



Valley Primary School Newsletter

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

Friday
24th April
2026

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you for your continued support as we navigate the new School Grid system for our catering. The children have been really enjoying the wider variety in school meals. Alongside ordering your child's meal, please do check that all your child's allergies are noted on the system, so the catering team can ensure they are not served any incorrect food items.

This week, we have been talking to our older children in particular about ensuring that they use technology appropriately and in particular ensure they are only accessing sites they are legally old enough to be on and not joining group chats on platforms such as Whatsapp. We have given this message as unfortunately we have had some reports of our children posting inappropriate messages and pictures on group chats. Please could we ask that you are extra vigilant in monitoring your children's phones as the recent situation has caused significant upset between children and lots of negativity.

Following this, we have booked for the exploitation team to come into Old Lode Lane site at 9.30am on Tuesday 30th June for a parent coffee morning, aimed at helping parents of Year 5 and 6 understand online risk better and in particular prepare for children beginning secondary school. This will focus on keeping children safe online, keeping your child safe going to secondary and also touch on misogyny. We would welcome as many of you as possible attending this hence arranging with plenty of notice.

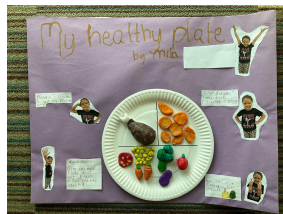
Many thanks for your continued support,
Miss Milewski

VALLEY NEWS AND REMINDERS

Science Day Competition

A massive well done to all children who took part in this year's Science Day competition. We had some fantastic entries from every phase, with Lower Phase thinking about what makes a healthy meal, Middle Phase exploring the life cycle of a plant, and Upper Phase learning about how food gets from the field to your fork. Congratulations to our winners, listed and photographed below, and to our runners up, who are all taking home prizes today.

Lower Phase: **Mila H**,
Middle Phase: **Olivia D**,
Upper Phase: **Isla H**



GEM Group Feedback and Class Mixing For September 2026

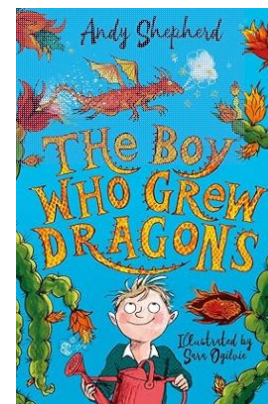
We reach that time of year where we are looking at our school structure for September. We have received some feedback regarding our current Gem Group model, however would like to invite any further parent comments based on Gem groups this year to be sent to our Parent Liaison email. We are particularly interested in hearing from parents of Year 2/3 and Year 4/5 who have trialled the system this year. We ask for this as we want to ensure the structure works for the children, but also works financially. All views are important and, whilst we cannot promise to adhere to all suggestions or requests, we assure you that all views will be fully considered by SLT. We have asked the children directly for feedback too. Please could we ask that any views are shared by **Friday 8th May at the latest**.

Alongside this, as with previous years, teachers will be carefully considering over the coming weeks which children will be in which classes next year. The teaching staff know the children very well and will do their very best to ensure any mixing works for all children. To feed into this process, we would like to ask that if you have any concerns either from this year or previous years that should be fed into these discussions, we would appreciate you letting your child's class teacher and phase leader knows by **Thursday 21st May** at the latest. This can be via your child's class email address or via the parent liaison email address. We would prefer this via email please so you can fully explain any circumstances you would like to but if you struggle with using email for any reason, please contact Miss Freeborn (Parent Liaison Lead) and she can help you to do this or discuss with you and then email teachers/ phase leaders on your behalf. Please note that mixing classes is a complex task which takes considerable time so no requests will be considered after 21st May and no changes will be made once classes have been set. It is therefore very important that you contact school over the next few weeks if you have anything in particular you would like taking into account when classes are decided and in particular if classes are mixed.

OUR READING RECOMMENDATION

'The Boy Who Grew Dragons' By Andy Shepherd

When Tomas discovers a strange old tree at the bottom of his grandad's garden, he doesn't think much of it. But he takes the funny fruit from the tree back into the house - and gets the shock and delight of his life when a tiny dragon hatches! The tree is a dragonfruit tree, and Tomas has got his very own dragon, Flicker. Tomas soon finds out that life with Flicker is great fun, but also very ... unpredictable. Yes, dragons are wonderful, but they also set fire to your toothbrush and leave your pants hanging from the TV aerial. Tomas has to learn how to look after Flicker - and quickly. And then something extraordinary happens - more dragonfruits appear on the tree. Tomas is officially growing dragons .. This is the first book in a sparky and utterly enchanting series.



This book is suitable for readers in Middle Phase.

SHARING OUR LEARNING

Lower Phase

This week, **Year 1** had a visitor into school to teach the children all about Judaism. The children were able to handle lots of objects related to Judaism and they found out the names of each one and their significance to Jewish people. The children were then able to ask questions about the Jewish religion. We would like to thank Mrs Caplin for taking the time to come into our school to teach the children about Judaism, as they certainly learnt a lot from the visit.



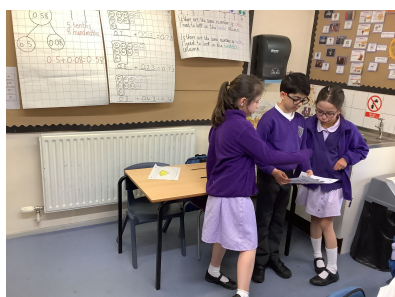
Middle Phase

Sapphires really enjoyed their first football lesson this week. They focused on moving to find space and the differences between attacking and defending. Then they practised passing and dribbling.



Upper Phase

This week in science, **Hawking** have been learning about food chains. They had a fun afternoon learning about herbivores, carnivores and omnivores that live in different parts of the world and putting together their own food chains in groups. The children made sure to use lots of scientific vocabulary when discussing their food chains with each other.



PARENT PARTNERSHIPS

Note to Parents

Please be reminded that meals need to be ordered for the children in advance by logging onto the school grid website using the details you have been sent or set up.

Accounts must be in credit at all times and have enough funds to cover the lunches that have been ordered for that day.

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 14 April – 17 April 2026

Well done to the following classes who are this week's winners in their Phase!

LOWER PHASE	Grylls R	99.0%
MIDDLE PHASE	Riley 3	98.4%
UPPER PHASE	Newton 4	98.6%

DIARY DATES

Please join us for these events...

28th April - Riley 3 - Math Workshop - 9am

29th April - Hockney 3 - Maths Workshop - 9am

7th May - SRE Parents Meeting - Virtual - 5pm - 6pm

Please support your child to participate in...

6th May - Choir Only - Solihull Music Summer Vocal Fiesta 2026 - Lyndon Secondary School - 5pm

7th May - Nursery - Visit from the Animal Man

Please talk to your children about these events...

4th May - Early May Bank Holiday

7th May - Polling Station OLL - Y2 and Y3 - Main School Entrance for Drop off and Collection

Y4,Y5 and Y6 - Usual Entry and Collection Point

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>