTEC students have started mounting their portfolios in preparation for their assessment. Alfie should be extremely proud of the quality of his work which clearly reflects his talent and the amount of time and effort he has put in to it. Well done Alfie!



### 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.



### 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.

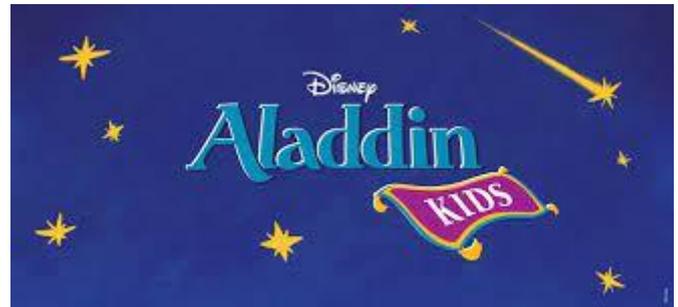
We will be leaving promptly at 9am using school vehicles and making our way to Vue Cinema in Bedford to see a showing of the Trolls Band Together Movie, which has a U certificate. Following the film we will be travelling to Baldock Services for lunch. After lunch we will return to school in time for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

### Whole School Production

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.



### Zones of Regulation

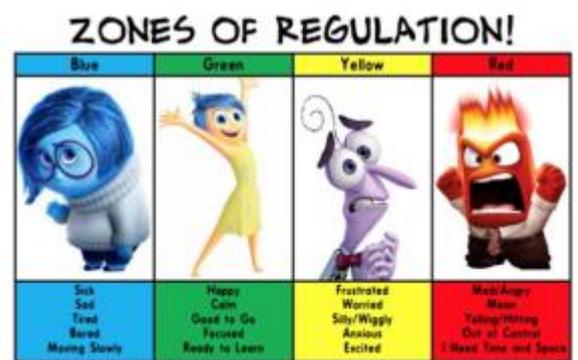
Zones of Regulation are a tool that we use as a school to help students recognise their feelings and manage them appropriately.

They provide a common language and a clear understanding of how to talk about quite a complex subject.

As a school we explain to students that all emotions are allowed and that it is normal to feel a full range of emotions on a daily basis. It is important however, to recognise these emotions as and when they arise, and have appropriate strategies on how to manage them.

We have a number of resources in school to help with this, including social stories, posters and practical examples to refer to.

As a family you may find that adopting similar strategies at home will help support your child. Please take time to look through the resources provided on our website.



### Inclusive Choir

Inclusive Choir run by Hertfordshire Music Service and our very own Matthew Dear.

If your child is interested in joining this new choir please see the leaflet attached and register directly with the Music Service. There is a free taster session on Friday 15 March



### School Clubs

#### Performing Arts Club

Mrs Crosby is unavailable to run Performing Arts Club on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March. 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 6 March: Year 8, Year 10, Year 11 leaders**

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

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.

