

The Valley Newsletter

8th March 2024

We have had another interesting week where in true British style we have experienced every season's weather in one week. Despite this, our young people have demonstrated their resilience; throwing themselves into activities inside and out of school.

On Wednesday and Thursday it was lovely to welcome so many of you to our open mornings. We thank you for your valuable feedback

Open Mornings

On Wednesday 6th and Thursday 7th March we held two open mornings, providing an opportunity for visitors to look around the new school.

A huge thanks to Mrs Rea and her Year 10 and 11 Hospitality students who did an amazing job providing light refreshments during the morning. Many of the cakes and biscuits were hand baked by the team.



British Science Week

Mrs Wells has put together a full programme of activities for our students to celebrate British Science week next week. These include a poster competition, spending time with our resident ducklings, outdoor lessons and a Year 9 Science assembly.

This week we have had a 'quacking' time watching our ducklings hatch. So far, we have five healthy ducklings and one egg waiting to hatch. All five ducklings are now settling into their new brooder. Our ducklings love company and cuddles, next week we will be handling the ducklings and bathing them for the first time.



If anyone would be interested in rehoming our ducklings from next Friday please contact Mrs Wells and she will discuss the process with you.

End of term arrangements (Thursday 28th March 2024)

Our last day of term is Thursday 28th March 2024.

Time	Activity
9:00 – 9:20	Registration and Breakfast
9:20 - 10:25	Periods 1 and 2 as normal
10:25 – 10:50	Break
10:50 - 11:10	Form time
11:15 – 12:00	Assembly in the hall
12:00 – 12:35	Lunchtime
12:35 – 12:40	Form time
12:40 – 12:50	Departure



The students will have the choice of pizza or a ham sandwich for lunch on this day. The booking system will reflect this change in food options.

The first day back for staff will be **Monday 15th April** as it is an Inset Day. Students will be back on Tuesday 16th April at the normal time.

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 9th May 2024



Year 11 Students Leaving Arrangements

Our Year 11 students leave us on Friday 7th June 2023 although transport will run until Friday 14th 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, Mrs Wells will check and counter-sign them, allowing the student to finish their education at The Valley School.

The dates between Monday 10th June and Friday 14th 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 20th 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.

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.



World Book Day

Students and staff have had a wonderful time celebrating World Book Day 2024 today. It has been a delight to see the effort that students have gone to, to promote this year's theme of 'Read Your Way'. Throughout the week we have been completing activities such as book decorating and voting for our favourite book as a whole school. All students have received their World Book Day token which they can use to buy one of the chosen books for this year, or for money off an alternative book they would like to purchase.

And the winner is...

We're Going on a Bear Hunt

Michael Rosen Helen Oxenbury





Year 7 Cinema Trip

We are very excited to let you know that on Tuesday 12th 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

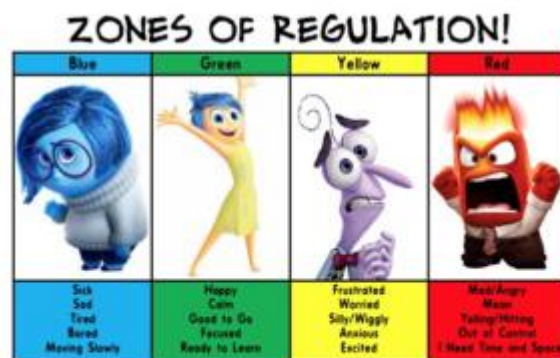
Zones of Regulation are a tool that we use as a school to help students recognise their feelings and manage them appropriately.

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.



Donation of Macs for Performing Arts

We have been very fortunate to secure a donation of amazing Macs which are now being used for Performing Arts in Years 8 and 9. Thank you to The University of Hertfordshire Computing Technology department for this generous donation, the students are loving them.



School Clubs

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 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.

