

Date: Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026

The Valley Newsletter

## Important Dates Coming Up...

<b>Week: 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> February 2026</b>
HALF TERM Year 8 & Year 11 Parents Evening Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March- Appointments available to book online
<b>Week: 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026</b>
<u>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February</u> Dr Doolittle Production in school starts at 13:00 KS4 Online Safety Workshop with PC Neil
<u>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> February</u> Whole School Dental Screening Girls Basketball at St Luke's – KS3/KS4 Online Safety Workshop with PC Neil – Yr10 Lime
<u>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> February</u> Artist visiting the school KS3 Swimming Yr11 College
<b>UPCOMING EVENTS</b>
<u>Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> March</u> Year 8 & Year 11 Parents Evening - Appointments available to book online <u>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March</u> World Book Day – Non-Uniform

It has been a busy, enjoyable and highly productive few weeks at The Valley School. Our staff have been out visiting all our new Year 6 students who will be joining us in September, ensuring that their transition is as smooth and supportive as possible.

Students have enjoyed a wide range of trips and experiences, including this week's road safety sessions led by PC Neil, as well as the Art Gallery visit to London, which was a fantastic opportunity for our learners to engage with creative inspiration beyond the classroom.

This week, we are also trialling our new '**At a Glance' upcoming events calendar**, which we hope will make it even easier for families to stay informed about key dates.

Finally, thank you to all the parents and carers who took the time to complete our mobile phone use feedback questionnaire. Your input is invaluable and helps guide our decision-making.

We wish everyone a restful break and look forward to welcoming students back after half-term.

### **Mobile Phone Policy – Thank You for Your Feedback**

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our recent questionnaire about mobile phone use at The Valley School. We were delighted with the number of responses and are grateful for the thoughtful and honest views shared.

As expected, the feedback represented a full spectrum of opinion—from parents who would like to see a complete ban on mobile phones, to those who feel students should have more freedom to use them throughout the school day. This range of perspectives highlights just how important and complex the issue is.

However, the *majority* view from our community was clear: parents are broadly happy with our current approach.

At The Valley School, we do not have a mobile phone problem. Students understand our expectations, they are not permitted to use their phones during lessons, and we

are consistently teaching them about responsible and safe use. When misuse does occur, we apply proportionate, fair, and appropriate consequences.

This feedback reinforces our belief that our current policy strikes the right balance—supporting learning, wellbeing and safety, while also helping our young people develop the digital responsibility they need for life beyond school.

Thank you once again for your engagement and for working with us to shape a policy that reflects the needs and values of our whole community.



## Year 8 Coffee Morning

Following the success of our recent pilot coffee morning, we are pleased to begin planning a dedicated Year 8 Coffee Morning. Earlier this week, an email was sent to all Year 8 parents and carers inviting you to complete a short survey to help us determine the most convenient time for the majority to attend.

We appreciate you taking the time to share your availability and look forward to receiving your responses. We hope to welcome our Year 8 parents and carers to The Valley next term and would like to thank you in advance for your continued support, which we greatly value.



## Learning about Ramadan

As part of Sky Class's RE topic, they are learning about the Muslim faith. The students found out about Ramadan (starting on February 17th) and the build up to Eid. We were lucky to have a visitor who let us ask questions we had prepared about what it feels like to fast all day, and why the fasting is important to Muslims. Sky Class asked thoughtful questions and listened carefully to the answers, before creating a crescent moon and star mobile decoration while they continued to speak to our visitor about their Muslim faith.



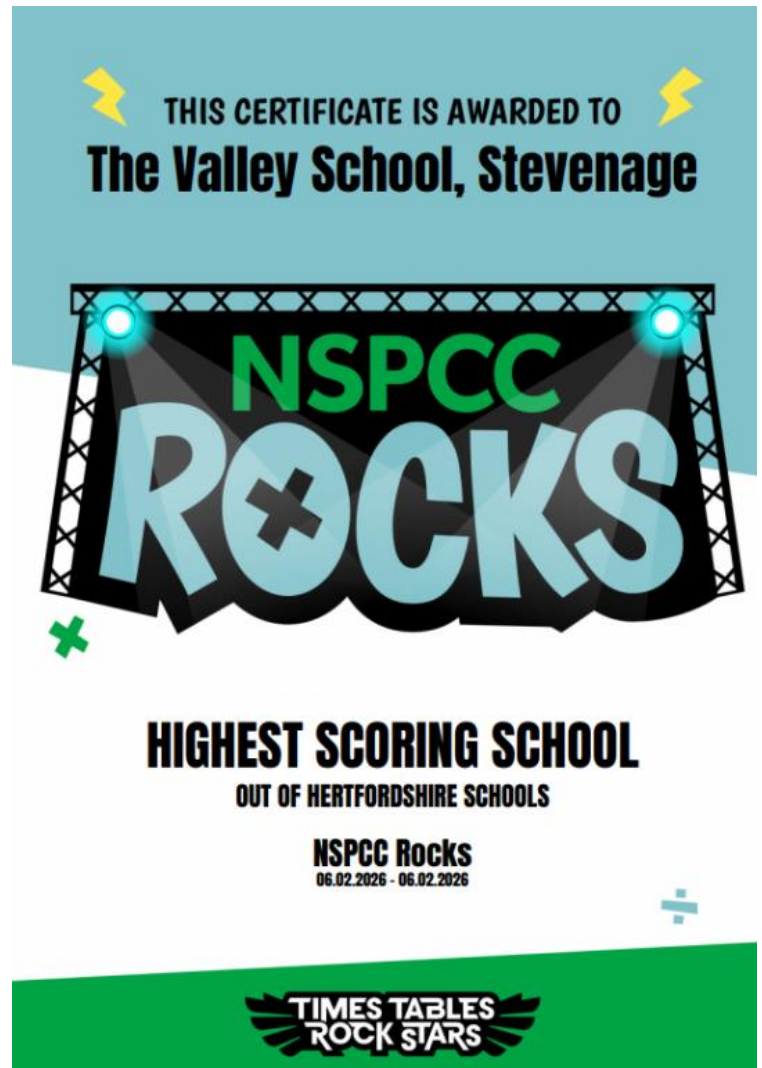
## Number Day

On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February the whole school celebrated Number Day. It was great to see so many students and staff get involved with 'Dress up for Digits' by wearing clothes with numbers on and creating home-made maths outfits!

### NSPCC Rocks Results

We took part in a times tables competition, NSPCC Rocks, where students who answered questions on Times Tables Rockstars gained points for every correct answer. Thanks to the skill, speed and commitment (a group of students dedicated their break and lunch to playing!) of those who took part we achieved some incredible results!

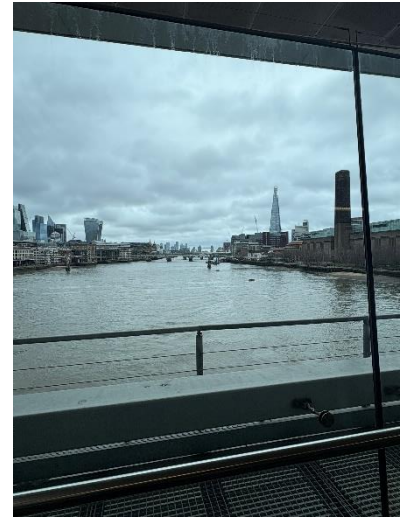
Out of over 4000 UK schools that took part, our total score meant we were a respectable 1492<sup>nd</sup> place. However, out of all SEND schools that took part we came in a whopping 6<sup>th</sup> place! And best of all, we were the number 1 school in Hertfordshire! (I should add that we were the only school in Hertfordshire that took part...) Well done to Cyan who were the top performing class in our school and especially to Tristan in Cyan class who was the most valuable player in the school!



## Year 10 and 11 Art BTEC

Year 10 and 11 Art BTEC students travelled to London via train and visited the Tate Modern gallery. The students experienced some fantastic and famous pieces of art including art installations too. The students had a fantastic time and were impeccably behaved.

Thank you to Mrs Pearce, Mrs Sebastian and Miss Stickland for supporting the trip.

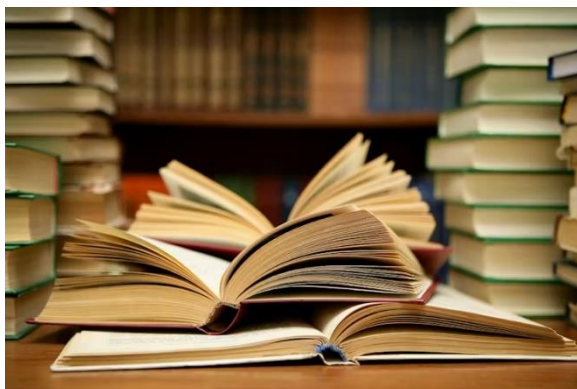




For **World Book Day** this year, we are going to celebrate with a whole week of activities around the theme of **Reading is Fun**. There will be fun activities around reading in |English lessons, lunchtime storytelling in the library and a scavenger hunt for book characters, amongst other things.

Our main celebration will be on **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March** when staff and students will be able come to school dressed up as characters from a book. We would love as many students as possible to be involved in this. It doesn't have to be an elaborate outfit and there are lots of easy and quick suggestions on the internet that you might like to make over half term.

Students will be given their **World Book Day book vouchers** today. Students can take their vouchers into any book shop or one of the main supermarkets (Asda, Sainsbury's, Tesco and Morrison's) and either redeem them for one of the free books or use them to get £1 off any other book. There are some fantastic new titles that you can get for free, so do remember to take your voucher with you when you go into town or to the supermarket. The vouchers are valid up until the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2026.



Finally, don't forget about our "**Cosy Reading Challenge**". We would love students to find somewhere cosy to read a book over half term –perhaps snuggled up with a pet, in a den, hiding under a table with a blanket, or with a hot chocolate and a biscuit - the more imaginative the better! Please send a photo of your cosy reading places to Mrs Holop, [liz.holop@thevalley.herts.sch.uk](mailto:liz.holop@thevalley.herts.sch.uk), and we will show the cosiest and most ingenious in our World Book Day assembly on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March.

**Let's have fun reading!**

## Year 7 Road Safety Workshop

PC Neil delivered an engaging road-safety workshop to Year 7 this week, giving students practical guidance and even an opportunity to try on some gear. This session was a valuable experience and enjoyed by all!

## Design and Make Project

In our Option, Personal Health and Wellbeing, the students have been researching the design and materials of picture frames. We have thought about the shape, the orientation (landscape or portrait), the colours and the strength of the materials we could use. The students have trialled various colours and patterns they would like to use to decorate it. They are also trying to decide which picture they would like to frame. Now they are full of ideas and ready to start making their own after the half-term break!



## After-School Clubs after Half Term

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](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.