

Date: Friday 5th December 2025

The Valley Newsletter

Welcome to this week's newsletter from The Valley School!

It has been another fantastic week of learning at The Valley School. We were delighted to welcome numerous parents who visited us for tours with potential future students. The feedback we received was overwhelmingly positive, with visitors commenting on our students' excellent behaviour, politeness, strong relationships with staff, and positive attitudes towards learning.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to both staff and students for their resilience and commitment, especially as we continue to manage the challenge of having a third of our heating system out of action. We are awaiting parts and appreciate everyone's patience during this time.

Looking ahead, we are excited about two special events next week: our school trip to the Stevenage Pantomime and our Seasonal Celebration. These occasions promise to be wonderful opportunities for fun and community spirit as we approach the festive season.

Thank you for your continued support.

End of term arrangements

Electives will be moved to Thursday afternoon

Friday 19th December - Last day of term

Time	Activity
9:00 – 9:20	Registration and Breakfast
9:20 – 10ish	Assembly
10ish – 11:00	Shortened L2 then L3 as normal
11:00 - 11:20	Break
11:20 – 11:45	Lesson 4
11:45 – 12:00	Form Time
12:00 – 12:30	Pick up lunch
12:30 – 12:35	Form time
12:35 – 12:50	Departure



The first day back in January

The first day back for staff will be **Monday 5th January** as it is an **Inset Day**.

The first day back for students will be on **Tuesday 6th January at 9:00am**

Year 8 Science

Year 8 have been learning about space this half term, and particularly The Space Race. This week the students worked together to make and decorate rockets and then we launched them outside. The unfortunately ours didn't make outer space but we had lots of fun during the process!



2025 Parent Governor

An exciting opportunity has arisen to join the Governing Body of The Valley School as one of our Governors. In its strategic role, the Governing Body enjoys a close working relationship with the SLT in this warm and welcoming learning environment and is involved in all aspects of school life.

If you are looking for a rewarding experience and are interested in finding out more about our friendly team and how you can support our school community, we would love to hear from you.

Please contact:

iona.varol@thevalley.herts.sch.uk



Year 11 BTEC Art

Year 11 BTEC students have been working on their 'Tribal Art' portfolios and part of that has been researching and creating tribal face art designs. The class had great fun face painting each other's faces with their own original ideas. The results were fantastic and lots of fun.



Parent Support Workshops

The workshops are going very well, with excellent feedback from parents and carers. There have been some great advice tips shared, offering valuable support, understanding, and practical strategies to use at home.

Next week's workshop will focus on ***Understanding Emotions.***

To reserve your place, please use the link below:

Date	Workshop	Link
Thursday 11 th December 2025	Understanding emotions Understand emotion regulation and learn strategies to support children's emotional wellbeing.	Click here to reserve a space on the SEND MHST: Understanding Emotions workshop Sign up by 10 th Dec
Thursday 18 th December 2025	Christmas holidays To help families prepare for the Christmas break and manage changes in routine positively.	Click here to reserve a space on the SEND MHST: Christmas Holidays workshop Sign up by 17 th Dec

Following instructions

Sky Class have been learning about the special language used for instructions, including the imperative tense, or 'bossy verbs'! The students had to order and write their own instructions for making a delicious hot chocolate. The next day, they had the chance to make it for themselves (although a few extras were made for the teachers too...!). Luckily, the instructions worked and the hot chocolates got 5-star reviews!



Dick Whittington - Tuesday 9 December

We are really looking forward to our trip to the pantomime on Tuesday next week..... oh yes we are! We are planning for the majority of students to walk to the theatre and we will need to set off as soon as possible. Therefore students will be coming in to registration as soon as they arrive on the school site.

Please ensure your child has a snack, a drink and a coat with them on Tuesday.

We will be returning to school in time for our usual lunch.



Seasonal Celebration

Thank you to everyone who has completed the form to give permission for their child to participate in the above event. Please note that tickets in the hall are limited and must be applied for using the link within the letter. We are also planning to relay the performances to another space within the school so more people are able to experience the show.

If you would like your child to stay through from the end of school to the start of the concert please ensure you have emailed the admin team to request this and cancelled you child's transport for the journey home.

The students have been rehearsing hard, the audience are in for a real treat!



Christmas Dinner & Festive Jumpers

We are delighted to let you know that our school Christmas Dinner will take place on **Wednesday 17th December**. Children are welcome to wear a Christmas jumper on this day if they wish, but this is entirely optional and not an expectation.



Sky Art

Students in Sky Class explored the world of abstract art by creating their own Picasso-style portraits. Their imaginative use of shapes and bold colours brought a modern twist to this iconic style, showcasing creativity and individuality in every piece.





Perfecting Presentation!

Team Building students have been rehearsing the art of table arrangement in preparation for next week, when they'll showcase their skills by cooking and serving a meal for a select group of staff. Their attention to detail highlights the importance of presentation and hospitality.





Exploring Virtual Worlds!

During a visit to North Herts College, students stepped into a VR-simulated experience, immersing themselves in a dynamic virtual environment. This hands-on session offered a glimpse into cutting-edge technology and its exciting possibilities.



Junior Football Tournament Summary

On Thursday, The Valley School hosted and took part in a Junior Football Tournament featuring teams from Brandles, St Lukes, Batchwood, and Pinewood.

In a very competitive field, The Valley School' teams performed strongly, securing 3rd and 5th place overall.

Despite challenging, wet weather conditions, the boys showed excellent attitude, determination, and teamwork. They should be proud of their efforts and the results they achieved.



After School Clubs This Term

THERE WILL BE NO ARTS AND CRAFTS CLUB ON THURSDAY AS WE HAVE OUR SEASONAL CELEBRATION

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

Arts and Crafts Club (max. 14) - CANCELLED

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.