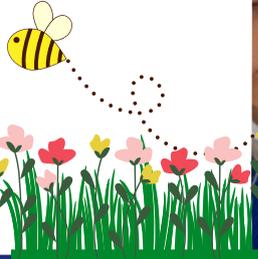


The Vale Primary Academy Weekly Wrap-up

Friday 30th January 2026



Personal Development

Next week, Reception will be having an educational visitor in school to speak to them about art- I know they are already excited for this!

Years 1-5 will have road safety workshops provided by Wakefield Road Safety Team.

Year 6 will have this in June, closer to transitioning to Year 7.

NSPCC Number Day 6th February.

Update from Miss Cartwright

Hi everyone,

Another exceptionally busy but exciting week!

Year 6 visited Education Exchange to take part in a Careers Fair. They had workshops learning about careers in performing arts, health and beauty, the police, army, sports, veterinary, and how transferrable skills are so important to future success. They all came back with passion for their future careers, and this is exactly what we want for our Year 6 heading into their next phase of education.

Some children in Year 1 and 2 competed in a dodgeball Elite Festival today. They did so well and most definitely made our school proud, well done!

Year 5 and 6 parents you will have received an electronic regarding permission for your child to bring their mobile phone onto the school site. Some children who walk alone bring one for safety reasons, the device is then handed into staff. Please ensure this is completed as soon as possible.

I have also sent out an electric booking form for Scooter Skills, run by Wakefield Road Safety Team. There are limited spaces and not many left so please do complete this if you wish your child to participate. They must have their own scooter and safety helmet.

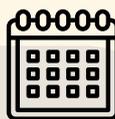
If there are any problems with these links, please do see Mrs Ayre in the main office.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Miss Cartwright



Diary Dates



Dates For Your Calendar

Spring Term

- 03.02.26 Reception Art Visit
- 06.02.26 Years 1-5 Road Safety Workshops
- 06.02.26 NSPCC number Day
- 09.02.26 Year 3 Samba Performance to parents 10.15am
- 11.02.26 Scooter Skills
- 12.02.26 Year 1 Dinostars workshop
- 13.2.26 Year 2 Pontefract Castle visit
- 13.02.26 Break up for half term

- 23.02.26 Children return to school
- 03.03.26 SATs Superheroes workshops start (3 sessions in total)
- 06.3.26 NHS Year 4 Health promotion workshop
- 11.03.26 Coffee morning at Simpson's Lane Academy - positive sleep routines
- 12.03.26 Reception Educational Visit to cannon Hall Farm
- 13.03.26 Future in Minds Sleep Assembly to children.
- 18.03.26 Year 4 Ancient Greece Day

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



Early Years

Reception PE is now on a **Wednesday** in the spring term.

This week in reception, we had a visit from a very hungry tiger. He came into our classroom and left rubbish and food all over the floor! This inspired our Talk for Writing sessions where we have began story mapping 'The Tiger Who Came to Tea'. In maths, we have been finding and representing 6, 7 and 8. Children were also introduced to the concept of '1 more' and '1 less' up to and including 8. In PSHE we have been learning how to set a goal and work towards it. We discussed questions such as, what will happen if we don't try and give up easily on everything? What would you do? How can you achieve your goal?. In Phonics we have now completed all of the phase 3 sounds. Next week is assessment week where we will be checking how children are progressing in their reading and writing.

Mrs Pearson

Nursery PE is on **Thursday**.

In Nursery this week we have started our new text "The three little pigs" and we have made our own clay sculptures. We have also made stick houses and printed bricks on to a house. This week we have concentrated on the story of "Proud Parrot!" in phonics. The children found lots of objects in our classroom beginning with "P". Well done Nursery!

Mrs Richardson



Year 1

Our PE is on a **Tuesday morning**. The children can come to school in their PE kit, but they need to bring their school uniform to change into after.

In writing this week, we have wrote our own five part journey tale. We innovated our class story and changed the place our character visited on their journey. In our maths, we have started adding equal groups and built different arrays using cubes, cereal and counters!

In history, we described what the world was like during the Cretaceous Period, when the dinosaurs existed. We have also started our art lessons this week. We looked at the artist Joan Miro. We are going to be printing dinosaurs' footprints in the style of Joan Miro.

In PSHE, we have been exploring our own dreams and goals. We have completed challenges with our partners to work together and stretch our learning.

Next week, the children will be completing their next practice phonics screening check. The children will read twenty alien and twenty real words. This assessment will show how the children are progressing in their reading,

Miss Roberts



Year 2

Our PE is on a **Monday** afternoon.

This week, we have been very creative. We started to weave using the wool that we dyed last week. We thought the dye that worked best was the red cabbage. We remembered our weaving skills that we practised before, making sure the wool went under and then over.

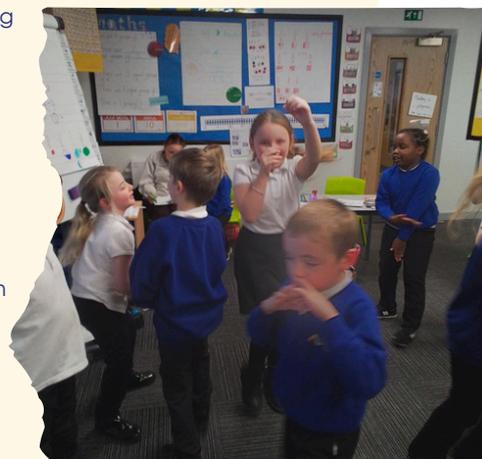
In Music, we learnt about marching music. We marched to the beat and pretended to play instruments like trumpets, flutes and trombones. We continued to practise clapping the rhythms. We had a go using drums to play along to the Radetzky March.

In Maths, we finished our unit on fractions. We learnt that fractions need to be divided into equal parts, and thought about how this is written.

In Science, we learnt about germs and the importance of washing our hands. We learnt that germs can spread quickly and that soap helps keep us clean. We also started an experiment with three pieces of bread (one which had been touched by everyone in the class, one touched by gloves and one touched after someone washing their hands). We will see which one develops mould on quickest and which grows the most. Which one do you think will grow mould first?

Well done this week Year 2!

Mrs Steer



Year 3

Year 3 will have P.E. on Tuesdays. Year 3 will also have Forest School on Monday afternoons. Children should come to school in school uniform and bring their forest school clothing in a separate bag, including wellies, and be wrapped up warmly, as it will be winter.

It's been another strong week in Year 3 and I've been really impressed with the children's effort and focus across all areas of learning.

In writing, the children completed their innovations of Stone Trolls, creating imaginative volcanic creatures who live on Mount Marapi, inspired by The Firework-Maker's Daughter. Their creativity and descriptive writing have been fantastic.

In reading, the children have been developing a deeper understanding of character, exploring characters' thoughts, feelings and motivations and using evidence from the text to support their ideas.

In maths, we've been working on formal written division, including remainders, with the children showing growing confidence in tackling more challenging calculations.

In PE, we continued with our dance unit, developing sequences and improving timing and coordination. In music, we've been practising hard for our upcoming concert, refining our drum beats and songs. I've been really impressed with every child this week. Well done, Year 3, for another brilliant week of learning and progress.

Mr Bosanquet



Year 4

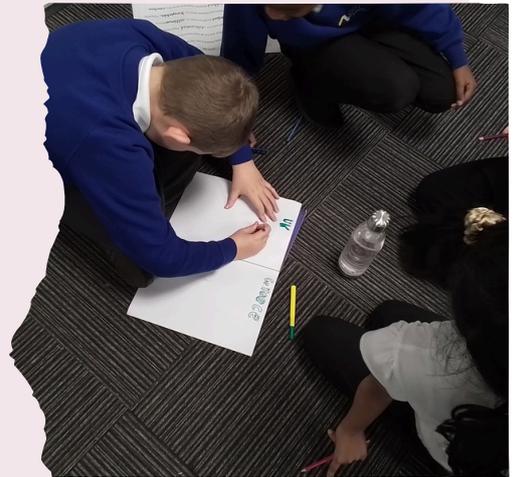
Year 4 will continue to have **P.E.** on **Tuesdays**, but this will now take place in the morning. Please ensure children come to school in their P.E. kits on this day. Year 4 will also have **Forest School** on **Monday** mornings. Children should come to school in Forest School clothing, including wellies or suitable footwear, and be wrapped up warmly, as it will be winter.

This week, the children have been working incredibly hard and producing some excellent work across the curriculum.

In English, the children have been writing very creative warning tales with no happy endings for their characters. They have worked carefully to build suspense and atmosphere in their writing. Throughout the week, they have used a range of ambitious techniques including personification, similes, fronted adverbials, adverbs, and adjectives. The results have been very impressive, and the children should be proud of their imaginative stories.

In geography, the children have also been working hard and have reached the end of our unit on Greece's land use. We explored how the geography and climate of Greece affects how people live and use the land. The children created detailed posters comparing Greece and the UK. Their posters included information about biomes, climate, continents, flora and fauna, and land use. The children showed excellent understanding and were able to explain the differences between the two countries clearly.

Year 4
Miss Goodall



Year 5

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

This week Year 5 visited the Wonderdome at Simpsons Lane. There were lots of 'ooohs' and 'aaaahs' at the amazing visuals of space. It felt like we were real explorers travelling through space and time. We were amazed at how much of space we still have left to discover!

In writing, we have enjoyed creating our own instructions. We have worked really hard at weaving humour through our writing to engage the reader and making sure our rhetorical questions are targeted to make the reader feel they need our instructions.

In PE, we enjoyed learning different rock and roll dancing techniques: the hand jive, heel toe and kicks. Miss Prout was so proud of us as we managed to not only learn all techniques but also create our own dance routines and then perform them for our class. Our confidence is growing every week. Well done Year 5!!

Have a lovely weekend!
Year 5

Miss Prout



Year 6

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

This week, Year 6 visited Education Exchange to attend a careers fair. At the event, they had the opportunity to take part in a number of workshops, led by people in different careers. One group learnt about veterinary science, performing arts, being in the army and careers in sport. Another group learnt about transferable skills, being in the police force and careers in a theme park. The children had so much fun and learnt about some jobs that they didn't realise existed.

In Maths, the children have been learning about angles. They learnt how to accurately measure angles and how to calculate missing angles without using a protractor.

This afternoon, the children investigated how light travels in straight lines.

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	92%
Y3	99%
Y4	96%
Y5	95%
Y6	98%

50 THINGS TO DO AT HOME

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



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/>

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.

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

