

Date: Friday 13th March 2026

The Valley Newsletter

Important Dates Coming Up...

Week: 16th – 20th March 2026
<u>Wednesday 18th March</u> Cadbury's World Trip- Yr8 Cinema Trip- Maroon & Coral Classes
<u>Thursday 19th March</u> Stevenage Library Centenary Celebration- Artist Workshop- BTEC Yr10 Yr11 Students
UPCOMING EVENTS
<u>Monday 23rd March</u> Trip- World Sing up Day- Selected KS3 & KS4 Students
<u>Thursday 26th March</u> KS3 Football at The Valley School

It has been another good week at The Valley School, with students continuing to work incredibly hard and making the most of every opportunity available to them. Our extracurricular programme is thriving—lunchtime *Annie* rehearsals are bustling with energy each day, and it's wonderful to see such dedication from our performers.

Clubs and practices remain a popular part of school life, with students eagerly attending sessions during lunch and after school to develop their skills and explore their interests. We were also pleased to host a boys' football tournament, which brought teamwork, enthusiasm, and sportsmanship to our pitches.

This week, we were delighted to welcome our Year 8 parents into school for a coffee morning. It was a lovely opportunity for families to meet the Year 8 team, connect with one another, and see the fantastic work students have been producing.

There is so much to celebrate, and we are pleased to share these highlights with you.

End of term arrangements

Friday 27th March - Last day of term

Time	Activity
9:00 – 9:20	Registration and Breakfast
9:20 - 9:50	Assembly
9:55 – 11:00	Lessons 2 &3 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



Monday 13th April – Inset Day

Tuesday 14th April at 9:00am - The first day back for students and staff

Year 8 Coffee Morning

Our Year 8 Coffee Morning took place this week and was a great success. It was a pleasure to welcome parents and carers to The Valley, and we received very positive feedback from those who attended. Students were proud to share their workbooks and showcase their learning.



These events provide a valuable opportunity for parents and carers to meet one another and gain a snapshot of students' work and progress. We have also received feedback suggesting that more time to view students' work would be appreciated. We will take this into consideration when planning future events, while also ensuring that the school day continues to run smoothly with minimal disruption for students and staff.

We greatly value the strong partnership between parents and the school in supporting students' learning and development. A Year 9 Coffee Morning will be organised after the Easter break, and we look forward to welcoming more families then.

Maroon's Trip to Mill Green Museum

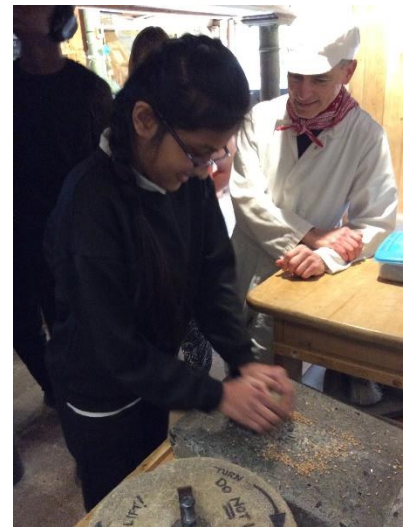
This week, Maroon Class enjoyed a fantastic visit to Mill Green Museum and Watermill. The children took part in a range of exciting hands-on activities that brought their learning to life.

During our visit, pupils had the opportunity to use a traditional quern stone to grind grains of wheat and then used flour milled on-site to make their own small loaf of bread. We also explored the working watermill, discovering how the River Lea powers the wheel to grind and crush the wheat into flour.

After making our bread and touring the museum, we applied our science knowledge by labelling a diagram of a wheat plant and identifying what plants need to grow healthily.

To finish the morning, the children enjoyed some free-play exploration. They investigated grains of wheat in a sand tray, manipulated salt dough, and constructed their own versions of the watermill using cogs and wheels.

All students had a wonderful morning—and were very proud to take home the bread they had made!





Annie News!

Here are a couple of photos from our lessons this week. Rehearsals are going well and the principal characters are beginning to learn their lines, which is great. Mr Holop and his DT classes have been making some staging blocks for us which we can't wait to start using.

There will be letters coming out next week giving key dates and explaining how to give consent for your child to participate. There is a separate letter for Year 11. Please do look out for these. Attached to the newsletter is a 'how to' guide for accessing the Annie TEAMS. All principals currently have access to this and it's really important that they are able to listen to the songs to help them learn the correct version.





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 will change after Easter which means that students will have to sign up again. We will be trialing a new online system for signing up using the Arbor App.

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.