



The Vale Primary School

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Friday 14th December 2018

Inspiring All

What a busy week in school with many exciting things to be proud of going on. As well as excellent productions, classes have also been undertaking assessments. Class teachers will share with you information about how your children are achieving and their targets in a written format in the New Year.

DATA PUBLISHED NATIONALLY

We are frustrated and disappointed about news articles that have been published in the national press this week and want to reassure parents that we are a good school. As we communicated earlier this term our Key Stage 2 results taken last May were disappointing for Maths and it is a key priority area for the school to address, as noted by being a key action in our 'Good' Ofsted in March. We are working closely with the South West London Teaching Research Group for Maths Mastery; a senior leader of education from Stamford Green as part of the Strategic School Improvement Funding project; and have recently begun working with PIXL (Partners in Excellence) a non-profit partnership working with schools to support us on this journey of rapid improvement. This is in addition to working within the support of the Oaks Trust and our colleagues in GLF.

We want to re-iterate how these articles and figures do not take into account the English data which was in line with or above average for children meeting the expected standard or the other great achievements of KS1 in progress or EYFS. It also does not reflect the rest of the curriculum opportunities on offer at The Vale that enable our pupils to develop as confident, well rounded

individuals – an area that Ofsted is prioritising in their new framework. If you want to find out more information how we compare with other schools in Surrey and the local area please do follow this link: <https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/schools-by-type?step=default&table=schools®ion=936&la-name=Surrey&geographic=la&for=primary&page=4>

In a week when there have been so many positive learning opportunities in school, we wanted to ensure that distorted headlines do not detract from all the hard work of pupils and staff.

ATTENDANCE

We are so proud of all those who are still aiming for a high attendance rate this half term and battling the bugs. We do understand that there has been illness around just recently and do wish to reiterate that if your child is unwell and sick, they should be able to recover at home.

Week beginning 10th December 2018

Robin Class	95.56%
Wagtail Class	94.80%
Lapwing Class	90.87%
Parakeet Class	90.00%
Wren Class	98.89%
Sparrow Class	89.44%
Goldfinch Class	96.82%
Kestrel Class	93.18%

The classes who have won our attendance horses this week are Robin and Wren.

TERMLY REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS

The role of the Governing Body is to provide Strategic Leadership to the school to deliver the best possible outcomes and education for all of our children. We also recruit, support, challenge and



performance manage the Co- Head Teachers, ensure financial viability and compliance with all legal duties. Our Autumn Term Full Governing Body meeting took place on the 5th December and this is a brief overview to inform parents of what was discussed to benefit the children.

Governors received a report from the Co Headteachers outlining updates to the key objectives in the School Development Plan for 2018/19 with governors assigned to priorities for monitoring purposes. Nominated governor reports were discussed looking at SEND and curriculum monitoring along with the School's Self Evaluation Form for this academic year. Other areas of discussion were the numbers on role and the impact of Headley Court now having closed, progress data for all children along with an update on behaviour across the school. Richard Wagner, Chair of the Board of Directors from The Oaks Academy Trust was invited to attend the meeting to discuss next steps forward for the school now that we have joined the Trust on the 1st December. There is a planned week of celebrations when we return in January which Mrs Browne and Mrs Leyland have arranged and notified you of. Strategic changes to the Governing Board were discussed as we transition over to the Oaks Trust Scheme of Delegation as an Oaks School. The membership and constitution of the Board were discussed to ensure that we have the skills required to ensure effective governance at the school

On behalf of The Vale Governors I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our families and staff a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy, New Year.

Debbie Matthews
Chair of Governors

PTA

To all those who have helped with raffles, refreshments, Christmas treats etc. we would like to say huge thank you. Wagtails and Parakeets classes won the Mufti day on Monday 17th December competition for selling the most raffle tickets. Wagtail also won the mufti for the creation of the Christmas hamper, chosen by Debbie Matthews our Chair of Governors, and will have this on Wednesday 19th.

CAROLS AT THE ASHLEY CENTRE

Our junior choir were fantastic ambassadors of the school this Wednesday as they sang beautifully to shoppers in partnership with Epsom Rotary Club. There were many compliments about their energy enthusiasm and singing.



CHRISTMAS PRODUCTIONS

The Infant and Junior Christmas productions this week were both amazing. The children sang loud and proud; they acted with enthusiasm; played with musicality; and spoke clearly and confidently. We are very proud of them. Thank you to all the staff for their input and creativity with these events.



Thank you also as we raised £330 pounds for the Poppy Appeal in donations.



CHRISTMAS LUNCH



We all enjoyed an early Christmas celebration today with our Christmas lunch. Thank you to our kitchen staff for looking after us so well.

FESTIVE THANK YOU

We just wanted to take the opportunity to thank the PTA for the lovely Christmas decorations and Mrs Palmer for the donation of the Christmas Tree to the school, that is outside the hall this year.

ENTERPRISE TYCOON PROJECT

We welcomed to the school this afternoon, representatives from the Peter Jones Foundation, including visitors from Metro Bank. Year 4, Mrs Davies and Mrs Jones have been involved with the tycoon project this term and have written their business plan, created and sold their products and are in the process of reviewing and evaluating their venture. It is wonderful to have the recognition and opportunity to show case their creativity and hard work.

YOU'RE HIRED

Year 5 and 6 welcomed parents to school this afternoon. They were celebrating their learning about product design, manufacturing and marketing in their 'Apprentice' style topic that they have completed this half term. It has been a really good opportunity to engage and inspire through really purposeful and active learning.

CHRISTMAS JUMPERS

Children can come into school next Wednesday 19th December in their Christmas jumpers if they would like, with their school uniform. Wagtail class may wear with their mufti earned from the Hamper competition.

FAMILY FORUM

We will be holding our next Family Forum meeting on Wednesday 16th January. We are trialling holding this at 6pm in the evening to help working parents who find meetings in the school day hard to attend. The focus of the meeting will be feedback from our Parental Questionnaires and next steps.

SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

Our Open Morning for prospective parents have now taken place for children who will start school in Reception from September 2018. If you or someone you know would still like to visit our school, please contact the office who will arrange a

small group tour. The Surrey information about the application process is accessed online at: www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/school-admissions/apply-for-a-school-place. All applications must be sent by 15th January 2019.

AUTUMN TERM CHESS CHAMPIONS CROWNED

Two chess champions won through against strong competition to take the top accolades at the end of the Autumn Term: Aiden scored 19/21 points to win the seven-match tournament, while Jools made the best overall contribution to chess club with his observations during chess demonstrations and answers to chess puzzles, as well as being runner-up in the match-play tournament. Aiden and Jools each receive a chess trophy and book prize. After-school Spring Term Chess Club resumes on Tuesday 15th January 2019. April.



TIMES TABLES

Children need to know their times tables with rapid recall by the end of year 4.

12x table notes

Even number table. Add 10 then 2. Units continually increase in 2's, tens by 1 up to 10 x 12. All facts except 12 x 12 should already be known.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Please do take a look at the Community News section of the website for events happening in the local area.

AUTUMN TERM DATES		
18.12.18	Infant Christmas Party	12.15-1.15pm
19.12.18	School finishes 1.30pm	2.00-3.00pm
SPRING TERM DATES		
3.1.19	INSET	All day
4.1.19	INSET	All day



7.1.19	Term starts for children – OAKS Celebration Week	
9.1.19	Parent Celebration as part of joining the Oaks	3pm

We hope you all have a wonderful Christmas break when we get there and look forward to seeing you in the new year on 7th January!

Cathy Browne and Sarah Leyland
Co-Headteachers

