

Date: Friday 7th November 2025

The Valley Newsletter

Welcome Back!

We hope everyone enjoyed a restful half-term break and is ready for an exciting few weeks ahead. As we return, please remember to stay safe if you are attending any fireworks events over the weekend—look after yourselves and those around you.

This half-term promises to be full of memorable moments. We are looking forward to our **Prizes and Awards Afternoon and Evening**, the **Pantomime**, and our **Seasonal Celebration**, alongside all the usual engaging learning activities.

Thank you for your continued support, and let's make this half-term a fantastic one!

Maroon Visit Waste Not Want Not

This Wednesday, Maroon visited *Waste Not Want Not*, where Rob gave us a wonderful demonstration on how to make Christmas wreaths. After watching him work his magic, we had the chance to try making our own! We could choose from a variety of sizes, ranging from 8 to 16 inches, depending on what we felt like creating.

Although we didn't quite finish our wreaths today, we'll have the opportunity to complete them next week. They're already looking very impressive!

As always, we wrapped up our visit with a comforting cup of hot chocolate. A kind visitor donated some delicious doughnuts, and Rob generously invited us to share them. It was a lovely way to end a creative and festive morning.



Junction 7 Creatives

As part of their Arts enrichment, over the next few weeks every Year 9 class will be visiting Junction 7 Creatives in Stevenage town centre. This is a council-funded, community run space for local artists. Do follow the link below to find out more:

<https://www.junction7creatives.co.uk/>

Yellow class went today and had an amazing time looking at the artworks on display and creating their own. Photos to follow!



Celebrating Isla's Achievement!

We are delighted to share some fantastic news about one of our Year 11 students, Isla Hudson (Teal Class). Isla has been recognised with a Young People's Award from Hertfordshire County Council Services for Young People – an incredible achievement that we are all proud of.

Isla was nominated by a youth worker at her local youth club for her determination in overcoming anxiety and showing real independence and resilience to embrace new opportunities. Her growing confidence and willingness to push herself have made her a brilliant role model for others.

On Wednesday night, Isla attended an awards ceremony in Stevenage to receive her award. This is a wonderful recognition of her hard work and personal growth, and something Isla can be incredibly proud of.

Congratulations, Isla.



Dick Whittington - Tuesday 9 December

We are delighted to inform you that we are offering all students the opportunity to see the pantomime 'Dick Whittington and His Cat' at the Gordon Craig Theatre, Stevenage on Tuesday 9 December. Students will be driven to the theatre after registration to see a mid-morning performance. This will take place during the normal school day and students will therefore be able to go home on their



transport at the usual time. If your child comes to and from school independently, i.e. **not** on county transport, we are asking that they **arrive at the Leisure Centre car park at 9:30am**, rather than at school.

Please look out for a letter about this next week and respond as requested to enable your child to attend this fantastic event!

Save The Date!

Our Seasonal Celebration will take place on Thursday 11 December at 5.00pm in the school hall. All KS3 students are invited to participate in addition to many KS4 students who attend clubs and have instrumental lessons. It promises to be a wonderful, seasonal showcase of our Performing Arts.



Coral Science

Students in Coral Class have been introduced to the idea that our eyes need light to see. They are learning that light enters our eyes through the dark spot called the pupil and have located the pupils of their eyes.

Students have also been encouraged to notice the size of the pupil in dark and light environments. They have learnt that the pupil is like a big window trying to capture all the light around, and it allows us to see better in the dark.



After School Clubs This Term

This started again on Tuesday 4th November 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 after half term are as follows:

Tuesday

Sports Club (max. 14)

Performing Arts Club (max. 30)

Thursday

Art and Craft Club (max. 15)

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 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.