



The Vale Primary School

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Friday 9th October 2020

Inspiring All

VALE AMBASSADORS

We have been overwhelmed this week by the wonderful letters of application to become a Vale Ambassador. This role involves demonstrating, consistently as a role model, those Vale Learner qualities of being: caring, safe, ready, respectful, resilient, reflective and embracing of challenge. It was a very difficult decision for Ms Amos and Mrs Roberts to make as there were so many great entries. As Ms Amos said in assembly, Vale Ambassadors support showing the best of our behaviour policy and helping others. They care for others and their well-being. They will also be active in supporting our preparation for Anti-Bullying Week – “United Against Bullying” which is the week beginning the 16th November.

Congratulations to our new Vale Ambassadors who are: Casper and Alfie; Theo, Devon and Emma; Evelyn and Donovan; Cole and Daisy; Grayson, Nicole and Kallie; Lily, Maddie and Cameron.



WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY

This Saturday is World Mental Health Day. In any year it is important to mark this and particularly this one. This year's theme is 'Mental health for all' which is absolutely right. We all have mental health in the same way we have physical health and it is important that we take care of it and recognise when we need to pay it a little more attention. There are many ways we can support this day and in school we would like to **wear a splash of Yellow on Monday 12th October** as a way of marking all the wonderful work of the charity Young Minds and recognising with our children the importance of their well-being. If you wish to support the charity by making a donation this can be done at: <https://youngminds.org.uk/>





In this current climate and as a way of observing World Mental Health Day, we would also like to do something positive to engage with our local community. We are going to ask the children to write letters telling someone else about their life at school, their interests and their hobbies. Our aim is to send these letters to our neighbours who would enjoy reading a letter and make a connection with them, and maybe cheer up their day. **If you are aware of someone who would enjoy receiving a letter, can you please check with them and let us know their address?**

Please let us know by next Friday either through the office or your class emails ready for some fantastic letter writing to hand out before half term.

DROP OFF AND PICK UP

Due to the numbers of parents gathering and responding to parental concerns, we are now requesting that **parents wear face masks when dropping and picking up their children** from the school site. We are very conscious of the national picture and want to do everything we can to minimise any risk of transmission that may have impact on our families.

WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK

Our 'Walk to School Week' is the **19th – 23rd October**. During the week we would like to encourage all our families to either walk or park and stride to school each day. We have a few special days within the week to encourage this walking. On **Monday 19th October** we invite all those who walk or park n stride to wear trainers to school that day. On **Wednesday 21st October** our mission is to clear the car park of family cars and want everyone to try and park n stride or walk. On **Thursday 22nd October** wear shoes that make you happy! (If you are Y1, 2 or 3 and do PE but want to

wear something that isn't trainers – please don't forget to pop them in your bag).

Remember the Friday of this week is also wear something pink day for £1 to raise money for Breast Cancer UK.

SCHOOL WORKS

During half term we have some building works starting on replacing our retaining wall that goes around the school. This piece of work will happen in stages over the year. The first stage will take two weeks and will be replacing one of the walls along the pathway by the Year 4 and 5 classrooms in the junior playground. As the work will be continuing into the first week after half term we are going to move Year 5 into the opposite classroom that is on the infant playground side and Year 4 will be moved to the hall for the week. This does mean that the infants for that week will eat their lunches in classrooms in their bubbles as the juniors do now. The junior playground will still be in use that week and all the construction area will be safely contained. There will be some impact on our front car park as a section at the side will be needed for storage so please do keep to our staggered times as this will help and try and walk or park 'n' stride.



PARENTAL CONSULTATIONS

We will be holding Autumn Term parent meetings online on **Wednesday 4th November and Thursday 5th November**. We feel it is really important to have these conversations as our children have been through so much this year and it is important for teachers to be able to discuss with you how they are re-engaging with learning at school. There will be more information sent via parentmail soon about how you will be able to book a time slot and then you will receive an email with a link to a Google Meeting. If you do not have access to a device to be able to carry out this meeting, please do the office know so that we can arrange an alternative e.g. phone call. As ever we



enjoy these opportunities to work in partnership for the benefit of our children.

SCHOOL SOAP REVIEW

As a school we are very aware that with the hand-washing we have to do to follow all the recommended DfE guidance that some of our pupils have been suffering from sore and dry hands. As a school we have reviewed the soaps we have in school and having researched different school suppliers and products and liaising with other schools made the decision to change the soap we are using. We hope this will help and also invite children to bring in some hand cream if they are suffering. We will of course keep this under continual review.

DANCE WORKSHOPS

Y1-6 will be having South American Dance Workshops in their bubbles on **Monday 19th October**. Could all of those children come to school in their **PE kits** on that day please.

HARVEST

We will be collecting Food for Epsom and Ewell Foodbank this year for Harvest. There is more need than ever for services like this. Due to Covid-19 they have had to implement some guidelines this year and have asked that we only donate items that are on this list:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| Sweetcorn | Custard |
| Tinned Spaghetti | Coffee |
| Hot Chocolate | Tinned Fruit |
| Tinned Veg | Ketchup |
| Pasta/beans with meat | Fruit squash |
| Longlife sponge pudding | Tea bags |
| Breakfast cereal (no porridge) | Biscuits |
| Tinned meat | Microwave rice |
| Tinned rice pudding | Powdered milk |
| Tinned fish | Rice |
| Sugar (500g bags) | Packet soup |
| Tinned meat pies | Noodles |
| Tinned potatoes | Milk (UHT) |
| Instant Mash | Pet food |
| Cooking Sauces | Shampoo |
| Dried Pasta n Sauce | Shower gel |
| Male/Female deodorant | Shaving foam |
| Washing up liquid | Washing Powder |
| Hair conditioner | Pump soap |
| Baby shampoo | Baby Wash |

We will have a table outside by bike racks for the collection of goods in the week of the **19th October -23rd before and after school**.

We will hold a school assembly online for Harvest to remember the importance of the festival on Friday 23rd October. It is our hope to record parts of this for parents to see.

CELEBRATIONS

A huge well done to these children this week for being celebrated for achievements in learning.

- Robin: Isabelle and Connor
- Wagtail: Mya and Archie
- Lapwing: Bradley and Jayden
- Parakeet: Arthur and Harry
- Sparrow: Hope and Freddie
- Goldfinch: Ava and Tobey
- Kestrel: Ronnie and Alyssia

We were really pleased to award Oracy certificates this week to:

- Robin: Callum
- Wagtail: Ronnie
- Lapwing: Elena
- Parakeet: Ashton
- Sparrow: Grace
- Goldfinch: Charlie S
- Kestrel: Evie

HOUSE CAPTAINS

It was great to hear from our House Captains in Nijinsky this week: Elise and Willem at our Friday morning virtual assembly. They spoke well and showed a model of some of those great oracy skills we are developing.

CLASS DOJO RESULTS

The House Captains were delighted to announce the results of the Class Dojo count up this week in assembly today.

Shergar	197
Nijinsky	130
Diomed	164
Hyperion	115

Well done Shergar on winning this week – you were obviously showing those Vale qualities of being: caring, safe, ready, respectful, embracing challenge and reflecting on learning. We will add the points from this week to last weeks and keep a running total in school for the half term winners.



HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT YOUR CHILDREN –
Our 'Words of the Week' this week are:

KS1 Word of the Day

Word of the Day

Word of the Day : **beaver** (noun/verb)

Definition : large rodent / work hard.

*Beavers had blocked the river with a dam.
Timmy beavered away on his homework.*

Synonym :
Antonym : discuss options.

Challenge : Use WOD in an exclamation.

KS2 Word of the Day

Word of the Day

Word of the Day : **restrain** (verb)

Definition : prevent someone from doing something.

The pupils couldn't restrain their excitement.

Synonym : prevent.

Antonym : provoke.

Challenge : Use WOD in a relative clause.

We ask you to talk about the words and what they mean and practise using them in different sentences in conversations.

RECOGNITION TARGET

Next week we are looking across the school to learn about and recognise the behaviour for learning target:

To be positive

Please do talk about what this means and what this behaviour might look like with your children.

ATTENDANCE

Week beginning 5.10.2020 September 2020

Robin Class	99.13%
Wagtail Class	99.24%
Lapwing Class	100%
Parakeet Class	97.89%
Sparrow Class	99.09%
Goldfinch Class	97.39%
Kestrel Class	82.87%
Whole School Attendance for Week	96.52%

Whole School Attendance for Term to date	96.88%
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The classes who have won our virtual attendance horses this week are .

SECONDARY SCHOOL APPLICATIONS

We know this is a difficult time of year for our families with Year 6 children, making choices about the transition to secondary school. This is especially so this year when many secondary schools have not been able to do open tours but have moved online. We wish you all the best as you make your decisions and remind you that your applications will need to be made to Surrey Admissions by 31st October. This can be done on the Surrey admissions website:

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/admissions/secondary>

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you would like to talk through any of this with one of us.

SCHOOL VIRTUAL TOUR

Due to Covid-19 restrictions we are not able to hold our open morning events for prospective families as we would ordinarily do. We are holding some small tours for groups of no more than 6 which are advertised on our school webpage and need booking in to through the school office. These will all be held outside of the school day. In addition to this we have created a virtual school tour that can also be found on our school webpage (<https://www.vale.surrey.sch.uk/>). Please do let others know.



School Tours for prospective families

Due to Covid-19 restrictions we will be completing these differently this year. We have a limit on 6 adults for each group visit and face masks will be required. If you would like to book a place on one of our visits please phone the school office on 01372 273639 or email: info@vale.surrey.sch.uk

Dates

Saturday 26th September	10am - 11am FULLY BOOKED
Wednesday 7th October	6.30pm - 7.30pm FULLY BOOKED
Wednesday 21st October	6.30pm - 7.30pm
Saturday 7th November	10am - 11am
Wednesday 18th November	6.30pm - 7.30pm
Wednesday 2nd December	6.30pm - 7.30pm

These dates are provisional and will happen should there be no change to current guidance.

We have created a virtual tour below to give you a flavour of the school in action.

received a negative Covid test. A GP's diagnosis without a test is not sufficient for this purpose.

Thank you to all those who are following these guidelines and we do appreciate that attaining a test at the moment is not easy but we must ask you to be patient.

If you need to contact either Mrs Leyland or myself when the school office is closed with a test result, please do not hesitate to on –

Mrs Leyland: co-head@vale.surrey.sch.uk

Mrs Browne: head@vale.surrey.sch.uk

COVID19

We continue to ask that all parents are vigilant in ensuring that their children do not attend school for 10 days if they develop any of the following Covid symptoms:

- *A high temperature (38C or higher)*
- *A new persistent cough*
- *A loss of (or change in) their sense of taste or smell*

Children must also isolate at home for 14 days if any of their household have symptoms or have had a positive Covid-19 test.

If your child has symptoms, please keep them at home and arrange for a Covid test by calling 119 or booking a test on the NHS website here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/get-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>

Please be aware that if your child has any of the above symptoms they should not return to school unless they have completed the isolation period or



FACEBOOK PAGE/TWITTER

Thank you for following and liking our Facebook Page and Twitter feed. We continue to post/tweet and review and monitor frequently. We want to share and celebrate as much as we can and keep it as current as possible. Search for 'The Vale Primary School' and our icon is our woodpecker logo, with a white background or @thevaleprimary. Our Twitter account is @ValePrimarySch.

COMMUNITY EVENT



The Film Festival is back in Epsom!

Chris & Lorna Hastings, parents of kids at St Martin's, are putting on the third **Satisfied Eye International Film Festival** (SEIFF) at Epsom



Odeon from 9th - 11th October, and would LOVE your support.

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/satisfiedeyeinternationalfilmfestival>

Tickets are £7.50 per screening, or **£35 for a Festival Pass** (allowing access to all screenings at a saving of £100).**

Bigger (90 films of all kinds from over 30 countries - including the UK, USA, Australia, New Zealand for those who prefer English language); **Better** (more Oscar and BAFTA winners than our previous two years combined, and 30 premieres); **One of the best in the world** (rated in the top 100 of over 5000 festivals).

Extremely conscious of health and safety first, all COVID-19 government guidelines will be adhered to. Should the festival subsequently have to be cancelled due changes in these, full refunds will be given, so please book with confidence.

There is a 50 minute, U-rated screening of **Kids Animations** on Sunday 11th October at 11am, where every primary child accompanied by a paying adult watches **FREE***:

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/satisfiedeyeinternationalfilmfestival/415464/#>

If the programme's a bit overwhelming, you have any questions, or you want recommendations, just ask hello@satisfiedeye.com, as they have watched them all!

Thank you!

*1 adult + 1 child = £7.50

**excl. of VAT

DATES

(New dates highlighted in blue)

Autumn Term Dates		
12.10.2020	Wear Yellow for Young Minds and supporting World Mental Health Day	All day
19.10.20	Dance Workshops – please wear PE Kits to school Y1-6	All day
19.10.20 –	Harvest Donations are	

23.10.20	welcome outside front of school	
19.10.20 – 23.10.20	WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK	
19.10.20	Wear trainers to school for walking or parking 'n' striding	All day
21.10.20	School Tours – new pupils	6.30 – 7.30pm
21.10.20	Let's clear the car park day by walking or parking 'n' striding	
22.10.20	Wear shoes that make you happy!	All day
23.10.20	Wear Pink Day - £1 for Breast Cancer	All day
26.10.20 – 30.10.20	HALF TERM	
02.11.20	Back to school	
7.11.20	School Tours – new pupils	10am – 11am
16.11.20 – 20.11.20	Anti-Bullying Week	
18.11.20	School Tours – new pupils	6.30 – 7.30pm
02.12.20	School Tours – new pupils	6.30 – 7.30pm
18.12.20	Terms ends	
	Christmas Holidays	
04.01.21	INSET	
05.01.21	Term starts	
15.02.21 – 19.02.21	HALF TERM	
22.02.21	Back to school	
01.04.20	Term ends	
	Easter Holidays	
19.04.21	Term starts	
31.05.21 – 04.06.21	HALF TERM	
25.06.21	INSET	
16.07.21	Term ends	
19.07.21 – 21.07.21	INSET	

Have a lovely weekend and stay safe.

Cathy Browne and Sarah Leyland
Co-Headteachers

