



Valley Primary School Newsletter

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

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

Friday
9th January
2026

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

Dear Parents and Carers,

Happy New Year Everybody! I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and enjoyed the holidays with your children. We are all looking forward to a great 2026 at Valley.

It has been great to have the children back in school this week, for a week filled with awe and wonder with a little snow to enjoy, plus engage events for our new topics including fabulous events such as re-enacting the great fire of London!

Thank you all for your understanding with our differing entrances and exits so everybody gets in and out safely. We will continue to make decisions as we go to minimise risks for all of you.

Miss Milewski

SAD NEWS

It is with great sadness that I inform you that Mr Stoneman, who was our site services manager for many years, only leaving us at Christmas, passed away over the Christmas holidays. He was an incredible man and his legacy will live on at Valley for many years to come. His family are very grateful for the support Valley has given him whilst he has been poorly and speak so highly of our children and staff. Mr Stoneman loved his job and your children brought so much joy to his life. Rest in Peace Mr Stoneman!

SEND AND PASTORAL PROVISION

As a school, we are seeing an increasing number of children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities or Pastoral Support needs. If you are concerned that your child may have a particular need or they, or you, may need some additional support, please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance.

If you feel you need more detailed discussion following this, please email parent liaison FAO your child's phase leader. Our phase leaders will then be able to look at your request/ concern and/ or the support your child is receiving/ needs in more detail. The phase leader may then suggest that some pastoral or SENDco support or advice is needed or may signpost to a relevant specialist agency. It might be that Miss Kelly contacts you following this if your child is on the SEND register already, or Mrs Heaven if your child has an EHCP or Mrs Lambert if your child has a pastoral need or it may be that the phase leader comes back to you after seeking advice. We hope this slightly more streamlined system will help all our children and parents get the help and support that is needed.

OUR READING RECOMMENDATION

'The Watertower' by Gary Crew

This eerie tale centres on Preston's mysterious watertower. Nobody knows who built it or when, but there it stands on Shooter's Hill, with its rusty legs and warped, leaking tank. Unpick the sinister events that unfold when two boys decide to visit the watertower. This relatively short story is full of new little details that spring up every time you revisit it. Children will want to spend hours dissecting every meticulously thought out image to discover the hidden secret of the watertower.

This book is suitable to read to children in Upper Phase.

SHARING OUR LEARNING

Lower Phase

This week the children in **Reception** began their new topic 'Monsters'. They did the monster shuffle dance and made their own monsters using biscuits.



Middle Phase

Year 2 and 3 gem groups have started their new topic - 'Are we nearly there yet?' Alongside recalling (and singing) the names of the seven continents and five oceans, they learnt a little more about them. As their new topic will involve collaging, they have started to look at some of the skills and techniques that they will need to use. The children have collaged the whole world to show their understanding of where continents and oceans are.



Upper Phase

Year 4 and 5 enjoyed an inspiring Engage Day exploring Urban Influences, with a special focus on street art and its powerful, multilayered meanings. The children investigated how artists use public spaces, symbols, and imagery to communicate messages about society, culture, and identity, taking inspiration from the thought-provoking works of Banksy.

Following their exploration, students put their learning into practice by creating their own Banksy-inspired artworks. They experimented with a wide range of pencil techniques, including shading, line variation, and texture, to develop impactful images with hidden messages. The day was a wonderful blend of critical thinking, creativity, and artistic skill, resulting in thoughtful and expressive artwork that reflected both urban culture and the children's own ideas.



PARENT PARTNERSHIPS

Note to Parents

The PTFA would be extremely grateful for any donations of any unopened/unwanted Christmas gifts or Christmas jumpers. Please feel free to drop any items into either of the school offices.

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 parentliaison@valleyprimary.org

ATTENDANCE – W/C 15 December – 19 December 2025

UPPER PHASE	Ennis 6	92.3%	Farah 6	90.3%	Simmonds 6	97.7%	Holst 5	94.4%	Lynn 5	93.6%	Webber 5	95.0%
	Hawking 4	86.2%	Newton 4	88.1%	Sharman 4	89.3%						
MIDDLE PHASE	Hockney 3	95.2%	Riley 3	92.3%			Churchill 2	85.0%	Nightingale 2	98.3%	Pankhurst 2	92.6%
LOWER PHASE	Bell 1	87.4%	Lee 1	92.8%	Shaw 1	92.3%	Aston R	88.8%	Grylls R	96.0%	Peake R	93.2%
	Nursery	93.5%										

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

DIARY DATES

Please join us for these events...

- 13th January – Newton 4 Maths Workshop – 9am
- 14th January – Sharman 4 Maths Workshop – 9am
- 15th January – Hawking 4 Maths Workshop – 9am
- 20th January – Ennis 6 Maths Workshop – 9am
- 21st January – Farah 6 Maths Workshop – 9am
- 22nd January – Simmonds 6 Maths Workshop – 9am
- 27th January – Year 6 SATS Parent Meeting via TEAMS – 5pm

Please click on the link below to see our Valley Calendar. This will be updated weekly with new events as they arise.

<https://www.valleyprimaryschool.co.uk/calendar/?calid=2&pid=8&viewid=3>