



Valley Primary School Newsletter

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

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

Friday
24th
November
2023

NOTE FROM THE ASSISTANT HEADTEACHER

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been so wonderful to welcome the children back each afternoon this week for our Bedtime Stories and Twilight Tales events. A fabulous range of books were shared with each class, accompanied by warming hot chocolate, yummy biscuits and even a crackling fireplace (in some areas of school!) to make the storytelling even cosier! It was heart-warming to see the children so enticed by their class teacher's reading and meet some rather special teddy bears and cuddly toys who provided excellent company through the event too! One child even said to me on their way out, "I loved it so much - we're off to read more books when we get home!" At Valley, as you know, we love reading for pleasure and take pride in sharing great texts together. We hope this event inspired you to continue reading together at home and perhaps even put some new texts on your Christmas list too! Thank you as always for your ongoing support with our family events.

We have been incredibly proud to welcome in prospective new Reception parents this week for a tour of our fabulous school. Our Early Years children keenly showed our visitors how much they were enjoying their learning and challenging themselves further.

As we approach the lead up to the beginning of December, please do make a note of all the important dates at the end of the newsletter to familiarise yourself with the range of events we have due to take place, so that you don't miss out on anything!

Have a lovely weekend!

Mrs Heaven

VALLEY NEWS AND REMINDERS

Solihull Additional Needs Strategy Survey

The Local Authority have asked that we share this survey with parents/carers so that you can give your thoughts on SEND provision in Solihull.

Please note that this is not a Valley survey and the feedback will not be shared with us. If you want to give feedback to Valley specifically, please email into the Senco email address: s52senco@valley.solihull.sch.uk

Solihull additional needs strategy (Parent /carer Survey 2023):

<https://yourvoicesolihull.uk.engagementhq.com/embeds/projects/28905/survey-tools/30468>

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Author Webinar

On Wednesday, **Year 5** enjoyed a virtual author workshop from Natasha Hastings. She shared her wonderful ideas from her historical novel: 'The Miraculous Sweetmakers: The Frost Fair', which was set on the frozen river Thames during The Great Frost of 1963 in London.

Natasha took the children on an imaginative and magical journey through the different stalls, merchants and products of the Frost Fair. They thoroughly enjoyed influencing elements of the story along the way and discovering interesting historical facts from the time.

As you can see from the photos, the children had a great time and they were inspired to write their own stories by Natasha's workshop!



Go Valley!

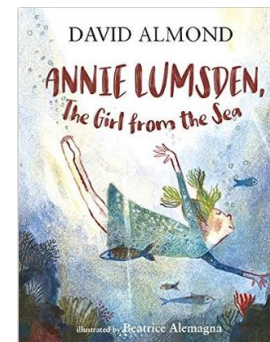
Our fabulous **Year 4** cheerleaders represented Valley at Lode Heath's Cheerleading Festival this Wednesday. We were so proud to hear not only of their fantastic routine, but the way in which they showed our Valley values and earned the award for sportsmanship. Well done to those that took part and thank you to all that supported.



OUR READING RECOMMENDATION

"Annie Lumsden, The Girl from the Sea" by David Almond

Annie has never been like the other girls. Her mam tried sending her to school when she was small, but Annie couldn't seem to make words or numbers stick. She prefers instead to be swimming in the sea, or sunbathing on the shore at Stupor Beach, her head full of tales. She should have been a fish, her mam always tells her, and Annie knows the truth of it. Then a stranger who comes to town is struck by the beauty and the wonder of her, and Annie Lumsden realizes that perhaps she really is half a creature from the sea.



You'll enjoy this book if you like authors such as Michael Morpurgo.

This book is suitable for those readers in Y3 and Y4.

SHARING OUR LEARNING HIGHLIGHTS

EYFS

In **Nursery**, the children have been working hard with their learning. In P.E they have been practising to balance on one leg for a short period of time and to balance walking across a bench. In Maths, they have been learning about 2D and 3D shapes, they have learnt the names and some properties of the shapes, for example how many sides and corners they have. The children have enjoyed exploring using 3D wooden blocks to build houses and castles, thinking carefully about which shapes are appropriate for a flat surface or a roof.



KS1

In Science this week, **Year 1** have enjoyed sorting materials and objects into their different properties. They used a Venn diagram to help sort them out. The children used scientific vocabulary when sorting, including rigid, magnetic, waterproof, absorbent, transparent, opaque and hard. They worked together collaboratively and enjoyed discussing the properties of the different materials.



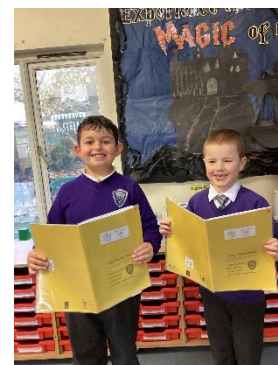
Year 2 are learning about the life processes of all living things in Science this half term. They enjoyed going outside to look for things that are living, dead or that have never been alive and thinking about why they fit into these categories.



KS2

In **Year 3**, the children have been exploring poetry by Joseph Coelho. The poem, 'Miss Coo's A* Student' really caught their imagination, so they decided to make a version of their own. After hunting the playground for inspiration, they found adjectives to describe the everyday objects they had found. The children used a thesaurus to up level their words even further.

They were very impressed with each other when they read their wonderful new versions of the poem to the class. Mrs Mullen said that Lowry is a class full of A* students!



As part of their Real Life Maths week in **Year 5**, the children worked in groups to design their own theme park. They were given the cost of each ride and amenity and had to stick to a budget. They also had to work out the area and perimeter of each ride and drew these onto their plan. They presented their ideas to the class to convince them that their theme park was the best and answered any questions raised. They enjoyed working in teams and applying their Maths skills!



PARENT PARTNERSHIPS

Note from the Parent Liaison Lead

Nursery applications for September 2024 are now open and the application forms are available on our website under the admissions page. **Closing date for Nursery application is 1st December.** Reception applications are open and available via your council portal. **The closing date for Reception applications is 15th January 2024.** Please email admissions@valley.solihull.sch.uk if you have any queries regarding admissions.

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 13 November – 17 November 2023

UPPER KS2	Ennis 6	96.0%	Farah 6	95.7%	Simmonds 6	94.7%	Holst 5	98.3%	Lynn 5	94.1%	Webber 5	96.2%
LOWER KS2	Hawking 4	96.3%	Newton 4	94.1%	Sharman 4	94.5%	Hockney 3	97.0%	Lowry 3	98.3%	Riley 3	95.3%
KS1	Churchill 2	87.3%	Nightingale 2	93.8%	Pankhurst 2	92.5%	Bell 1	96.5%	Lee 1	91.6%	Shaw 1	90.4%
EYFS	Aston R	87.6%	Grylls R	89.0%	Peake R	83.8%	Starley N	63.8%	Whittle N	71.7%		

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

DIARY DATES

1 December – PTFA Christmas Fayre – Old Lode Lane– 4pm -7pm
1 December – School's Nursery Admissions Deadline
6 December – Christmas Dinner and Jumper Day
7 December – Guitar Concert – Old Lode Lane – 1.30pm
7 December – Reception to visit Elmdon Church
8 December – Food Parcel Donations
11 December – Nursery Christmas Performance – 9am
12 December – Y2 to visit Elmdon Church
13 December – Y3 and Y4 Christmas Performance – 9am and 2.30pm
14 December – Y5 and Y6 Christmas Performance – 9am and 2.30pm

14 December – Reception Christmas Performance – 2.30pm
18 December – Reception Christmas Performance – 9am
18 December – Y1 Christmas Performance – 2.30pm
19 December – Y1 Christmas Performance – 9am
19 December – Y2 Christmas Performance – 2.30pm
20 December – Y2 Christmas Performance – 9am
21 December – Nursery Christmas Parties – AM
21 December – Reception – Y6 Christmas Parties – PM
22 December – House Point Celebrations
22 December – Term Ends

