

Weekly Wrap-up

Friday 12th December 2025



Personal Development

In the last week of school we are excited to show off some singing and Christmas related poems, stories or readings for Years 1 & 2 together, then Years 3 & 4 together. It would be lovely if you could make it but we understand the pressures of busy parents.

EYFS nativity is on 12th December and I am sure they will put on a fantastic show.

Update from Miss Cartwright

Hi everyone,

Thank you to everyone who was able to make it to our Christmas dinners this year, we understand if you weren't able to attend and hope you can join us for other events. As always it was absolutely wonderful to see the children enjoying time in school with their adults with a cosy fire and music in the background.

A huge well done to Year 6 and EYFS for their performances this week. Year 5 and 6 did absolutely amazing with their singing, well done! Years 1 and 2, and Years 3 and 4 will have weekly singing lessons in the Spring or Summer Term and parents will be invited in to celebrate this. EYFS you were amazing in your nativity! I know how hard you and your teachers have worked and it is wonderful to be able to share this with your adults.

A group of Year 6 children went to a Maths Challenge at Education Exchange on Wednesday. It was incredibly challenging (as the name suggests) but you showed such resilience- well done!

Looking ahead into next week, we have Christmas Assemblies to parents for Years 1 & 2, and Years 3 & 4, as well as our Christmas Fair and parties on the last day.

Also a reminder that we are back at school on Monday 5th January but school is shut to children on Friday 9th January, due to an inset day.

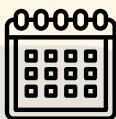
Have a wonderful weekend!

Miss Cartwright



Diary Dates

Dates For Your Calendar Autumn Term



15.12.25 Year 1 & 2 Christmas Assembly to parents 09:30
15.12.25 Holyrood House Christmas Carols
16.12.25 Year 3 & 4 Christmas Assembly to parents 09:30
16.12.25 Christmas Fair after school
19.12.25 Class Christmas parties- snack donations please
19.12.25 Break up for Christmas

05.01.26 Children return to school
09.01.25 Inset Day- school closed to children

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.

Wow, what a performance from reception and nursery in our nativity! We are so proud of all the children for their confidence and effort, they were fantastic! This week we have also enjoyed Christmas jumper day and Christmas dinner! In addition to this, children have enjoyed making their calendars for 2026 and reindeer food for the Christmas fair on Tuesday. In T4W we have innovated our story of 'Stick Man' and have changed the characters he meets on his journey to Christmas characters. In maths we have been learning about 4 sided shapes, squares and rectangles and how shapes are combined for example folding them to see what small shapes they are composed of. In phonics, we have been reviewing all the sounds we have learned this half term. The children are showing more confidence in recognising digraphs and spotting them in words.

Mrs Pearson

In nursery this week, we have started making our calendars and made magical reindeer food for the Christmas Fayre, been very careful to not to lose the magic. We recapped our patterns, counting and sorting in maths and made a brilliant innovated story in Talk for Writing.

Mrs Richardson



Year 1



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

On Monday afternoon, we made our own calendars for the Art House Games. This is linked to our seasonal changes learning in science. We absolutely loved this fun, messy activity where we got to print and then paint!

In maths, we have been carrying on with adding two numbers up to 20. We are really focusing on correct number formation. We then moved on to exploring doubling numbers. Please keep practising doubling with your child at home. You could use anything in the home environment to help with this.

In DT, we have been learning about a chassis and how we would attach an axle to this. We then designed our own vehicle and made choices about the materials we would use. Next week, we are so excited to make our own vehicles!

In history, we completed our unit 'how has transport changed?' by learning about space travel. We then explained how two types of transport have changed from the past to the modern day to answer the big question. We are very excited for one more (very festive) week of school!

Miss Roberts

Year 2



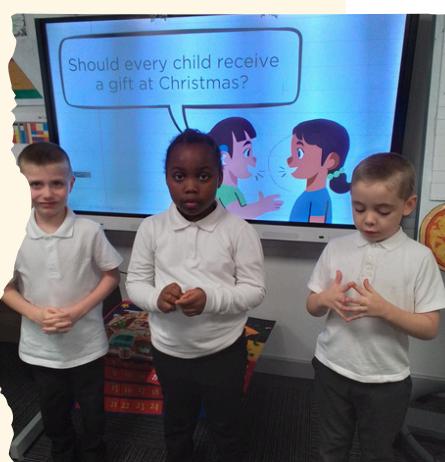
Year 2 have PE on **Tuesday** morning and Forest School on **Monday** morning. Please come into school changed and make sure to bring school uniform to change into after.

We have explored using charcoal and graphite to draw with in art. We experimented with how pressing harder with charcoal makes the line thicker and how to press lightly to get a thinner line. We learnt how to smudge and looked at some real artists who have used charcoal.

After our Christmas dinner, we made calendars for the house games, making sure we included all four seasons. We enjoyed cutting, sticking and drawing while listening to Christmas music!

In Writing, we have continued to debate different topics. We thought about 'Should...' questions based on books that we have read. On Thursday we discussed the question: 'Should every child receive a gift at Christmas?' We had lots of different opinions and everyone had a chance to share what they thought.

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 a really busy and productive week in Year 3 as we head towards the end of term.

In writing, the children wrote their own sets of instructions explaining how to tame a brand-new character or animal. They did a brilliant job applying what they've learned about imperative verbs and clear, ordered steps.

In REC, we completed our history unit, bringing together our learning from the Stone Age to the Iron Age. The children recorded videos to show their knowledge, focusing on technology, farming, houses, conflict, and beliefs. It was fantastic to see how confidently they could explain their understanding.

In reading, we've been enjoying 'Twas the Night Before Christmas, practising and rehearsing ready to perform it in our Christmas assembly next week. The children have shown great expression and teamwork during rehearsals.

Excitingly, in the Spring term we will be starting Forest School on a Monday. Please ensure your child has the necessary clothing. Further information will be sent out next week about this via MCAS.

We're all very excited for next week, which will include two DT days, a science day, and lots of Christmassy fun to finish the term. Well done, Year 3, for another brilliant week of learning and effort!

Mr Bosanquet

Year 4



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

The children have been working incredibly hard on their division skills this week! They've been diving deep into the concepts of exchanges and remainders, and using key vocabulary such as divisor, dividend, and short division. It's been great to see their confidence growing as they tackle these new challenges.

In addition to their maths work, the children have also been getting into the festive spirit! They've been busy crafting decorations and items for the upcoming Christmas fair, which is always a highlight of the season. On top of that, they enjoyed a delicious Christmas dinner together and have been creating beautiful artwork for the House Games, celebrating the four seasons.

Year 4
Miss Goodall

Year 5



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

This week Year 5 had a special treat on Thursday when they went to see the Nursery and Reception dress rehearsal for the nativity. They loved supporting the younger children in our school and were so proud of all the little ones and how hard they had worked.

The Christmas theme did not stop there! We loved enjoying our Christmas lunches with our families. It was so lovely to see so many of our parents and carers together, all sharing and enjoying a Christmas treat. We wish we could do this every week!

In our art lessons, we have enjoyed experimenting with printing. We used polystyrene blocks to create a relief template and then used this repeatedly to create an overlayed design. We soon realised it was much more effective to start with the lightest colour and overlay the darkest colours. We had to use very steady hands and tried hard not to over do it with the printing ink!

Have a wonderful weekend! Only 13 more sleeps until Santa arrives!

Year 5
Miss Prout



Year 6



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

This week, Year 6 completed their final piece in Art. They created a watercolour painting of the landscape in Antarctica. They used skills such as shadowing and creating different tones in their backwash. There were some really lovely pieces of artwork.

Year 6 also really enjoyed performing the songs they have been learning with their singing teacher this term to you all. Thank you to those who were able to come, we were so proud of their performance, it was definitely very festive!

The children also made their own four seasons calendar for next year as part of another House Games competition. They worked so hard on them and there were lots of lovely, unique calendars.

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	84%
Y1	96%
Y2	93%
Y3	94%
Y4	86%
Y5	93%
Y6	96.1%

The Christmas holidays can be a busy time and are often filled with lots of different thoughts, feelings and emotions. It is important that we look after our mental health during times like this.



Miss A Roberts
Thrive Practitioner

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/>



Children's wellbeing at Christmas

The holiday season can be a time of joy and togetherness, but it can also bring stress and anxiety for children. Here are some tips to support children's wellbeing during the Christmas period:

- **Maintain consistent routines:** Children thrive on predictability, so keeping school and home schedules can provide stability.
- **Practice mindfulness:** Mindfulness can help children manage stress and stay grounded, such as body scans or balloon breathing exercises.
- **Encourage balanced diets:** Eating regularly and having a balanced diet is important for energy and mental health.
- **Engage in activities:** Activities like walking, challenging unhelpful thoughts, and practicing mindfulness can boost mood and mental health.

These strategies can help children navigate the challenges of the festive season, creating a sense of balance and security amidst the excitement.

Physical Activities	Emotional Activities	Social Activities	Play Activities	Concentrating Activities	Relaxation Activities	Rest Activities
Things to get you moving.	Things to connect you with others.	Things to help you enjoy the company of others.	Things to let your imagination run free.	Things you can spend time quietly focusing on.	Things to help you be still, calm and to reflect.	Things to help you simply chill out.

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. It's 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

