

Friday 19th September 2025

## Personal Development

Next week we have our Democracy Week. Children will have the opportunity to be elected as part of our Pupil Leadership Team.

Year 3 and 4 will be taking part in National Savings Week on Wednesday next week.

Year 5 and 6 will have our annual Bonfire Safety Talk on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> September from West Yorkshire Fire Department.

## Update from Miss Cartwright

Hi everyone,

Last Friday you should have received our Autumn Term curriculum newsletter. This gives you a taste of what your child will be learning in their year group. If you did not receive it, please ask our main office and we will be happy to help. We have our Autumn Term parents evening on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> October where I am sure you will be hearing more about the fantastic things children are learning. Our booking system went live on Wednesday- if you haven't already, please do book your slot.

Last Friday we saw a fantastic group of Year 5 and children attend our first Elite Festival of the year. The children competed in different sports from around the world. We have 5 other festivals throughout the year, the next one being dance for a group of Year 3 and 4 pupils on 14.11.25.

This week we held our Democracy Week Launch Assembly. Next week we will have an election, using real election booths and cards to determine our next Reading Ambassadors, Eco Rangers, Attendance Officers, Money Managers and Playground Buddies.

It is a big year for our Year 1 pupils, who will be taking their Phonics Screening check in June. Miss Roberts and Mr Bosanquet will be holding a parent Phonics workshop on 30.09.25 at 14:45. Reading is such an important subject, and I hope all Year 1 parents can attend.

A reminder that we are a nut free school (we have a number of children with a nut allergy) and we cannot have any food that contains nuts in the school building. Please do check the ingredients of your child's snacks and/or packed lunch. This includes Nutella, or other chocolate and nut spread. Any foods that contain nuts cannot be eaten in school and we would need to remove and store food safely until home time. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause but children's safety comes first.

Have a great weekend.

Miss Cartwright

## Diary Dates

### Dates For Your Calendar



#### Autumn Term

**24.09.25** Future in Minds managing emotions parent workshop - all are invited

**25.09.25** Year 3 & 4 Savings workshop with Yorkshire Building Society.

**29.09.25** Year 5 and 6 Bonfire Safety Talk from West Yorkshire Fire

**30.09.25** Year 1 parent phonics workshop 14:45

**02.10.25** Nursery Stay and Play

**06.10.25** Parents Evening

**06.10.25** Reception Owl Visit

**07.10.25** Parents Evening

**09.10.25** Reception Stay and Play

**13.10.25** Tempest Photographs

**22.10.25** Year 4 educational visit to York Chocolate Story

**24.10.25** Halloween Party. Letter with more information to follow.

Break up for October half term

**05.11.25** NHS Flu immunisations

**17.11.25** Year 2 educational visit to England Lane Academy for The Great Fire of London Workshop

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



# 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.

Reception children have had a very busy week this week. We have completed our class story map of the Little Red Hen and had lots of discussion about the story and characters. In maths we have been exploring matching, sorting and comparing, and the looking at the key vocabulary; match, same, different and set. This week we have also started to discuss the season of autumn, we have read stories and completed activities linked to this. In PSHE we have been talking about emotions, including what makes us happy and how to help someone who is feeling sad.

**Mrs Pearson**

This week in nursery we have completed our learning about colours and colour mixing. In phonics we have explored musical instruments and the sounds that they make. In T4W we have been focusing on the beginning, middle and end of our story 'My mum and dad make me laugh'. We have looked at where and how a story starts and where it ends. Next week in maths we are moving onto matching.

**Mrs Richardson**



## Year 1

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

This week, Year 1 completed their first practice phonics screening check. I am so impressed with the children's hard work and effort. We will be having an information meeting about phonics in Year 1 on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September which we hope you will find useful and informative. In our forest school session, we went on a bug safari and started making bug homes.

Please make sure your child brings their planner, phonics book and library book to school every day. We have our book club session on a **Friday**. This is when we have our designated slot to change our phonics and library books. Your child must bring their phonics and library book back to be able to choose new ones. Thank you for your continued support with this.

**Miss Roberts**



## Year 2

Year 2 have PE on **Tuesday** morning and Forest School on **Monday** morning.

This week, Year 2 have continued to learn about the UK in Geography and learnt that it is made up of four different countries. In science we thought about different materials that could be used for drinking straws in the Shard, and considered what see through means. We have started work comparing numbers and items, and have even learnt some new mathematical symbols! We have continued to enjoy reading 'The Tunnel' and are excited to see where it goes, when we continue next week.

Well done this week for all your hard work!

**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**.

We've had another great week in Year 3 and the children continue to impress me with their enthusiasm and hard work.

In history, we've been exploring the lives of Stone Age hunter-gatherers and thinking about how different life was thousands of years ago. This linked beautifully with our art lessons, where the children used natural materials to create their own drawings, just like people might have done in the Stone Age.

In science, we investigated soil and drainage as part of our Rocks topic. The children enjoyed seeing how different soils behaved and making observations like real scientists.

In writing, the children have worked incredibly hard to create their own Foundling tales. They were so creative in coming up with characters and storylines, and it was wonderful to see their ideas come to life.

In maths, we have continued with place value, extending our work to numbers up to 1,000. The children are showing real confidence as they build their number knowledge.

Well done, Year 3, for another fantastic week of learning!

**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 in Science, Year 4 learnt about herbivores, carnivores, and omnivores, and how their teeth are suited to different diets. We linked this to our own teeth - incisors, canines, and molars - and how each helps us eat. We also researched snakes, discovering how they hunt and eat with "skin on their teeth," and swallow their prey in a very different way to mammals.

This week we started learning about negative numbers! To help us understand, we used a giant number line on a long piece of paper. The children stood on different numbers and physically moved forwards and backwards to see what happens when we add or subtract. This hands-on approach made it much easier to see how we can move into minus numbers and back into positives.

Year 4

**Miss Goodall**



## Year 5



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

This week Year 5 enjoyed a special session all around Road Safety. The local council are hoping to gather the children's thoughts and feelings as to how they can improve our local area to ensure their journeys to school are enjoyable and allow them to feel safe. We were incredibly sensible and our visitors were so impressed they even gave us some dojos to say thank you. Well done year 5!

In writing, we have been working on using the things a character says or does to show how they are feeling. We have wowed Miss Prout with our creative imaginations and have impressed her even further with our improvements in our handwriting!

In swimming, we are going from strength to strength. We are becoming confident little water babies and it is so pleasing to see the lovely smiles on our faces and hear the brilliant things we have all learnt to do each session.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Year 5

**Miss Prout**



# Year 6

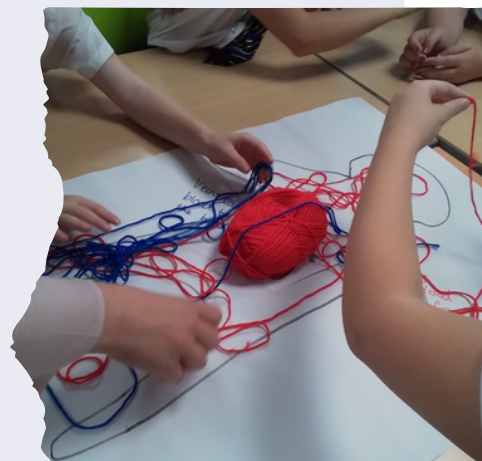


This term Year 6 have **PE on a Tuesday**.

Year 6 have had another great week.

In Science, we continued our topic on the Circulatory system and learnt about the function of our arteries and veins. We learnt that our arteries carry oxygenated blood away from our heart and around our body and our veins carry deoxygenated blood to our heart.

We also really enjoyed our fitness session in PE at the beginning of the week. It was hard work as it required us to do lots of running around!



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**

**94%**

**Y1**

**94%**

**Y2**

**96%**

**Y3**

**96%**

**Y4**

**96%**

**Y5**

**98%**

**Y6**

**97%**



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## 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

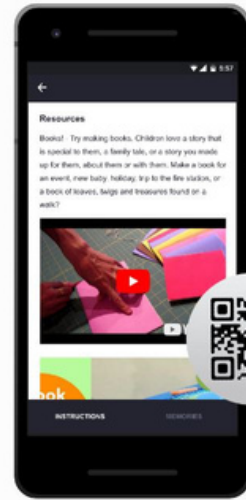
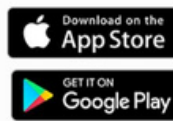


## 50 THINGS TO DO AT HOME

### 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](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

