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**Date: Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

## **The Valley Newsletter**

We're delighted to be into our first full week of the new school year, and it's been a fantastic start. Students have settled in remarkably well, and there's a positive, purposeful atmosphere throughout the school. It's been wonderful to see learning spaces full of energy and engagement. Our clubs have now begun, with great attendance during lunch, break times and after school - thank you to staff and students for making these such a success already. Here's to a term full of growth, creativity, and collaboration!

### **Year 7 Students Settle in with Confidence and Curiosity**

We are delighted to share how well our new Year 7 students are settling into life at The Valley School. From the very first day, they have shown great enthusiasm and resilience as they navigate their new environment.

It's been heartwarming to see new friendships blossoming across the year group. Whether in the classroom, during break times, or while exploring the school grounds, students are already building strong connections with one another.

Our staff have been incredibly impressed with how smoothly the transition process has gone. The students have embraced their new routines with maturity and positivity, and their eagerness to learn and get involved has not gone unnoticed.



We're excited to watch them grow, both personally and academically, as they continue to explore all that their new school has to offer. This is just the beginning of what promises to be a fantastic journey.



### **Personal Health and Wellbeing: Learning Through Teamwork and Precision**

In their Personal Health and Wellbeing option, students have been exploring the importance of clear communication and careful listening through a hands-on challenge that tested both their patience and precision.

Working in pairs, students were tasked with building a model using construction materials. One partner created a structure and then gave detailed instructions - describing colours, shapes, and the exact order of building - for their partner to recreate it without seeing the original. It was a tricky task that required focus, resilience, and teamwork!

Despite the challenges, students persevered and showed great determination. The activity not only helped develop their ability to follow and give instructions accurately but also highlighted the value of collaboration and problem-solving in everyday life.

Well done to all involved for embracing the challenge with enthusiasm and care!





### Sky Class Explore Materials in the Sunshine!

Sky Class made the most of the late summer sunshine this week with an exciting outdoor learning adventure around the school grounds. The students were on a mission to identify different materials in their environment - building on their Year 8 Science learning with enthusiasm and curiosity.

Armed with clipboards and keen eyes, they searched high and low for solid materials, spotting everything from metal railings to wooden benches. The challenge took an unexpected turn when they encountered a mystery liquid that proved tricky to label. But thanks to Lily's quick thinking and creativity, the class found a clever workaround - she labelled a bottle containing the liquid, earning a round of applause from her peers!

It was a fantastic opportunity for Sky Class to apply their knowledge in a real-world setting, and their teamwork and problem-solving skills shone through. Well done, Sky Class!



## **Welwyn Garden City Central Library**

On Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> October, Welwyn Garden City Central Library are excited to be welcoming guests including Hertfordshire's SEND local offer, SPACE, and many more local organisations to a free drop-in fair for parents and carers of children with SEND. This will run in the afternoon from 2pm-5pm and will be a great opportunity to connect with local services, for support, information and community. Whether you drop-in before the school run, or go after school with your children, they hope you can join them.



At 5pm they will be hosting author Cathy Reay, to talk about her new book 'How to be Disabled and Proud (or at least kinda sorta ok with it)'. This is another free event, that you must book your space for either at the desk in the library, or by emailing [libraries.information@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:libraries.information@hertfordshire.gov.uk). Cathy will speak about her experiences as a disabled person but also as a mum to two disabled children. This event is aimed at parents and carers, looking to support and advocate for their children.

## **Reminder: Student Medical Information**



We kindly ask all families to ensure that the school holds up-to-date medical information for their child. This includes details of any medical conditions, allergies, medications, or changes to emergency contact information.

Accurate medical records help us to provide the best possible care and support for your child during the school day.

If there have been any recent changes, or if you're unsure whether we have the most current information, please complete a new medical form. These can be found attached to this newsletter or requested from reception.

Thank you for your continued support in keeping our records accurate and up to date.

## **Inclusive Choir**

Please see the attached flyer for the Soundabout Inclusive Choir. This is run by the wonderful Matthew Dear, who the students know as he is one of our instrumental teachers.

## School Photos

Maxims Photography

We are visiting your school  
**Tuesday 7th October 2025**

offering individual photos.  
(Please ensure your child is wearing  
full school uniform where applicable)



7x5 mounted print £12

12x8 mounted print £14

Digital download of your photo £4\*

\*Digital Downloads are only available in addition to purchasing the individual printed photo

### After School Clubs This Term

These started again on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2025. The activities start at 3.15pm and go on until 4.15pm. Parents will need to collect students at 4.15pm from reception.

The clubs on offer are as follows:

#### Tuesday

Sports Club (max. 14)

Performing Arts Club (max. 30)

#### Thursday

Art and Craft Club (max. 14)

The list of students expected to attend clubs on Tuesdays and Thursdays 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](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.