



Valley Primary School Newsletter

GROWING AND LEARNING TOGETHER TO BE THE BEST WE CAN
BE!
ASPIRE...ENJOY...ACHIEVE...CHALLENGE!

Friday
12th
January
2024

NOTE FROM THE HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year! It has been wonderful to welcome back all our children this week and see smiling, happy children pleased to be back with their friends and enjoying beginning their new learning for the Spring Term.

The children have particularly enjoyed their Engage events this week. We have seen some incredible excitement and, in particular, some wonderful costumes and role play in some year groups as they re-enacted times from the past. It has been great to engage the children with their new topics and we now look forward to exploring these further throughout the half term.

May I take this opportunity to remind you how crucial it is that children are in school and punctual every day, unless they are poorly which of course we understand. We have some children who are being less resilient with this so as we begin 2024, I would ask that you endeavour to help us to promote this. If your child is struggling for any reason, please do not hesitate to contact our pastoral team and they will be happy to offer some help and support.

I would also like to thank parents with children on Fallowfield Road for your patience as the new School Streets scheme has been implemented by the council this week.

Many thanks for your continued support,
Miss Milewski

VALLEY NEWS AND REMINDERS

Office Opening Times and Pick Up and Collection Times

Our offices on both sites are open between **8.15am** and **3.45pm**, so please do not hesitate to pop in or call during these time if you have a query or would like to speak to them about anything.

A reminder that it is crucial that children are on time for school and also collected promptly at the end of the day. If you are running late in an emergency situation, we do offer Explorers as a one off for a cost of **£5.50**. It is helpful if you can notify the office if you will be late and require this. However, from Monday all children will automatically be taken into Explorers if they are still here 10 minutes after the end of school and parents will then need to collect from Explorers and pay the £5.50 for the session.

Nursery and Reception Places September 2024

We are delighted to announce that at present, there are still places available for Nursery starters to our **September 2024** cohort. If your child was **born between 1 September 2020 and 31 August 2021** you are welcome to apply for a place. Visit our website to access the application, or contact the school directly should you want further information or support: [Admissions/ Starting School | Valley Primary School](#)

Please also be reminded that applications for Reception places are open until **15th January**. Parents with children currently attending our Nursery must also apply to secure their school place at Valley Primary School. Apply via the council: www.solihull.gov.uk/pp

Usborne Reading Challenge

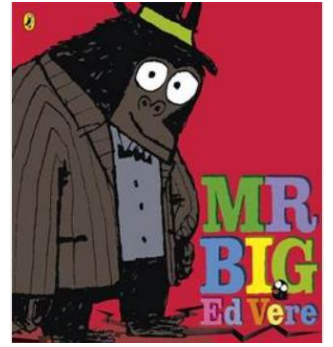
We are pleased to announce that the books that we purchased using the proceeds of the Reading Challenge are now in school for the children to enjoy in their reading lessons. Thank you to all of you for supporting your children with their sponsorships and thank you to Emily Johnson, our Usborne Rep who works extremely hard to organise these events for us.



OUR READING RECOMMENDATION

"Mr Big" by Ed Vere

Poor Mr Big, he's so big and scary-looking that when he gets on the bus everyone gets off. This makes him unhappy and lonely as no one sees the real him. One day, he sees an old piano in a shop window; it also looks unhappy and alone, so he buys it and begins to play. The notes of Mr Big's music drift into the crowded city night and everyone is enchanted – who is this wonderful musician? Mr Big gets invited to join a band and suddenly, in his element, the real Mr Big shines through. With its gruff hero, vibrant, strong colours, bold design and spare text, this story about looking beyond appearances has a satisfying punchy simplicity and jazzy feel.



This book is suitable for readers in Nursery and Reception.

SHARING OUR LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS

EYFS

The children in **Reception** had a fabulous Engage Day to start their new Topic, 'Monsters'. The day involved listening to monster stories, learning a monster dance and making monster biscuits. The children also used their imaginations to suggest where the monster's footprints came from and where the monster is now!!



KS1

This week, **Year 1** took part in their Victorian Engage Day. They came to school dressed in Victorian clothing and took part in a Victorian style lesson. Their teacher took the role of a Victorian teacher and they found out how strict the teachers were and the punishments they used to give children. They then practised writing on slate and played some Victorian style games including 'British Bulldog' and 'Pick up Sticks'.



The children in **Year 2** are learning about what life was like in Britain when their grandparents were young. To start their new topic, 'Best of Britain', they enjoyed playing with a range of toys that their parents and grandparents might have played with when they were children. They thought about the different materials that they were made of and how some toys are similar to ones they play with now while some have changed a lot!



KS2

Simmonds 6 have made a great start to the year, showing enthusiasm and working carefully when designing and beginning to make their cars in their DT lessons.

There has also been some amazing Derek Gores inspired collage work with many of the children being able to select from a range of paper types and colours to explore this type of art. We cannot wait to see their final pieces in the coming weeks.



PARENT PARTNERSHIPS

Note from the Parent Liaison Lead

It is really important when you make changes to your personal details, such as email addresses and telephone numbers that you notify the school office. When updating your details on ParentPay, it does not automatically feed through to our school system.

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 18 December – 22 December 2023

UPPER KS2	Ennis 6	88.0%	Farah 6	86.7%	Simmonds 6	88.3%	Holst 5	93.4%	Lynn 5	96.6%	Webber 5	94.1%
LOWER KS2	Hawking 4	85.9%	Newton 4	94.8%	Sharman 4	90.7%	Hockney 3	93.7%	Lowry 3	97.5%	Riley 3	83.0%
KS1	Churchill 2	91.2%	Nightingale 2	78.5%	Pankhurst 2	92.3%	Bell 1	89.5%	Lee 1	95.6%	Shaw 1	89.6%
EYFS	Aston R	87.6%	Grylls R	96.7%	Peake R	96.4%	Starley N	74.6%	Whittle N	76.3%		

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

DIARY DATES

15 January – Solihull Reception Admission Deadline for September 2024 Cohort
16 January – Maths Workshop – Churchill 2 – 9am
17 January – Maths Workshop – Nightingale 2 – 9am
17 January – Year 2 Optional Tests Parents Meeting -5pm (MS Teams)
18 January – Maths Workshop – Pankhurst 2 – 9am
18 January – Year 6 SATS Parent Meeting – 5pm (MS Teams)
22 January – Maths Workshop – Ennis 6 – 9am
23 January - Maths Workshop – Farah 6 – 9am
24 January – Maths Workshop – Simmonds 6 – 9am
W/C 29 January – National Story Telling Week
30 January – Teams Parent Workshop – Behaviour Strategies – 12pm
31 January – Year 2 Trip to Black Country Museum
2 February – NSPCC Number Day
5 – 9 February – Children's Mental Health Week

5 February – Reception Express Event for Parents – 2.45pm
6 February – Year 4 Hawking and Newton Trip to Dhamma Talaka Peace Pagoda – 9.15am
6 February – Safer Internet Day
6 February – Year1 Express Event for Parents – 2.45pm
7 February – Year 5 Trip to National Space Centre
8 February – Year 4 – Sharman – Trip to Dhamma Talaka Peace Pagoda – 9.15am
8 February – Year 4 Express Event for Parents – 2.45pm
9 February – House Point Celebrations
9 February – End of Half Term

