

Friday 10th October 2025

Personal Development

We will be holding our Autumn House Games in the weeks commencing 13th October and 20th October. Our Autumn 1 House Game will be football. As last year, we will have teams for each house and hold tournaments, refereed by one of our Elite coaches.

Year 1,2 and 3 will compete in teams together on 14th October.

Year 4,5 and 6 will compete in teams together on Tuesday 21st October.

Diary Dates

Dates For Your Calendar

Autumn Term

13.10.25 Tempest Photographs
14.10.25 Year 1,2,3 Football House Games
21.10.25 Year 4,5,6 Football House Games
21.10.25 Year 5 Knife Crime session with West Yorkshire Police
22.10.25 Year 4 educational visit to York Chocolate Story
24.10.25 Halloween Party.

Break up for October half term

03.11.25 Year 5 educational visit to a Gurdwara
05.11.25 NHS Flu immunisations
10.11.25 Anti-bullying Week. Wear odd socks
12.11.25 SEND Coffee morning 9.15am at Simpsons Lane Academy.
14.11.25 Selected Year 3 and 4 Elite Dance Festival
14.11.25 Children in Need
17.11.25 Year 2 educational visit to England Lane Academy for The Great Fire of London Workshop
02.12.25 U11 Girls Football Tournament. More details to come
09.12.25 U11 Boys Football Tournament. More details to come

More dates and events will be added in due course.
Dates are always subject to change.

Update from Miss Cartwright

Hi everyone,

Thank you to all parents who were able to make parents evening this week. We absolutely love sharing successes and next steps with you. The Autumn parents evening is a particularly nice one as teachers and parents often meet for the first time and are able to hear about how their child has settled in and what they are enjoying in lessons.

This parents evening we were lucky enough to have Safer School Journeys, who are working with our older year groups to improve road safety in our local area. The designer brought some amazing plans and I want to thank each and every one of you who contributed to the plans. The children, and you as parents/carers, are the ones who know the area best and your input is greatly appreciated.

We also saw Future in Minds attend on Tuesday and many of you stopped to chat. We have regular contact with Future in Minds through assemblies, parent workshops, children workshops and through our TAS referrals. If you found this stand useful, please do attend the next workshops we have. Dates and topics will be decided and shared soon.

Today we celebrated World Mental Health Day and raised awareness through wearing yellow. The day was kick started with Future in Minds holding assemblies for our children and a day filled with activities to help support strong mental health.

I hope you have a restful weekend.

Miss Cartwright



Early Years

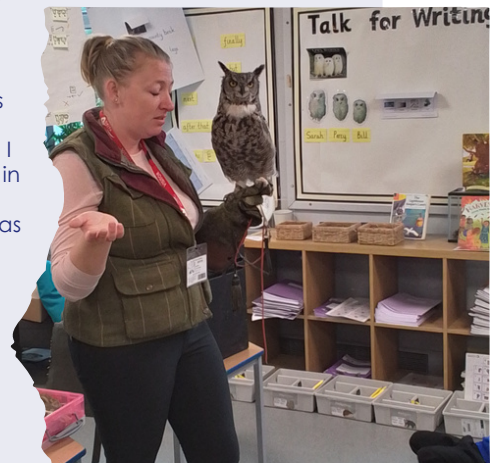
Reception PE will be on a Thursday. Please can children come to school in full PE kits. They will stay in their PE kit for the full day.

This week reception had a very exciting visit from two owls called Libby and Frankie. The children learned lots of new facts and were able to feel different owl feathers. They asked lots of questions and enjoyed listening to them hoot. Reception have also enjoyed baking this week, they made owl nests with chocolate and shredded wheat, we also added three Maltesers for the baby owls! I have been really impressed with the children's phonics this week, they are showing great interest in writing the sounds we have learned so far and have completed some fantastic work in their literacy books. Thank you to all the parents/carers that attended our stay and play this week, it was great to show everyone our phonics learning and activities around our classroom. If you require any more phonics support, please do not hesitate to ask myself or Mrs Booth.

Mrs Pearson

This week nursery we have started or sorting in maths we have sorted by shapes and size. We've started our story map in Talk for Writing they have been absolutely brilliant acting this out. We looked at how to keep our brains healthy and who to go to to ask for help if needed.

Mrs Richardson



Year 1

P.E is on a **Wednesday** afternoon for Year 1 and Forest School is on a **Monday** afternoon.

In writing this week, we have started our new unit about instructions. We learnt the text map 'how to trap a wolf.' We loved creating a list of equipment and following the instructions to actually build the trap!

In our art lesson, we absolutely loved exploring how to tear and cut different materials. We then explored layering materials to change the texture. Next week, we will be making our own collage, using the skills we have practised this week.

In RE, we shared ideas and suggestions for how to make others feel like they belong. On Friday, we had a special assembly and spent our afternoon exploring different strategies for taking care of our mental health. This was to raise awareness during World Mental Health Day.

Miss Roberts



Year 2

Year 2 have PE on **Tuesday** morning and Forest School on **Monday** morning. Please come into school changed and make sure to bring school uniform to change into after.

This week, Year 2 have been very busy. We have started a new unit on writing recounts, based on 'Postcards from Sunny' who we met in 'Meerkat Mail'. We are very excited about meerkats and have even learnt what a mongoose is!

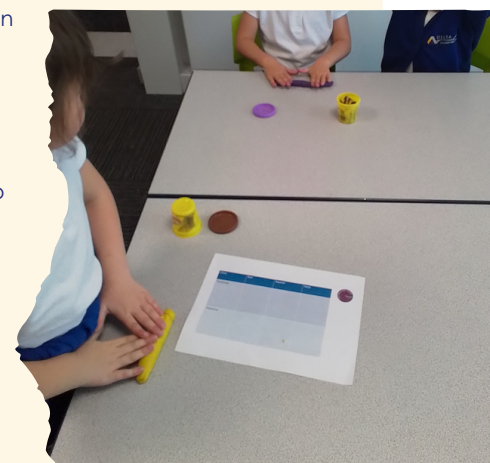
In Forest Schools we made dens using lots of different materials.

In reading we have got to the climax of 'The Tunnel' where the sister finds the brother. We have thought about how Anthony Browne helps us understand how they feel and how the relationship changes between the siblings.

In Science, we have built on our understanding of the meanings of 'squash', 'twist' and 'roll' by experimenting with playdough and plasticine. We had so much fun!! We noticed how the materials felt different.

In Geography we learnt about landmarks in London. We enjoyed spotting them on maps. We found that some people had been to some of the landmarks before, which was very exciting.

Mrs Steer



Year 3



Year 3 have **PE** on a **Monday**. Please ensure your children have **all** their PE kit and that is **clearly labelled**.

It's been another busy and engaging week in Year 3, with the children showing great focus and enthusiasm across all subjects.

In history, we explored the mysteries of Stonehenge, discussing how it might have been built and why it remains such an important site today. This linked beautifully with our art, where we created our own cave paintings using shading, texture, and natural tones inspired by Stone Age artists. In writing, the children planned their own stories inspired by Little Red, developing new characters, settings, and exciting twists. They've shown brilliant creativity and are eager to begin writing their final pieces.

In maths, we wrapped up our work on place value and have now moved on to a new unit focusing on addition and subtraction. During arithmetic, we've also been practising fractions of amounts, with children showing increasing confidence in their mental strategies.

In PE, we focused on agility in running, working on speed, control, and quick direction changes through a variety of fun activities and games.

It's been fantastic to see the children applying themselves so well and showing such a positive attitude to learning. Well done, Year 3, for another brilliant week!

Mr Bosanquet



Year 4



This term Year 4 have **P.E** on a **Tuesday**. Please ensure your children have all their PE kit.

This week the children designed their Christmas cards. Their imaginative ideas and festive creativity are already shining through, and we can't wait to see the finished results. This activity has given them a great opportunity to combine their artistic flair with careful planning and design.

Year 4 have been preparing The Harvest Pumpkin Song for the upcoming Harvest Festival. They have thoughtfully designed actions to match the lyrics and have been performing it with wonderful energy and tuneful singing.

We have had an excellent week! Keep up the good work Year 4!

Year 4
Miss Goodall



Year 5



Year 5 have **PE** on **Tuesday** and **swimming** on **Thursdays**.

This week Year 5 have been as busy as ever! We loved our final visit from the road safety team. Working in teams, we created our own maps of the local area with our suggestions for how we feel the local area could be improved. The road safety team were blown away with our sensible and mature solutions!

In PSHE, we were working on our teamwork skills in order to create a tower structure. Our teachers were very impressed with our ability to allocate roles to each other and take turns sharing our ideas and suggestions.

It was lovely to see so many parents at parents' evening. We are so proud of your children and the hard work they are doing!

Have a lovely weekend!
Year 5

Miss Prout



Year 6



This term Year 6 have **PE on a Tuesday**.

This week, Year 6 had another session with Safer School Journeys, helping contribute to making the roads around our area safer. We had so much fun identifying the places that may have problems on a big map, then building some of the solutions out of craft materials on top of the map. We have really enjoyed being part of this project.

In Writing, we started writing our prequel to our model text, The Tibicena. In our prequel our character encounters a terrifying beast called the Tibicena. I have been so impressed with the children's imagination when describing the beast and I have enjoyed reading their stories so far. We have explored finding synonyms for words to help uplevel our writing as well as using features of our suspense toolkit.

Miss Capper



Safeguarding



Ensuring our pupils are safe and well looked after is our key priority.

Miss H Prout :
Designated Safeguarding Lead

Miss S Cartwright:
Deputy Safeguarding Lead

Mrs S Brain, Miss A Roberts, Mrs R Pearson:
Safeguarding officers

All staff have received Safeguarding training to ensure that they can recognise signs and symptoms of abuse and also how to report/act if a disclosure is made.

Concerns about the safety or welfare of a child? Contact us: 01977 722485

Out of hours contact number:
03458 503503

For more information:
<https://thevpacademy.org.uk/knowledge-base/safeguarding/>

Attendance



Attendance matters.

Coming to school on time, every day is vital to achieving the best possible outcomes as well as learning good habits which will benefit everyone in the future. Please see our updated attendance policy.

EYFS

92%

Y1

96%

Y2

96%

Y3

97%

Y4

97%

Y5

98%

Y6

98%

Providing children with positive experiences and strategies to embed emotional resilience.

We use The Thrive Approach as a whole school strategy to promote positive mental health and wellbeing of which when this is present in children's lives it has been proven to improve their attendance, behaviour and attainment.

This allows our children to become confident, curious, creative and capable, therefore opens doors to a bright future for our children.

Miss A Roberts
Thrive Practitioner

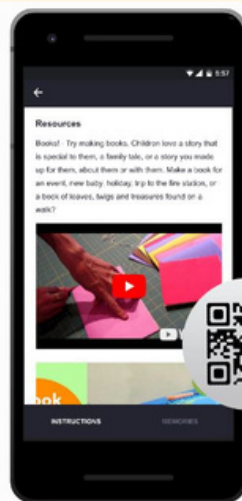


50 THINGS TO DO AT HOME

Download THE MOBILE APP

50 Things To Do Before You're Five gives you 50 activities that parents and carers can support their children to try out and repeat.

Download the mobile app from Apple AppStore or Google PlayStore...



Scan the QR code with your smartphone to take you to the 50 Things To Do Before You're Five app...

For information regarding mental health support & advice, please visit the below links:

<https://wf-i-can.co.uk/u13/home/>

<https://www.compass-uk.org/services/wakefield-children-and-young-peoples-emotional-health-and-wellbeing-service/>

Inclusion & SEND



At The Vale Primary Academy we are committed to providing an inclusive education for all our children. This means that any child who may have Special Educational Needs or a Disability (SEND) will have access to additional or specialist support throughout their life at our academy. All teachers are responsible for every child in their care, including those with special educational needs and disabilities.

Did you know about the MAX Card?
The MAX entitles any family with a child who has SEND or is a looked after family, hundreds of discounts across the county. Its is completely FREE to sign up. Please use the link below to get yours ASAP!

https://mymaxcard.co.uk/local-distributors/?_council_type=2&_council_region=yorkshire-and-the-humber&_council_area=wakefield

To find out what services Wakefield provide for the SEND community, please visit the following link - <https://wakefield.mylocaloffer.org/>

For further support, please contact a member of the Inclusion team:

- Mrs Holmes- SENDCo
- Miss Roberts- Lead Thrive Practitioner
- Miss Prout - Designated Safeguarding Lead & Assistant Principal
- Miss Cartwright - Head of Academy and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

