



Valley Primary School Newsletter

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

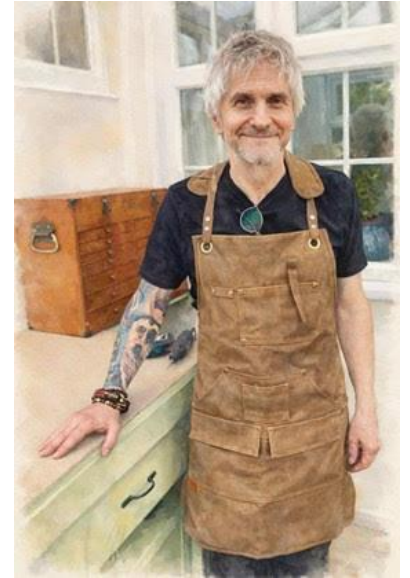
ASPIRE...ENJOY...ACHIEVE...CHALLENGE!

Friday
13th March
2026

TRIBUTE TO MR STONEMAN

Mr Stoneman would have been so proud of us today and so delighted that we linked Science day to our Green Curriculum. This involved planting and developing our school grounds purposefully. He would have particularly enjoyed seeing Y6 planting in the beds that he, our staff, the Eco Warriors and enrichment groups have developed over time.

Today, Mr Stoneman's family joined us, alongside Mr Greenway, the Elliot Foundation Trust Chief Executive Officer, as the children sang Mr Stoneman's favourite song and the school council read poems and reflections on his time at Valley. Our School Eco Team then dedicated an acer tree to Mr Stoneman, carefully feeding it and watering it to ensure it started to grow nice and quickly. He would have loved this as he was always keen to bring colour and attract bugs, bees and butterflies. We planted the tree amongst the wooden signs Mr Stoneman lovingly carved for us and added a new sign in his memory. We created a special time capsule using Mr Stoneman's last paint tin including special memories of him which we will bury in the ground near to the tree ready for a future generation to find, just like he did in many of our walls across school as he built them.



The acer tree is a resilient tree and we chose this tree to remind us all of Mr Stoneman who was a real life Resilient Robbie. In the ice and snow, he was first at school, making sure we could come and go safely. When we had a fire, we assembled outdoors whilst Mr Stoneman put it out, and we all know how hard Mr Stoneman tried to be here, even when he felt poorly, because he wanted to keep helping our school and our school family, just as he did his own family at home. He gave Valley Primary, and Hatchford Brook before it, many years of love and support and he would have loved the idea that he will have a special tree as a reminder of him on our school playground.

Thank you Mr Stoneman, you live on at Valley and we will always remember everything you did for us!



School Meals

We are excited to be launching our new lunch menu for the Summer Term. Thank you again to everybody who completed the parent survey, as you will see we listened to your feedback and our new menu is much more varied with 4 hot choices each day. Ordering will also be fully online which was a clear parental preference in the survey and you can order/revise orders right up until the morning of lunch when they begin cooking.

Dolce, our new catering providers will be sending details over the next few days regarding how to sign into the system and order meals for your child and ensure allergies are updated, so please look out for this. In the meantime, the new menu will be sent out today for your information via ParentPay.

Cost of School Meals

The cost of school meals will remain at **£3 for children from Year 3 to Year 6 and increase to £3 for Nursery children** after the Easter break. All meals will be booked online using the new Dolce system where you can upload payments and ensure your account is in credit.

Summer Uniform Change

From September 2026, white logo polo shirts will no longer be an option for our main school uniform. The children will continue to wear polo shirts on PE days (purple ones) but on other days, they will wear a normal cotton shirt.

Children are welcome to wear a logo shirt without a tie, either a low or high collared one. Alternatively, children can continue to wear a plain shirt with a tie. We will also be introducing clip on ties alongside the current traditional ties and elasticated ties for both summer and winter uniforms. Purple checked summer dresses may still be worn in the summer.

If buying new uniform, please buy with this in mind. We are happy for children to wear these during the summer term but will have the summer term as a transitional period and not stop polo shirts completely until September just in case anybody has already bought these.

The same uniform will also now be in place from Nursery to Year 6 as EYFS have joined the rest of the school this year in coming in PE kit on PE days.

Many thanks for your support as we make this small change.

Science Day

Children across school have had a fantastic day today taking part in Science Day. Every year group has spent time planting vegetable seeds that they will be harvesting in the summer, as well as doing a range of activities linked to our Green Curriculum. Keep an eye out for photos of what everyone has been doing today in next week's newsletter!

SEN Parent Events at Valley

We are delighted to share that we have two events on offer this half term for our parents who have children with a Special Educational Need (SEN):

Cuppa and a Catch-Up - Tuesday 24th March at 9am

An informal and friendly opportunity, hosted by Mrs Heaven and Miss Kelly at our Old Lode Lane site, to connect, ask questions and share insights. We are so excited to welcome Niki Gore (School Nurse), Amanda Larsen (Mental Health Senior Team from Solar) and Michelle Chan (Solihull Family Hub) who will be joining our session and will be available to ask questions about your child's individual needs.

Online Parent Webinar - Wednesday 18th March at 9.30am

Join Mrs Heaven virtually via Google Meet for a webinar (no longer than an hour) focusing on managing behaviour for children who have additional needs. During the session, we will share strategies and resources which can be used at home, as well as offering a question and answer session where we hope to troubleshoot some of the challenges you may be facing.

To reserve a space at either of these events, please email send@valleyprimary.org to request your place. If you are requesting to join the webinar, a link to Google Meet will then be sent to you.

All parents are welcome, even if your child does not have a formal diagnosis.

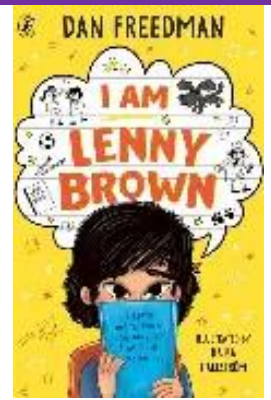
Please be aware that if there is not enough uptake, we will have to postpone these events and schedule for later in the academic year.

We hope to see you there!

OUR READING RECOMMENDATION

'I am Lenny Brown' by Dan Freedman

This book centres on a boy named Lenny, who has to move house and school due to his mum changing jobs. Lenny has to navigate new friendships at school, while only talking to his mum and his dog Rocky. This book allows children to consider the situations and challenges of others and celebrates friendship and understanding.



This book is suitable for readers in Upper Phase.

SHARING OUR LEARNING

Lower Phase

Over the last few weeks, the children in **Nursery** have been growing their own cress. They planted the cress seeds and have been watching them grow and speaking about the changes they can see. They have had a lot of fun learning about the process of growing their own cress.



Middle Phase

This week in Miss Alton's phonics group, the children have been reading the book 'Rollercoaster'. They have started to discuss the difference between retrieval and inference questions. The children really enjoyed working to answer different questions about what they had read in the book during Wednesday's session and they had some great discussions.



Upper Phase

In Science, **Hawking 4** have been about how to keep their teeth healthy. This week, the children did an experiment which showed the effects of sugary drinks vs water on their teeth. They identified variables, made a prediction and hypothesis and recorded the colour some eggs turned when submerged in a sugary drink vs water. They are excited to keep recording their results over the week and see if their predictions were correct.



PARENT PARTNERSHIPS

Note to Parents

We would like to remind all parents/carers that the car parks on both sites are for staff use only, this is for the safety of children and parents. Parking is however permitted by parents dropping off at Explorers outside of normal drop off and collection periods on the Fallowfield Road site and the small car park by Middle Phase only on Old Lode Lane. If you are using our car park at these times, I would ask that you exercise caution and reduce speed when leaving on either site, being mindful of pedestrians. Please can we also remind parents collecting from the Upper Phase exits (Old Lode Lane) to wait on the grass or pathways away from car parking bays.

We would also like to ask parents to park considerately of our neighbours by not blocking driveways, on several occasions now some neighbours have been unable to leave their drives due to our parents parking across them.

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 2 March – 6 March 2026

UPPER PHASE	Ennis 6	97.3%	Farah 6	95.7%	Simmonds 6	98.0%	Holst 5	96.0%	Lynn 5	88.5%	Webber 5	96.3%
	Hawking 4	95.2%	Newton 4	96.8%	Sharman 4	96.9%						
MIDDLE PHASE	Hockney 3	96.2%	Riley 3	97.2%			Churchill 2	100%	Nightingale 2	98.1%	Pankhurst 2	91.8%
LOWER PHASE	Bell 1	95.9%	Lee 1	97.9%	Shaw 1	98.1%	Aston R	92.8%	Grylls R	94.8%	Peake R	97.3%
	Nursery	94.0%										

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

DIARY DATES

Please join us for these events...

- 18th March – Y2 Churchill – Maths Workshop -9am
- 18th March – Online Parent Webinar – 9.30am
- 19th March – Y2 Nightingale – Maths Workshop – 9am
- 20th March – Y2 Pankhurst – Maths Workshop – 9am
- 24th March – SEN – Parent Cuppa and Catch Up – Old Lode Lane – 9am

Please talk to your children about these events...

- 18th March – PTFA Chocolate Egg Sale – Fallowfield Road – 3.20pm
- 19th March – PTFA Chocolate Egg Sale – Old Lode Lane – 3.30pm

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>