

1st March 2019

Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome back! We are now officially half the way through the year, I cannot believe how quickly this year is flying by. This half term see's us introducing some new things to get you all through the door.

As some of you might have seen we have been having some art work done inside school in our library area, the large area that looks out onto the playground. This is all part of our whole Academy focus on reading. As part of this focus, Wakefield Schools Library Service have been in and done a complete 'health check' on our books, which has meant unfortunately a lot have been disposed of, as they were either damaged or out of date. Over the rest of this and next academic year, we shall be restocking the book shelves with lots of exciting new texts.

As you know we already send home individual reading books, these books are given to your child based on their reading ability at present. These are the books that we expect to be read every night, just a couple of pages and returned to school on a daily basis, with the homework diary signed to say your child has read. These should not be too challenging for your children, they are books which help them with their reading ability and fluency. The homework diary will be checked by a member of staff and a green point given. Books will be changed as and when they have been completed. We are implementing a system in school where there will be a selection of relevant colour banded books in each classroom for the children to change their books themselves when they arrive in school each morning. Teachers do hear the children read on a regular basis and will assess them on a half termly basis to see if they are ready to change their book band. If your child loses their homework diary they will have to buy a replacement from the office for 75p. Please note that this will feed into Leading Learners.

As well as individual reading books, children are allowed to take a free choice reading book from our library. This is a book of their choice and may not match your child's reading ability. They may need help from yourselves to access the book. Please note the daily green points for reading are not given for this free choice reader, only the individual reader, as this is the book that will support your child the most with their reading progress.

We are going to start sending home reading books in Big Bears to help them on their reading journey. Some may not have words in, however the children can still talk their way through the book with your help. We will be encouraging the parents of Big Bears children to come into the classroom on a morning each morning and change their books.

Following on from the success of the open reading session for National Storytelling Week, we are going to be opening our doors each Friday at 2:40pm for 'Come and Read' sessions where you can come and read with your child or a group. It would be lovely if parents would then join us in celebration assembly.

We have had two parents come and volunteer to read with children in school. If you think this is something you would enjoy, please come and see the office.

We are starting 'Sharing Assemblies' again. These will take place once a term for each year group. This is where the children will all have a speaking part, get to share with you what they have been doing in their lessons and you can have a look at their books. It is a great opportunity for the children to practise their public speaking and something for them to be proud of.

Following on from the launch of Parent Pay, we are now asking parents to start ordering school dinners through the app as well. As of summer term we will no longer be sending home paper menus as part of our bid to be more environmentally friendly. If you are having trouble with the app, please come and see Mrs Meadows in the office.

Lastly, next year, we will be changing the uniform here at The Vale Primary Academy. I will be sending a letter about it with more details in the next few weeks. The new uniform will be phased in from September 2019. Children will still be able to wear their old uniform until they grow out of it, so please do not worry. However I wanted to let parents know as soon as possible in case it impacted on what uniform you bought moving forward.

As always, thank you for your continued support.

Miss Taylor

Spring 2 Dates

6th March Open Classroom 3:30pm – 3:50pm

7th March World Book Day – Come as your favourite character – no football kits

15th March Comic Relief – Wear Red £1 donation

13th March Year 5 Sharing Assembly 2:30pm

20th March Year 4 Sharing Assembly 2:30pm

22nd March Year 3 Sharing Assembly 2:30pm

29th March Year 2 Sharing Assembly 2:30pm

4th April Year 1 Sharing Assembly 2:30pm

5th April Easter Bonnet Competition

5th Leading Learners Assembly KS1 9:05am KS2 2:50pm