

Date: Friday 27th February 2026

The Valley Newsletter

Important Dates Coming Up...

Week: 2nd – 6th March 2026
<u>Wednesday 4th March</u> Girls Dodgeball Tournament at St Luke's School
<u>Thursday 5th March</u> KS3 Swimming Yr11 College Yr8 & Yr11 Parents Evening
<u>Friday 6th March</u> World Book Day-Non School Uniform
UPCOMING EVENTS
<u>Tuesday 10th March</u> Yr8 Coffee Morning 9:30-10:30
<u>Wednesday 11th March</u> Mill Green Museum Trip-Maroon Class
<u>Thursday 12th March</u> KS4 Football at The Valley Yr11 College KS3 Swimming

Welcome back!

It's been a wonderful first week after the half-term break, and The Valley School has certainly hit the ground running. Students returned full of energy, and the week has been packed with enriching experiences both in and out of the classroom.

We were delighted to welcome Neil, our PCSO, who delivered online safety workshops to more than sixty of our KS4 students—an important and timely reminder about staying safe and responsible in the digital world. The whole school was also treated to a fantastic travelling performance of *Dr Doolittle*, bringing story, song and imagination right into our hall.

Another highlight was the exciting announcement of the cast for our whole-school production of *Annie*, generating lots of buzz and enthusiasm among students and staff alike. Meanwhile, a group of our girls represented the school brilliantly at an inter-school dodgeball tournament hosted by St Luke's, showing great teamwork and spirit.

All of this has taken place alongside our usual high-quality learning and the wide range of extracurricular activities that make our school community so vibrant.

It's been a lively start to the half-term, and we're looking forward to everything the coming weeks will bring.

Year 11 Leaving Arrangements 2026

Over the next two half terms, our Year 11 students will be sitting their final examinations and completing coursework to secure their qualifications.

After the Easter holidays, all Year 11 students will receive a sign-off sheet to ensure that all course requirements are completed before they finish at The Valley School.

- Subject teachers will identify any remaining work.
- Work must be completed to an appropriate standard before being signed off.
- A member of the Senior Leadership Team will countersign the completed sheet.
- Students who have fully completed and signed off their work will not be required to attend Mop-Up Week.

Below are the key dates for the final weeks of Year 11:

Activities Week

(First week back after summer half-term)

Monday 1st June – Friday 5th June 2026

A programme of activities and visits to celebrate students' time at the school.

Further details will follow from Mr Hugo.



Work Experience

Monday 8th June – Friday 12th June 2026

All Year 11 students will attend work experience placements.

Further details will follow from Miss Heller.

Mop-Up Week

Monday 15th June – Thursday 18th June 2026

For students who need to complete any outstanding coursework or curriculum requirements.

Year 11 Prom

Thursday 18th June 2026 (Evening)

Further details will follow from Mr Hugo

We are incredibly proud of this cohort and look forward to celebrating the end of their journey at The Valley School

Year 7 English

Year 7 demonstrated their understanding of the characters in our story “Farmer Duck” by performing a puppet show. Through these performances, they retold the key events of the story and showed thoughtful insight into each character’s role, actions, and personality.



Year 9 Art

In their Art lessons, students in Year 9 have been learning about art in the theatre. They used their crafting skills to make dioramas of theatre stages. Here are some examples of what they achieved.



Year 8 Coffee Morning

Further to the success of our Year 7 coffee morning, we would like to thank Year 8 parents/carers for their response to the recent survey. We are pleased to announce the Year 8 coffee morning will be taking place on Tuesday 10th March at 9.30am-10.30am. An invitation and sign-up form has been sent to Year 8 parent/carers earlier this week.

We look forward to welcoming our Year 8 parents and carers to The Valley and would like to thank you in advance for your continued support, which we greatly value.



Dr Dolittle

On Tuesday afternoon the whole school was treated to a performance of Dr Dolittle by Image Musical Theatre. Our students enjoyed the different animal puppets, especially the two headed llama, and loved being able to join in with the songs that they had learnt in Performing Arts lessons. There was also the opportunity for some of Performing Arts Club to participate in the performance which was wonderful to see.

Thank you to Happy Days Charity for making this visit possible.



Annie

The principal cast for our end of year show was announced at the beginning of the week and rehearsals have started! All of years 7, 8 and 9 will have the opportunity to participate in the show if they would like to. We will be learning the songs in Performing Arts lessons, more news to follow soon.



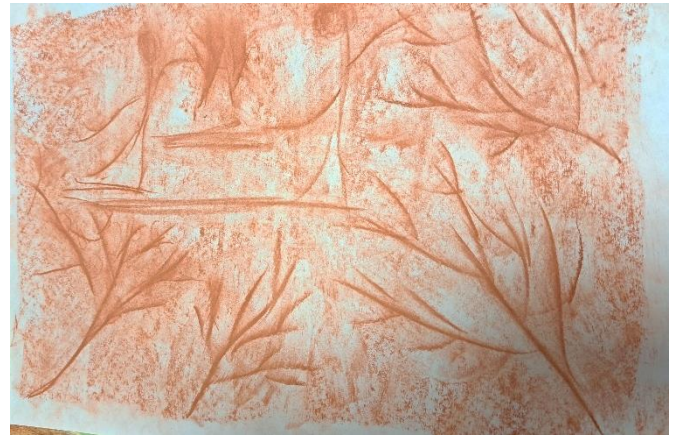
All principals are now able to listen to the songs and find more information about the show on the Annie Kids Team. They have received an email on their school account inviting them to join. They will then be able to download the songs to help them as they are learning their part.



Artist Visit

On Thursday 26th February, a local artist, Sally Miles, visited the school to lead a workshop with some of our Year 7 and Year 8 students. She taught them various techniques using conte crayons. The students enjoyed the workshop and produced some amazing artwork – some of which you can see below

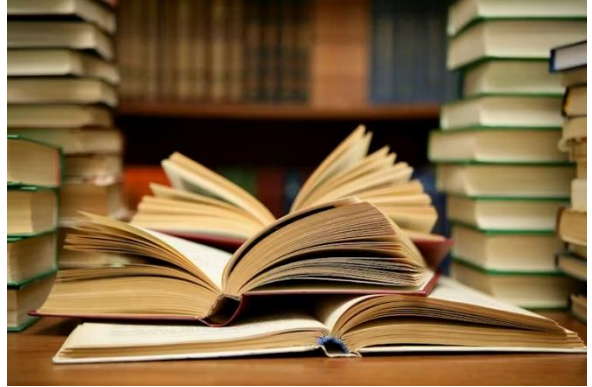




For **World Book Day** this year, we are going to celebrate with a whole week of activities around the theme of **Reading is Fun**. There will be fun activities around reading in |English lessons, lunchtime storytelling in the library and a scavenger hunt for book characters, amongst other things.

Our main celebration will be on **Friday 6th March** when staff and students will be able to 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 have already been given their **World Book Day book vouchers**. Students can take their vouchers into any bookshop 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 15th 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, and we will show the cosiest and most ingenious in our World Book Day assembly on Friday 6th March.

Let's have fun reading!

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.