



Valley Primary School Newsletter

GROWING AND LEARNING TOGETHER TO BE THE BEST WE CAN
BE!

ASPIRE...ENJOY...ACHIEVE...CHALLENGE!

Friday
15th March
2024

NOTE FROM THE DEPUTY HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been a week of active learning at Valley! Our Year Three children have thoroughly enjoyed the topic '*Terrible Tudors*' and visited Selly Manor to see for themselves how wealthy Tudors once lived. Year One clearly challenged themselves further on their trip to Warwick Castle and have impressed us with their vocabulary linked to castle features including the ramparts, the fortress and turrets.

As well as exploring times gone by, we enjoyed a fabulous '*time*' themed Science day. Whether making pendulums, exploring life cycles, researching how animals evolve in different habitats or observing how different ingredients alter how long a jelly takes to set, it was a joy to see the curiosity and investigative skills of our children.

Thank you for your continued support and have a great weekend everybody,
Mrs Wilton

VALLEY NEWS AND REMINDERS

TEFAT PARENTS MEETING

Thank you to everyone who attended the parent consultation with TEFAT on Monday night. Parents were given the opportunity to raise questions and to learn more about the trust. For those who could not attend, we would like to share with you some of the information given.

Hugh Greenway (CEO of TEFAT) introduced The Elliot Foundation as an educational charity established to give primary children a brighter future. He explained the founder, Caroline Whalley, created the trust in memory of her late son to give something back to the education system and create a family of schools that create a safe space for schools to support children. They believe in keeping expertise, money and decision making as close to the children as possible. TEFAT's motto is 'Where children believe they can because Teachers know they can' and the trust has grown to 33 schools across the UK since 2011, with a large number of those in the West Midlands (where the trust began). The trust is endorsed by teachers' unions. It is a values-led organisation and the values of putting children first, being safe, being kind and respectful, being open, forgiving, and making a difference are a shared language amongst the Trust schools.

The trust answered a number of thoughtful questions. In answer to these, Hugh Greenway shared:

- Parents and staff are surveyed once a term so there will be opportunity for a regular Parent Voice.
- TEFAT offer opportunities for all staff to develop and work collaboratively with colleagues in other schools with the children of the individual schools at the heart. This supports improvement of the quality of teaching over time.
- TEFAT takes staff feedback seriously and truly believes happy staff mean happy children. There are no plans to remove staff and the school structure remains decided by the Headteacher / Senior Leadership Team as per the needs of the school.
- Whilst the school will receive the same amount of money, the trust provide services school would ordinarily have to pay for in terms of financial advice, HR, training, etc. The school will still decide how to spend its money.

The Chair of Governors shared gratitude for questions asked from parents and shared that these were the nature of questions they had also asked during this process. School Leaders shared that TEFAT was narrowed down from an extensive list as they allow Valley to keep its identity and decision-making, whilst receiving support in areas of finance, HR, Continued Professional Development (CPD), SEND, Estates and IT.

Details of our consultation and related information can be found on our school website:

<https://www.valleyprimaryschool.co.uk/consultations/>

We encourage any further queries or questions to be sent to: parentliaisonlead@valley.solihull.sch.uk

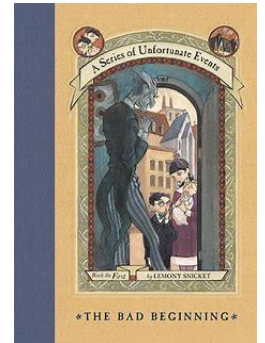
Optional SEN Parents Evening Appointments

Mrs Heaven is looking forward to seeing the parents of children on the SEN register at parents evening next week. If you have booked one of the optional appointments but no longer require it, please could we kindly request that you let us know by emailing s52senco@valley.solihull.sch.uk Please note, you must have an appointment to see your child's class teacher as well as the optional SENCo appointment.

OUR READING RECOMMENDATION

'A series of unfortunate events' by Daniel Handler (Lemony Snicket)

This series of 13 novels, begins with the story of the three Baudelaire orphans, Violet, Claus and Sunny, who lose their parents and are left orphaned. The books are narrated by Lemony Snicket, a mysterious man who follows the stories through clues passed on through a secret organization known only as the V.F.D. Each book shares the treatment and unfortunate events that the children have to go through as they are moved between relatives and old family friends.



This book is suitable for readers in Year 5 and 6.

SHARING OUR LEARNING

EYFS

This week in **Nursery**, the children have been talking about and exploring solid shapes. They have been learning the names of the 3D shapes and enjoyed experimenting if they would roll or slide down the ramps that we made!



KS2

On Science Day, **Year 5** took part in many Science activities linked to the theme 'Time.'

Firstly, they learned all about pendulums by making one themselves and experimented with ways to slow down its swing by thinking about air resistance and altering the weight and the length of string.

Before clocks were invented, people told the time using sundials. Sundials use shadows cast from a central upright portion, called a gnomon. For their second activity, they made a sundial from a selection of materials... and now we just need to wait for some sunshine so they can observe how the shadow changes throughout the day!

For the next activity they became palaeontologists. We know that a long time ago, dinosaurs roamed our planet... but they don't exist anymore. What happened to the dinosaurs? Where did they go? The children used their research skills to find out!

Throughout the day they were also lucky enough to learn about connections in the brain, and went on a tour of the Valley grounds to find spots where they could plant more plants, with a view to increasing the amount of wildlife we attract.



PARENT PARTNERSHIPS

Note from the Parent Liaison Lead

We encourage all parents to complete the consultation feedback form as per letter regarding our proposal to possibly join TEFAT. Your views are very much valued.

We would also like to remind parents that the deadline date for **FREE DELIVERY** for the school photographs to be delivered to school is **Sunday 17th March 2024**. Any orders placed after the deadline will be subject to postage & packaging costs with delivery direct to your home address.

Further Developing Partnerships

It is always a pleasure to receive your comments and feedback, and we are always happy to answer any questions or queries you have, please continue to email these to parentliaisonlead@valley.solihull.sch.uk

ATTENDANCE – W/C 4 March – 8 March 2024

UPPER KS2	Ennis 6	90.0%	Farah 6	94.3%	Simmonds 6	97.2%	Holst 5	98.0%	Lynn 5	96.0%	Webber 5	94.5%
LOWER KS2	Hawking 4	98.9%	Newton 4	97.2%	Sharman 4	98.3%	Hockney 3	98.7%	Lowry 3	95.9%	Riley 3	94.3%
KS1	Churchill 2	92.8%	Nightingale 2	97.2%	Pankhurst 2	98.5%	Bell 1	93.5%	Lee 1	96.5%	Shaw 1	99.2%
EYFS	Aston R	90.5%	Grylls R	94.1%	Peake R	97.3%	Starley N	88.8%	Whittle N	90.0%		

Well done to the highlighted classes who are this week's winners!

DIARY DATES

18 March – Easter Assembly – Juniors 9am – Infants 10am
 19 March – Parents Evening – Reception to Y6 – 4pm – 6.30pm
 19 March – Parents Evening – Starley – 1pm – 6pm
 19 March – Parents Evening – Whittle – 4pm – 6pm
 20 March – Reception Spring Walk to Elmdon Park
 21 March – Parents Evening – Reception to Y6 – 4pm – 6.30pm
 21 March – Parents Evening – Nursery – Whittle – 4pm – 6pm
 22 March – House Point Celebrations
 22 March – End of Term
 8 April – Inset Day
 9 April – Children Return to School
 10 April – Reception Vision Screening -9.30am
 15 April – SLT Parent Drop in – 3.45pm – 4.15pm
 22 April – Earth Day – Eco Warriors Event
 29 April – SLT – Parent Drop In – 3.45pm – 4.15pm
 2 May – Polling Day – (Old Lode Lane) - School Open
 6 May – Bank Holiday – School Closed
 7 May – SENCO Parent Workshop – Transition – TEAMS 12pm – 1pm
 7 May – Early Diabetic Screening – Y3-5

7 May – Riley 3 – Maths Workshop – 9am
 8 May – Lowry 3 – Maths Workshop – 9am
 9 May – Hockney 3 – Maths Workshop – 9am
 13 May – SLT Parent Drop In – 3.45pm – 4.15pm
 13 May – 16 May – Y6 SATS
 13 May – 16 May – Y6 SATS Breakfast Club – 8am
 20 May – Winning House Announcement Assembly
 20 May – Y2 Express Event for Parents and Dress Up – 2.45pm
 21 May – Nursery Trip to Atwell Farm Park
 21 May – World Cultural Diversity Event
 21 May – Y1 Express Event
 21 May – Y5 Express Event for Parents and Dress Up – 2.45pm
 22 May – Y3 Express Event for Parents and Dress Up – 2.45pm
 22 May – Y6 Express Event and Dress Up
 23 May – Reception Express Event and Dress Up
 23 May – Y4 Express Event and Dress Up
 23 May – SENCO Drop In Parent Session to Review Needs and High Needs Plans
 24 May – House Point Celebrations
 24 May – End of Term

