

Date: Friday 6th February 2026

The Valley Newsletter

We now know who will be joining us from Year 6 into Year 7, as the phase transfer process is now complete. The next step will be for our team to visit the new cohort in their current settings, helping us begin to build relationships and ensure a smooth transition. As has become the norm, we are once again completely full and oversubscribed. My sincere thanks go to our Admin team, interventions staff, and the Year 7 team for pulling all this important work together so efficiently. This week also saw our first Year Group Coffee Morning on Tuesday, which was a tremendous success. We organised the event in response to feedback from parents in our recent questionnaire, and we hope you not only enjoyed the morning but also felt reassured that we truly listen and act on your requests and wishes. With the Year 7 event concluding so well, we will now be rolling out a similar event for all the other year groups.

We finished the week on a high by celebrating all things numeracy. Students enjoyed dressing up for Number Day and taking part in a range of numeracy-themed activities across the school.

I hope you enjoy reading the rest of this week's updates.

A Kind Easter Surprise for Our Students

We are delighted to share that a generous family connected to our school has kindly donated Easter eggs for every student at The Valley School. The donors wish to remain anonymous, but we would like to express our heartfelt thanks for their wonderful act of kindness, which will bring a smile to many faces this Easter.

As always, the wellbeing and preferences of our families remain our priority. Before any Easter eggs are given out, form tutors will check with parents and carers to ensure they are happy for their child to receive one. We fully respect individual needs, dietary requirements, and family choices.



We are extremely grateful for the thoughtfulness behind this donation, and we look forward to celebrating the end of term with this extra touch of generosity.

Year 7 coffee morning

We were delighted to welcome parents and carers to our recent Year 7 Coffee Morning, which proved to be a very successful pilot event. We received extremely positive feedback and, due to the success of the coffee morning format, we are now looking at running similar events for other year groups in the future. One parent commented that *“it was lovely to be able to view the school again and see students’ books and how they are getting on,”* which reflects the positive feeling shared by many attendees.



The morning provided a valuable opportunity for parents and carers to meet one another and staff, view students’ workbooks, and gain a greater insight into learning in school. Students were clearly proud to share their work, and it was wonderful to see their enthusiasm and confidence as they talked about their progress.

We were also grateful for the support of our Year 10 Enterprise students, who did a fantastic job serving tea and coffee and helping the event run smoothly.

Parents and Carers were full of superlatives, expressing how grateful they are to have such a dedicated and professional team working with their children. Many commented on how excited they were to attend and how much they valued the opportunity to engage with the school in this way.

We appreciate that not all parents and carers were able to attend this event, and we are grateful for the continued support of our wider school community. We hope to run more events and opportunities like this in the future, allowing as many families as possible to engage with school life in ways that suit them.

Parents also found it particularly helpful to see clear examples of what is being taught in the curriculum. Copies of curriculum information for each subject can be found on the Valley website under the relevant Year Group pages, allowing families to continue supporting learning at home. Events like this highlight the importance of strong partnerships between school and families, helping to support students’ learning, wellbeing, and overall success.

Thank you to everyone involved for your hard work in making the Coffee Morning such a positive and successful event.

Year 8 Bring Ancient Engineering to Life

This term, Year 8 have been exploring the remarkable engineering behind the Egyptian pyramids. Despite being built over 5,000 years ago, these incredible structures were constructed using simple yet highly effective tools and methods—an idea that captured the students' imagination.

To deepen their understanding, students worked in small groups to take on their own pyramid-building challenge. Armed with nothing but sugar cubes, teamwork, and a lot of determination, they set out to create miniature versions of these ancient wonders.

The classroom soon filled with excitement (and a few wobbly walls!) as pupils experimented with different construction techniques, problem-solved together and refined their designs. The result? Some impressive sugar-cube pyramids—and, more importantly, a hands-on appreciation for the ingenuity of ancient architects.

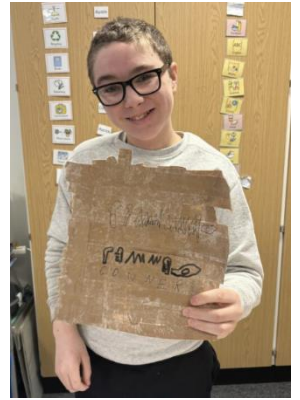
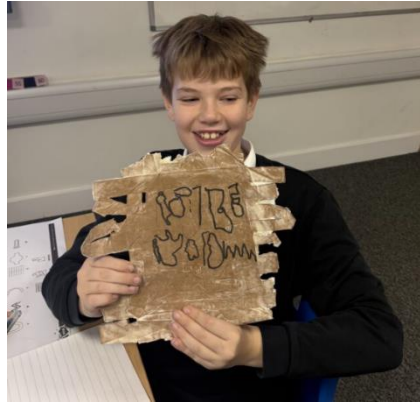
A fun, creative and memorable way to bring history to life!

Last week, students explored the ancient art of papermaking and discovered how the Egyptians created papyrus thousands of years ago. They even had the chance to handle real papyrus, giving them a tangible connection to the past.



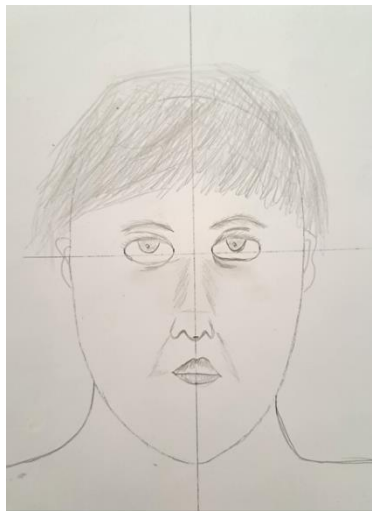
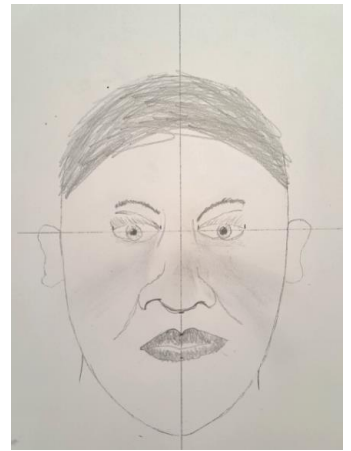
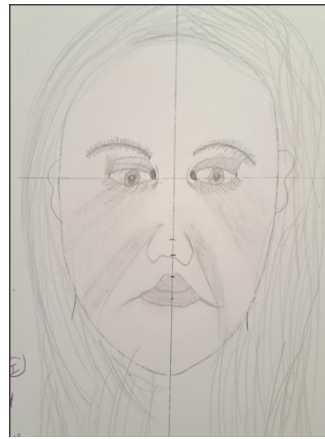
Two weeks ago, the students tried their hand at making their own paper. This week, they put their creations to use by writing messages—or even their own names—using traditional Egyptian hieroglyphs.

The students have thoroughly enjoyed how interactive and hands-on this topic has been.



Year 7 Art

In their Art lessons, Year 7 have been learning how to draw a realistic portrait where we have looked at the proportions of the face. They all tried very hard and their final sketches were very impressive. Here are a few...



Police Cadets' Workshop

After the upcoming half term, we are hoping to run a Police Cadets workshop programme for our students.

This is an interactive six-week programme, delivered by PC Neil, designed to help young people build confidence, awareness, and important life skills. The sessions will encourage positive decision-making and support students in developing the confidence to speak to trusted adults.

Students who complete the programme will receive a certificate at the end of the six weeks. Further details will be shared shortly.

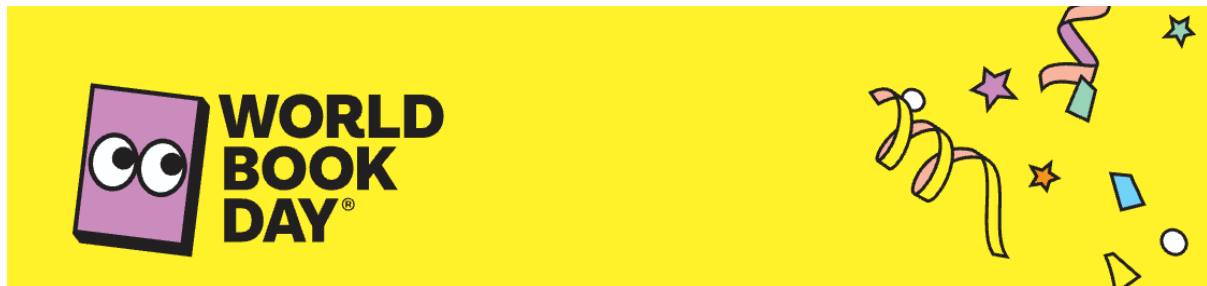


NSPCC Number Day – Friday 6th February

On Friday 6th February, our school joined thousands of others across the UK to celebrate **NSPCC Number Day**.

Throughout the day, students enjoyed a range of fun maths activities and numerical games, including taking part in a nationwide **Times Tables Rockstars** competition.

They also **Dressed Up for Digits!** Students were invited to wear clothing featuring numbers — anything from sports tops to creative homemade outfits.



The Cosy Reading Challenge

At The Valley School, we really want everyone to discover the joy of relaxing with a favourite book.

To celebrate World Book Day, our reading challenge for February half term is for you to make or find a really cosy place to enjoy reading. You might like to make a den under a table, snuggle up under blankets in a corner, hide under your bed with a torch or just cosy up on a chair with your pet or teddy. You might even have a few snacks. Wherever it is, it must be cosy and fun!

When you have found the perfect cosy place to read, ask someone to take a photo and send it to Mrs Holop at

liz.holop@thevalley.herts.sch.uk

We will be giving out prizes for the challenge winners in assembly on Friday 16th March, when we will be celebrating World Book Day together. Have fun!

Celebrating Immy's Outstanding Trampolining Success—Two Weeks Running!

We are thrilled to share yet another incredible sporting achievement from Immy—her second feature in our newsletter in as many weeks! Her dedication, skill, and determination continue to shine.

Last week, Immy impressed us all by securing second place in the *Central Zone Schools Finals Qualifier*, earning well-deserved recognition for her hard work and focus.

This week, she has gone one step further.

First Place in the East Region Trampolining Competition!

Immy has now taken first place in the *East Region Trampolining competition*, marking a remarkable progression.

Her success is a testament to her commitment, perseverance, and positive attitude. We are incredibly proud to celebrate her achievements and look forward to seeing where her trampolining journey takes her next.



A Thank You from Miss Flynn and Mrs Grundelinhg

Miss Flynn and Mrs Grundelinhg would like to extend their sincere thanks to all parents and carers who took the time to respond to our recent RSE questionnaire. Your feedback is incredibly valuable and helps us continue to shape a curriculum that supports our young people in the best possible way.

We are committed to ensuring that our PSHE and RSE provision is relevant, supportive, and responsive to the needs of our students. Your input plays an important role in this ongoing work, and we are grateful for the thoughtful comments and suggestions shared.

Below are some useful links for parents and carers. These resources are designed to help you further support your young people with PSHE and RSE topics at home:



[PSHE education: a guide for parents | pshe-association.org.uk](https://pshe-association.org.uk) – a useful guide that answers common questions parents might have about PSHE education.

[Children’s mental health – Every Mind Matters – NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk) – Provides NHS-endorsed tips to help parents and carers spot the signs that children may be struggling with their mental health and how to support them; and provides advice that can help maintain good mental wellbeing

[Healthier Families – Home – NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk) – supporting families to stay healthy through diet and exercise.

[NSPCC | The UK children’s charity | NSPCC](https://www.nspcc.org.uk)

[Primary PSHE teaching resources \(bbc.co.uk\)](https://www.bbc.co.uk) – BBC Education resources for PSHE

[Bullying advice | Bullying UK](https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk) – advice for parents on bullying.

[Advice for parents and carers \(anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk\)](https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk) – advice for parents on bullying.

[Thinkuknow – home](https://www.thinkuknow.com) – resources for children and parents on e-safety.

<https://www.everyschool.co.uk/pshe.html>

[Free resources to support the delivery of primary PSHE | Better Health North Somerset](https://www.betterhealthnorthsomerset.org.uk)

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

<https://www.anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk>

Educating children about relationships and sex (RSE) at home can feel like a big task, but there are several excellent, trusted websites designed specifically to help parents navigate these conversations with confidence.

Here are a few:

[Talk Relationships: resources to deliver sex and relationships education | NSPCC Learning](https://www.nspcc.org.uk)



Free RSE resources

[Learning for Life - Accessible RSE Resources for Young People with Learning Disabilities](#)

[Parents' Guide to Relationships & Sex Education in Primary School](#)

[Relationships and sex resources | Mencap](#)

[Sex education - a guide for parents](#)

[Relationships and intimacy | Ambitious about Autism](#)

[Relationship, Health and Sex Education \(RHSE\) - Leeds Mencap](#)

[Social Stories for Home | Free Library - Autism Little Learners](#)

[What is transgender](#)

[Supporting children with SEND online - Inclusive Digital Safety](#)

[RSE Playlist - Recommended Videos - YouTube](#)

Thank you once again for your continued support.

Services for Young People Pop-Up

On Monday lunchtime this week, Services for Young People (SfYP) visited school for a pop-up session, sharing information about local clubs, youth projects, and opportunities available to young people across Hertfordshire.

New YouthZone Saturday Projects – Starting January 2026

SfYP is launching 10 new YouthZone Saturday Projects from January 2026, funded by the Million Hours Fund. These are safe, inclusive, open-access youth sessions designed to support young people's wellbeing, life skills, and aspirations.

Who can attend?

- Young people aged 11–17
- Young people with SEND and care leavers up to age 25
- No booking or referral needed

What's on offer?

- Fun activities including music, sport, dance, and creative arts
- Support with emotional wellbeing, resilience, relationships, and personal safety
- Opportunities to build confidence, life skills, and get involved in the community

Where?

Projects run every Saturday during term time at Youth Centres and community venues across Hertfordshire, including Baldock, Bishop's Stortford, Borehamwood, Hemel Hempstead, St Albans, Stevenage, Waltham Cross, Watford, West Hyde, and Welwyn Garden City.

Young people can simply turn up to their nearest session.

Find out more: <https://www.servicesforyoungpeople.org/about-services-for-young-people/news/new-youthzone-saturday-projects-jan-2026/>.

After-School Clubs

After-school 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

KS4 Trampolining 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 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.