



## Coming Up

Our Spring 1 term will begin on Monday 6th January with children in school on this day. There is an inset day on Friday 10th January, school will be closed to children on this day.

We are pleased to announce that we are having another Bags 2 School collection at the end of January. As soon as we have the bags we will distribute them to classes. We would welcome any donations to support vulnerable people and also raise some funds for school. If you are having a New Year clear out, please consider saving these clothing items for our collection.

## Update from Miss Cartwright

Happy Friday everyone,

An amazing group of children attended Holyrood House to sing some carols to the residents. The feedback we have from these visits is always amazing, not just from the staff there but also the children and residents. Thank you to Miss Roberts, Mrs Keetley and the wonderful children who attended. You have made a huge difference this Christmas!

Family Christmas dinners were an absolute delight! Thank you to all of those who were able to make it. We have had some wonderful feedback from parents, carers, grandparents and aunts and uncles. It is always a pleasure to invite parents and carers into our school.

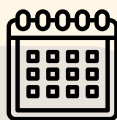
If your child's attendance was less than 95% you will have received a letter to help identify this dip in attendance. Hopefully we can work together to increase this in the Spring Term. Autumn can be particularly difficult with illness and while we recognise this, it is important to highlight where improvements can be made.

Thank you for all of your support over the last term and I look forward to more amazing learning and enriching activities in the upcoming weeks and months. Have the absolute BEST Christmas!

Miss Cartwright

## Diary Dates

### Dates For Your Calendar



#### Spring Term

- 06.01.25 First day of Spring Term
- 10.01.25 Inset Day- **school closed to children.**
- 30.01.25 Bag 2 School collection day
- 05.02.25 Athlete/Olympian visit to school
- 11.02.25 Year 6 Samba performance
- 12.02.25 Sheffield Young Voices
- wc 10.03.25 Science Week
- wc 10.03.25 Book Fair
- 27.03.25 Year 5 Magna educational visit
- 31.03.25 Year 3 and 4 Spring singing performance

More dates and events will be added in due course.



# Early Years

After Christmas, reception's PE day will be on a Tuesday and will be taught by the Elite coaches.

I wanted to take this opportunity to say a huge well done to all of EYFS for the autumn term. We have all worked incredibly hard and have seen some fantastic progress. The EY staff are very proud of all the children.

This week, reception and nursery have been busy writing letters to Santa and getting creative making their Christmas cards and tree decorations. We have also enjoyed celebrating Christmas with our family Christmas dinners and our end of term party. Children have particularly enjoyed practising their wrapping skills so they can help their grown ups at home!

We hope everyone has a wonderful Christmas and we can't wait to see you all in the new year. We are also looking forward to welcoming some of our new January starters in nursery. Our new topic for spring 1, will be 'The Story of my life..' where we will explore traditional tales. Nursery's text will be 'Little Red Riding Hood' and Reception will be reading 'The Gingerbread Man'.

Thank you for continued support,

**Mrs Pearson**



# Year 1

Year 1 P.E. is now on a Tuesday. Please ensure the children bring the correct PE kit every week.

What an amazing final week we have had in Year 1. In science, we have been testing different materials and deciding if they are stretchy, stiff or bendy. We then explored waterproof and absorbent materials. We will revisit this learning in the summer term.

In PE, the children completed their gymnastics unit by performing their jumps, rolls, balances and way of travelling to create their own movement sequences.

We have ended the week with our attendance party! An amazing team effort. Once again, a huge well done to the whole of Year 1 for a fantastic first term. It has been my pleasure to work with such a hard-working, enthusiastic and kind group of children. I cannot wait to see what the new year brings!

**Miss Roberts**



# Year 2

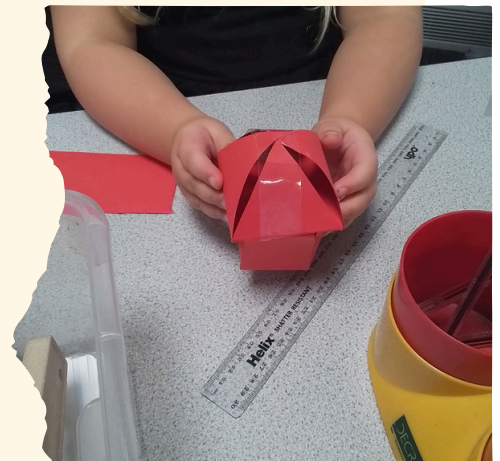
Year 2 have PE on a Tuesday in the Spring term. We will be having Elite coaches, which I know the children are very excited for.

This week Year 2 became famous across school for our glittery Christmas decorations. I hope they look festive somewhere in your home.

We also wrote our own discussion texts about if homework should be banned. The majority of our class chose that homework shouldn't be banned.

To finish our topic on The Great Fire of London, we built model houses using rulers and nets. When we come back after the holidays, we will be starting our new topic of, Why is Pontefract Castle important?

**Mr Bosanquet**





## Year 3

Year 3 have PE on Wednesday and Forest School on Thursday

What an end to a long term! Year 3 have absolutely smashed writing instructions on how to build a snowman in our English lessons. They have been lovely to read.

In DT we designed our own roundhouses and then used those designs to build our own little roundhouses out of cardboard. They look awesome Year 3 - well done!

Merry Christmas Year 3 and a Happy New Year! See you all in 2025!

**Miss Goodall**



## Year 4

This term Year 4 have P.E on Mondays and Forest School on a Thursday.

In Art this week, we painted our Viking Gods using the colours we felt represented the mood and the emotions of Viking Gods. They look amazing!

On Thursday, we had an amazing Christmas dinner! The children performed their Makaton Christmas song and enjoyed eating their dinner with members of their family. Thank you to all of our families who attended.

Well done to all of Year 4 for your hard work this term. I hope you have a lovely Christmas break.

**Miss Capper**



## Year 5

Year 5 now have PE on Wednesdays and swimming on Friday.

This week, Year 5 have enjoyed being geographers and exploring natural disasters like volcanoes, earthquakes and tsunamis. We have enjoyed created sketch maps using satellite images and cross sections of volcanoes. We have also used ink to create images of volcanic eruptions.

On Thursday we loved sharing Christmas dinner day with our families and it loved performing our Christmas medley for you. Thank you for all your support this year and we wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year!

**Miss Prout**



# Year 6

This term Year 6 have PE on a Tuesday. Please ensure the children bring the correct PE kit every week.

In music this week, the children loved learning the rhythms to a range of different Christmas songs. They created some of their own Christmas carols including some of the items on their Christmas list. The children performed as a class, it was amazing!

On Thursday, year 6 enjoyed their Christmas dinners with their families. It has been a great week filled with lots of Christmas spirit. We wish you all a Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year!

**Miss Burgess**



## 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 Rowse, Mrs S Brain, Miss E Burgess, 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	74%
Y1	87%
Y2	98%
Y3	95%
Y4	98%
Y5	94%
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.

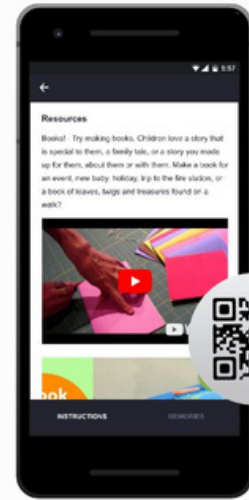
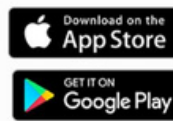
**Mrs S Rowse**  
Thrive Practitioner



## 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 S Rowse- SENDCo
- Mrs S Rowse - Lead Thrive Practitioner
- Miss H Prout - Designated Safeguarding Lead & Assistant Principal
- Miss S Cartwright - Head of Academy and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

