

**Mr Singh's weekly message**

Dear Parents and Carers,

A very warm welcome to everyone – but particularly to new parents and carers whose children have joined us for the first time! I hope your child enjoys their time at our school. I am sure they will settle in quickly and be well looked after. This is our first newsletter of the academic year. Our newsletter is a really important way of staying in touch and will be sent home each half term in order to keep you up to date with all the different things happening in school. You will also find lots of information, including diary dates for each week, on our school website. We will also keep you up to date with news and events via texts and email.

It has been a pleasure to welcome the children back to school. Our children have returned to school with positive attitudes and have been keen to settle into their new classes. We are all looking forward to the term ahead with many exciting things being planned for each year group. Please see below for our important messages:

**AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS**

After school clubs have resumed, clubs will end at 16:15. Children have already been allocated their clubs and parents would have received their letters this week. We do have a waiting list and we will ensure that these children are prioritised as soon as a place becomes available.

**UNIFORM**

Please can I remind all that the school uniform is as follows:

- Royal blue V-neck jumper, cardigan or sweatshirt (with or without logo)
- Grey or black trousers/skirt
- White polo shirt, shirt or blouse (tie for Year 6)
- All black shoes and trainers
- No lines, shapes or extreme haircuts

Full guidance can be found on our website:

[Uniform - The Vale Primary Academy \(thevacademy.org.uk\)](https://www.thevacademy.org.uk)

**PE (INCLUDING KIT UPDATE) AND FOREST SCHOOLS**

PE days for the Autumn term are as follows:

Y1 – Wednesday  
Y2 – Monday  
Y3 – Tuesday  
Y4 – Tuesday  
Y5 – Thursday  
Y6 – Thursday

Alongside this – your child will take part in a daily fit in 15 session – please send your child to school each day with a pair of trainers to change into.

Please ensure that your child dresses appropriately (depending on weather) for PE and is in full school PE uniform. PE t-shirts, linked to your child's house team will be issued this half term.

Please note – I am aware of the issue with SPT Uniforms not displaying the coloured kits – We are working with them to resolve the matter. For now – your child is able to wear a plain white t shirt.

[SPT Uniforms | Affordable Quality School Uniforms](#)

**FOREST SCHOOLS**

Forest Schools (children can wear their PE uniform. Warmer clothes, including a coat to be worn during Autumn (weather depending) and Winter.

This term, Year 1 and Year 2 will be taking part in Forest Schools.

Y1 – Tuesday  
Y2 – Thursday

**PACKED LUNCHES AND SNACKS**

We encourage healthy snacks in school – only fruit, vegetables or cheese style snacks for break please. Lunchboxes can contain a treat as part of a healthy balanced meal, but no sweets or fizzy drinks are allowed. Due to a number of children with life threatening allergies, nuts (or items with nuts in - including Nutella) must not be brought into school. Children are encouraged to bring a water bottle to school. We do not allow fruit in the water as the acid rots teeth.

**ATTENDANCE**

At the start of each new school year, we take the opportunity to remind parents/carers of the importance of all children benefiting from regular school attendance. We would like to work closely with you to ensure that every child is successful, through continuity of learning, and is able to achieve their full potential at our school.

This year, a key part of our attendance strategy will be to effectively monitor and address patterns of school attendance through our 'Traffic Light' Attendance approach. Parents/ carers will be in receipt of a coloured letter informing them of their child's 'Attendance Zone' at the end of each school half-term. The table below explains the different attendance categories:

Colour Zones	Attendance Thresholds
Green Zone	Attendance of 96% and above
Amber Zone	Attendance between 90% and 95.9%
Red Zone	Attendance below 90%

Furthermore, the table below explains the different attendance categories and what it converts to in days/weeks:

ATTENDANCE DURING ONE SCHOOL YEAR	THIS NO. OF DAYS ABSENT	WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY THIS NO. OF WEEKS ABSENT
95%	9 days	2 weeks
90%	19 days	4 weeks
85%	29 days	6 weeks
80%	38 days	8 weeks
75%	48 days	10 weeks
70%	57 days	11.5 weeks
65%	67 days	13.5 weeks

Should you wish to discuss your child's attendance with us, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.

**HOUSE GAMES**

We are pleased to announce and welcome parents to the first round of House Games for this academic year. On the week commencing 2<sup>nd</sup> October – children will represent their houses in the football tournament.

The dates and times for this are:

- YEARS 1 & 2: 2<sup>nd</sup> October – 15:30-16:30
- YEARS 3 & 4: 3<sup>rd</sup> October – 15:30-16:30
- YEARS 5 & 6: 4<sup>th</sup> October – 15:30-16:30

**CLASS NEWSLETTERS**

Class newsletters are now available on the website, these provide a more comprehensive overview of your child's learning and key evens coming up. These can be found here:

[Classes - The Vale Primary Academy \(thevpacademy.org.uk\)](https://thevpacademy.org.uk)

Best wishes

Mr J Singh

<u>Attendance</u>	
CATERPILLARS	94%
BUTTERFLIES	100%
PANDAS	91.3%
TIGERS	100%
GAZELLES	96%
ELEPHANTS	95.2
PENGUINS	92.3%
SNOW LEOPARDS	99.6%

<u>PUPIL OF THE WEEK</u>	
CATERPILLARS	Azari M
BUTTERFLIES	Harley-Jay P
PANDAS	Theo r
TIGERS	Alicia P
GAZELLES	Freddie B
ELEPHANTS	Amarnie-Mae S
PENGUINS	Ronnell G
SNOW LEOPARDS	Arissa J

<u>HOUSE POINTS</u>			
WHARF	SWALE	DERWENT	AIRE
8	10	6	11



**Key dates for your diary**

**SCHOOL HOLIDAYS, INSET DAYS AND SESSION TIMES**  
**SCHOOL YEAR: 2023/2024**

The Vale Primary Academy

**SCHOOL HOLIDAYS:**

	Day	Month
<b>OPEN – AUTUMN 1</b>	5 <sup>th</sup>	September 2023
<b>CLOSE – AUTUMN 1</b>	27 <sup>th</sup>	October 2023
<b>OPEN – AUTUMN 2</b>	7 <sup>th</sup>	November 2023
<b>CLOSE – AUTUMN 2</b>	21 <sup>st</sup>	December 2023
<b>OPEN – SPRING 1</b>	8 <sup>th</sup>	January 2024
<b>CLOSE – SPRING 1</b>	9 <sup>th</sup>	February 2024
<b>OPEN – SPRING 2</b>	19 <sup>th</sup>	February 2024
<b>CLOSE – SPRING 2</b>	22 <sup>nd</sup>	March 2024
<b>OPEN – SUMMER 1</b>	8 <sup>th</sup>	April 2024
<b>CLOSE – SUMMER 1</b>	24 <sup>th</sup>	May 2024
<b>OPEN – SUMMER 2</b>	4 <sup>th</sup>	June 2024
<b>CLOSE – SUMMER 2</b>	19 <sup>th</sup>	July 2024
<b>SESSION TIMES:</b>		
<b>SCHOOL DAY START TIME</b>		08:45
<b>SCHOOL DAY FINISH TIME</b>		15:15

**INSET DAYS:**

Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> September 2023
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> November 2023
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December 2023
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June 2024
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July 2024

**SCHOOL EVENTS AUTUMN TERM:**

- 21.09.23: National Fitness Day (21st)
- 25.09.23: Harvest collection
- 01.10.23: Black History Month
- 10.10.23: World Mental Health Day (10th)
- 16.10.23: Recycling Week
- 18.10.23: African dance and Virtual Reality Tour
- 27.10.23: Halloween Disco
- Please note a P.T.A event will take place in October with dates and information to follow.
- 07.11.23 – DIYA lamp workshops
- 11.11.23: Remembrance Day
- 27.11.23 & 28.11.23: Christmas Glass Art Workshops
- 01.12.23: In school Pantomime (A Christmas Carol)
- 12.12.23: Y3-6 Theatre Visit

**PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT AUTUMN TERM:**

- 19.09.23: Meet the teacher Coffee morning.
- 20.09.23: Y6 SATs Meeting
- 21.09.23: Year 1 Phonics Meeting
- 02.10.23: Y1/2 House Games
- 03.10.23: Y3/4 House Games
- 04.10.23: Y5/6 House Games
- 19.10.23: Y1 Phonics workshops
- 13.11.23: Y1/2/3 Anti Bullying workshops
- 14.11.23: Y4/5/6 Anti Bullying workshops
- 23.11.23: Parents evening
- 28.11.23: Family assemblies (please see your child's class newsletter for more information)
- 04.12.23: Y1/2/3 House Games
- 05.12.23: Y4/5/6 House Games
- 15.12.23: EYFS Nativity
- 18.12.23: Reception & Y1 Family Christmas dinner
- 19.12.23: Y2 & Y3 Family Christmas dinner
- 20.12.23: Y4, Y5 & Y6 Family Christmas dinner
- 21.12.23: Christmas Concert

**Twitter**

Please follow us on our twitter feed:

@Vale\_Primary