



11th November 2021

## Non-Uniform Donation Day

Tomorrow is non-uniform day and children can come to school in their own 'home' clothes. A donation towards the Christmas Fair would be very much appreciated. Please see below for a list of suitable items.

If your child has PE tomorrow, please ensure they have trainers or plimsolls, but they can still wear their own clothes for the day.

## Parent Questionnaire

We had over 350 responses to our recent questionnaire. Your feedback has been very helpful in identifying the many strengths within the school and also some areas we need to focus on in the coming months.

Over the next few weeks we will share some of the themes from the questionnaire in our Newsfeeds.

I am pleased to be able to report that:

- 97% of parents agree or strongly agree that their child is happy at school
- 98% agree or strongly agree that their child feels safe at school
- 96% agree or strongly agree that the school makes sure its pupils are well behaved
- In answering the statement "The school helps my child to stay safe on-line, only 2 parents disagreed with this statement.
- 95% of parents either agreed or strongly agreed that the school is successful in meeting its aims, enabling children to become successful learners, confident individuals, and responsible citizens.

Thank you to parents who took the time to write comments on the form. We received 16 written comments about clubs. The general theme of the comments were focused on increasing the number of clubs and the range of activities on offer.

- 89% of parents either agreed or strongly agreed that their child can take part in clubs and activities at school.
- 86% agreed or strongly agreed that the school supports their child's wider personal development.

This term we recommenced clubs after the pandemic and have offered 16 different clubs with 289 places. Alongside our usual clubs we trialled some new ones like Archery and Fencing. We are currently planning the clubs for the Spring Term and are seeking to widen the number of clubs available. We are also keen to offer more non-sports clubs. If you know of anyone who might be interested in running a club, please ask them to get in contact with Mrs Shelton who oversees our extra-curricular activities.

## Attendance and Punctuality

Regular school attendance is an important part of giving your child the best possible start in life. This includes arriving on time each day.

Children are able to enter the school premises from 8.30am and can go to their classes at 8.35am. Teachers carefully plan morning activities during the first 15 minutes of the day that practice and reinforce previous learning and we really don't want your child to miss out. The green gates close at 8.50am and

any child arriving after that time will be recorded as late. Children arriving late may disrupt not only their own learning but also that of others.

Arriving 5 minutes late each day actually adds up to missing 3 entire days of school by the end of the year. If you have any concerns about your child's punctuality please do talk to us.

### Lip Balm

We do not permit Vaseline products in school due to hygiene/flammable reasons however your child can bring to school a regular lip balm once a consent form is completed at the front office.

### Starting School in September 2022

We have a few dates left for prospective parents to tour the school. To book a place on a tour please contact us: 01903 872322 or [Office@valeschool.org](mailto:Office@valeschool.org)

### Parent Tour Dates

Date	Time
15.11.21	10.00am
1.12.21	9.30am
8.12.21	9.30am

### COVID update

We have had very few positive cases within school. Thank you for doing all you can to help reduce the risk of transmission. We continue to ask that if your child has any of the symptoms, please keep them off school and get them tested with a PCR test.

If there is a positive case within your child's year group, we will inform you via ParentMail. This is just to keep you informed. There is no requirement for you to do anything, unless your child has symptoms.

## Friends of Vale

**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

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**Valuing All Learners Equally**

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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](mailto:friendsofvale@gmail.com) - Everyone is welcome.

**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!

**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).

**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

### FOV Key dates

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	
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 & 2.00pm)	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
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