



21st October 2021

Next week is our half term holiday. I hope you have a restful and enjoyable time. I would like to thank the staff for all they have done to make the past 7 weeks such a success.

It was lovely to be able to hold face-to-face parents evenings this week. I hope you found it helpful to meet your child's class teacher and thank you to everyone who completed our questionnaire. Your feedback is really helpful in informing our school improvement priorities. .

The children start back on Tuesday 2nd November because Monday 1st is a training day for the staff.

Winter Uniform

From Tuesday 2nd November the children are asked to wear their winter uniform with their house tie. They will still be allowed to wear their PE kit on the days they have PE, but items worn must follow our uniform policy.

As we approach the half term holiday, can I strongly encourage you to check your child's clothing to ensure it is clearly named. Every week we have so much lost property that can't be returned because it is unnamed. Please check our lost property trolley as there are many PE hoodies, coats and jumpers that have not been claimed.

Learning to play a musical instrument

Children can learn to play a range of instruments at Vale. West Sussex Music have provided information about bursaries that are available to help towards the cost of lessons. (See attached letter)

Starting School in September 2022

We are running tours for prospective parents of children who will start school in September 2022. Can I ask that you help us publicise these tours. To book a place on a tour please contact us: 01903 872322 or Office@valeschool.org

Parent Tour Dates

| Date | Time |
|----------|---------|
| 10.11.21 | 9.30am |
| 15.11.21 | 10.00am |
| 1.12.21 | 9.30am |
| 8.12.21 | 9.30am |

COVID update

It is vitally important that if your child has one of the COVID symptoms (cough, high temperature or loss of taste and smell) they stay home and must have a PCR test. These can be booked on this link

Once you receive the results, please email us a copy for our records. If they are negative, and are well, they can return to school.

Lateral Flow Tests should only be used to check for COVID if a child has no symptoms.

Friends of Vale

Tree Decoration competition The children will shortly be coming home with blank tree ornaments to decorate and enter, if they wish, into the free competition we are running in association with Jacobs Steel. The ornaments are made from air dry clay which is quite fragile, so please be aware that they may be carrying them as they come out of school. Your child can decorate the ornament in any way that they choose - felt tip pens, poster paint, sequins, glitter, stickers, decoupage etc, although please avoid pom-poms and any other fluffy items.

In order to enter the competition, please ensure your child's name is written on the accompanying slip of paper and return the ornament to the designated collection box in school reception. We will varnish the ornaments to ensure waterproofing- although if you happen to have some clear varnish please feel free to finish off your child's creation!

The intention is that all returned ornaments will be hung on the Jacobs Steel Christmas Tree in Findon Valley. Jacobs Steel will judge and award a small prize for the best decorated ornament in each year group.

Please note that any decorations submitted for the competition cannot be returned. All names will be removed from the decorations prior to displaying.

We would like to thank Jacobs Steel for supporting this competition. Close date for all entries is Wednesday 17th November.

Christmas Jumpers FoV are excited to share with you another new fundraising initiative, which is also environmentally friendly. Do you and your children love Christmas jumpers, but hate spending lots of money on them, especially ones that the children rapidly grow out of?

Well, the FoV is here to help!

Between now and Wednesday 3rd November, we would love for you to bring in any unwanted, CLEAN and in GOOD CONDITION Christmas jumpers, both in child and adult sizes, and place them in our Preloved Uniform donations bin (to the left of the school car park, in the bike / scooter park). Please DO NOT take them into school. FoV will sort all donations ready for a Christmas Jumper sale outside the school gates on Friday 5th November.

Children's jumpers will be available to purchase for £2 and adult jumpers for £3, with all proceeds going towards supporting the FoV current fundraising project: redeveloping the Jubilee Wood at Vale School. We hope that this event will save lots of Christmas jumpers from entering landfill, being incinerated or just being lost and unloved at the back of a wardrobe, and that the children and adults will enjoy choosing a new preloved jumper to use this year and potentially beyond!

Make your own Christmas Cards We hope that your children are enjoying making their Christmas cards with Cauliflower cards - please note that the last day for submitting artwork and forms to school is Tuesday 2nd November (that is the first day back after half term).

Non-Uniform Donation Day On Friday 12th November, children will be welcome to come to school in their own 'home' clothes in exchange for donations towards our forthcoming Christmas Fair (also known as Elfridges!). Ideally we would like you to send in donations in the categories below but

we would be very grateful for any donations of new items that would make suitable gifts for friends, relatives or pets. We would greatly appreciate it if you are able to help us reduce the use of single plastics where possible. We are seeking, where possible, to recycle or repurpose any unwanted items and so we would welcome donations of any of the following in pre-loved but good condition: Soft toys, games and other toys, unwanted gifts. If it is good enough to sell, we would love to have it!

| Year Group | Requested Donations of New Items |
|---------------------|--|
| Early Years, Year 1 | Unwanted gifts, candles / scented candles Notebooks, pocket money toys (please consider the plastic issue if selecting this choice), colouring books, colouring pencils. |
| Years 2 and 3 | Toiletries for men - shaving products, hair products, shower gel, gift sets, miniature travel products, flannels |
| Years 4 and 5 | Toiletries for women and children, shower gel, body lotion, bubble bath, bath bombs, hand cream, hair products, flannels, hair accessories, miniature travel products. |
| Year 6 | Selection boxes, chocolate oranges, Cadbury Hero / Celebration / Roses type boxes, Matchmakers, Maltesers, Christmas chocolate gifts, chocolate bars etc for larger chocolate tombola prizes and hampers. (Please check 'best before' dates) |

During the morning of donation day we will be sorting items and preparing them for the opening of Elfridges 2021. If you are able to spare some time to help collect, sort or wrap things, and have a fun time whilst doing so, please drop us a line at friendsofvale@gmail.com - Everyone is welcome.

Christmas Events Planning and preparation for the opening of Elfridges 2021 is well underway as well as our Christmas raffle, festive trailer and carols by torchlight event. We would like to thank our very generous sponsors, Jacobs Steel, Kavanagh Designs and Monty's Grooming for their support in helping us to make these events come to life - we could not do it without them. We will update you further with information about these events and how you can get involved after half term

Other News

Attached with this newsfeed is information about MatchFit Football Academy's Christmas training sessions

FOV Key dates

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|------------------------|--|
| Tuesday 2nd November | Final date for Cauliflower Cards submissions |
| Wednesday 3rd November | Final date for Christmas jumper donations |
| Friday 5th November | Christmas Jumper Sale at the FoV shed |
| Thursday 17th November | Final date for Christmas Tree decorations to be entered into competition |
| Wednesday 1st December | Elfridges set up day |
| Friday 3rd December | Elfridges opens!! (Christmas Fair open to the children only during the day - flash sale to parents from 3pm) |
| Monday 6th December | Festive Trailer Findon Valley |
| Thursday 17th December | Carols by torchlight |
| Friday 19th December | Stall at the FVRA Christmas Farmers Market |

Important Dates to Remember.....

| 2021/2022 Academic Year | |
|---|--|
| Monday 25th - Friday 29th October 2021 | Half Term Break |
| Monday 1st November 2021 | Inset Day 3 |
| Tuesday 2nd November 2021 | First day back for pupils |
| Wednesday 3rd November 2021 | Flu Vaccination for all year groups |
| Friday 12th November 2021 | Non-uniform day for Christmas Fair donations |
| Friday 3rd December 2021 | Christmas Fair |
| Monday 6th & Tuesday 7th December 2021 (9.15am) | Early Years Nativity |
| Wednesday 8th December 2021 | Yr6 Carol Service |
| Friday 10th December 2021 (9.15am & 2.15pm) | Yr2 Christmas Show |
| Tuesday 14th December 2021 (9.15am & 2.15pm) | Yr1 Christmas Show |
| Wednesday 15th December 2021 (9.15am & 2.15pm) | Yr3 Christingle |
| Thursday 16th December 2021 (6pm) | FOV Evening Christmas Carols Concert |
| Friday 17th December 2021 | Last Day of the Autumn Term 9am Whole School Assembly |
| Tuesday 4th January 2022 | Inset Day 4 |
| Wednesday 5th January 2022 | First Day of the Spring Term |
| Monday 31st January 2022 | Inset Day 5 |

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| Friday 11th February 2022 | School Discos |
| Monday 21st - Friday 25th February 2022 | Half Term Break |
| Friday 18th March 2022 | FOV Cake Sale |
| Friday 8th April 2022 | Last Day of Spring Term |
| Monday 25th April 2022 | First Day of the Summer Term |
| Monday 2nd May 2022 | Bank Holiday |
| Monday 30 May - Friday 3rd June 2022 | Half Term Break |
| Friday 10th June 2022 | Non-uniform day for Summer Fair donations |
| Friday 1st July 2022 | Summer Fair |
| Thursday 21st July 2022 | Last Day of the Summer Term/Academic Year |