

VALE

Value All Learners Equally

NEWS

Issue: 15

Date: 9th December 2010

This will be our last newsletter of 2010. May I take this opportunity to thank all the staff for their hard work as we continually strive to provide the best for all our children and may I wish you all a very Happy Christmas.

Start of the School Day

Some First School parents have expressed their concern at the children waiting on the playground before school during this very cold weather. It has therefore been agreed that while these extreme temperatures continue, the First School children will be allowed to go straight to their classrooms. We would be grateful for your co-operation in saying goodbye to your child on the playground and allowing them to make their own way to their classroom. The decision to allow children to go straight in will be taken on a daily basis and communicated to parents and children on the playground by a member of staff.

Christmas Fayre & Cake Sale - Thursday 16th December

The Christmas Fayre and Cake Sale has been rescheduled to Thursday 16th December.

We would be grateful for cakes and cookie donations first thing on the morning of Thursday 16th for the festive cake sale. Please bring these straight to the hall before school. Any containers that need to be returned must have the name and class clearly written on them. No nuts please.

Please send your child with a separate named container & lid to put their cakes in as they buy them. (This helps to get them home in one piece!)

Don't forget money in a named purse or wallet & a bag for your shopping. There will be many things for the children to buy and games to play, these range from 30p to a few pounds for larger gift items.

We are hoping that Father Christmas will make his arrival at approx. 9am. The children will go in to class as normal and will then be brought out by their teachers to see him arrive. First School parents are welcome to wait on the playground to see his arrival.

Christmas Raffle

Due to the delayed Christmas fayre, we will now draw the raffle on Thursday 16th December. Tickets can be bought in school, or at the Reception Desk and at the First School's "Countdown to Christmas" productions.

Discos

The discos are going ahead as planned for this Friday. However, due to time constraints, we have had to postpone the disco for Years 5, 6 & 7 until after Christmas. This will take place in February; more information will follow nearer the time.

Friday 10th December

Early Years	4.00 - 5.00 pm
Years 1 & 2	5.15 - 6.15 pm
Years 3 & 4	6.30 - 7.30 pm

Entrance is £3.00 - pay on the day.

The entrance for the disco will be through Mrs Granger's classroom off the playground. Please have the correct change ready to enable us to get the children into the disco as quickly as possible. Please ensure that your child is escorted onto the school premises and signed into the disco.

The children will have the opportunity to buy snacks and drinks, as well as flashing disco novelties, so please ensure they have some money to spend if they wish. Prices are drinks 50p, crisps / biscuits 30p – 50p and disco novelties £1.

To ease congestion we are using a one way system. Please drop off at Mrs Granger's classroom and collect from the hall. **All** children need to be collected by an adult from the school hall at the end of the disco. With the nights getting dark so early, we will not be allowing children to leave the school premises without an adult. Please ensure that you arrive promptly, as we have reduced the waiting time between discos to avoid parents with children across two year groups having to wait around in the cold weather.

We can only allow children within their allocated year group into the disco and as space is very restricted we kindly ask that parents leave the children with us and return to collect them at the end of the disco. This allows the children to have more room and helps to keep the temperature down in the hall!

We will have a classroom available in Year 6 to enable parents of the younger children to stay if they wish to and enjoy a tea / coffee whilst the children enjoy the disco.

Read Write Inc



We are pleased to announce that we will be introducing a new programme for teaching reading and writing in January alongside our creative curriculum. The programme is predominantly for KS1 but some KS2 children will participate too. We are holding two workshops for parents on Wednesday 26th January at 2.15 and 6pm. Parents are strongly encouraged to attend. It will be a chance to ask any questions you have and will help you to support your child at home.

BBC World Class Dreams

The BBC launched a competition in September for schools to twin with 2012 Olympic athletes' schools. We formed an 'Olympic Dream Team' which consisted of 26 pupils from year 3 to year 7. These pupils had to consider their dreams and hopes for the future and they had to explore different athletes expected to compete in London 2012 and consider the questions they would like to ask them. Finally they discussed and recorded reasons why they would like to twin with another school and what it would bring to the school. They all worked very hard creating poems, collages and questions. It was brilliant to see the school's name listed as one of the winning schools on the BBC World Class website and we celebrated in a school assembly yesterday.

We have been twinned with St Stephen's school in India, where Abhinav attends. He is being tracked as London 2012 approaches and striving to make his dream a reality. You can find out more about this twinning by visiting; <http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldclass> From this page you can view the winning schools and find out more about St Stephen's school in India.

The next step for us is to attend a special event in London where staff will meet teachers from the athletes' schools and begin our twinning journey. This school-school partnership will be supported by the BBC World Dreams over the next 2 years and will encourage pupils to share creative work inspired by the London Olympics.

Get Set Network

We have been given another reason to celebrate this month when we were officially welcomed in to London 2012's Get Set network, in recognition of our commitment to the Olympic and Paralympic Values. The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) awarded us a plaque and certificate to acknowledge our involvement in the London 2012 education programme. We now join schools and colleges across the UK as members of the special London 2012 community – the Get

Set network - and will receive access to exclusive competitions and 2012 Games related opportunities over the coming years.

Sebastian Coe, chairman of LOCOG, said: "When London won the right to host the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games, we made a clear promise to use the power of the 2012 Games to inspire young people.

"I am proud to welcome Vale School in to the Get Set network for their exciting work around the Olympic Values of friendship, excellence and respect and the Paralympic Values of inspiration, courage, determination and equality."

Sports Update

Success has been arriving in great regularity for the Year 6 boys' football team. Having beaten Durrington Middle in round 1 of the cup and getting a bye from Downsbrook in the Quarter Finals, the boys went down to West Park to play the only other unbeaten Worthing School. At half time, the score was 4-1 to West Park, Jamie Ward scoring Vale's only goal; but a rallying half time team talk worked wonders as a great comeback saw Vale win 6-4. 2nd half strikes from Jamie (1), Myles Cooper (1), Oliver Dengate (1) and man of the match Ben Colburn (2) sees Vale progress into the cup final.

In the league, the boys also topped their 'Champions League' group, beating English Martyrs and Thomas a Beckett – they have the final next calendar year. Furthermore, after winning the Worthing Schools 6-a-side tournament they go to Angmering to play against all the other victorious schools in Sussex. It has been a great Autumn 2010.

Joe Todd

Year 6 SATs Meeting

We will be holding an information evening regarding the Key Stage 2 SATs exams on Wednesday 12th January 2011 at 6.00 p.m. and strongly encourage all parents and guardians to attend. At this meeting teachers will clarify the SATs procedure, how parents can support their children in revision and explain our target setting process. Mr. Michael Tidd, Year 7 Leader, will also be at the meeting to inform parents of the changes implemented in year 7 and the exciting curriculum being offered to the pupils. A letter will be sent home in due course with further information about this evening.

Printer Ink and Toner Cartridges

Please continue to send in any used printer ink and toner cartridges for recycling (except Epson). The school receives money for each cartridge received. The collection box has been moved but any donations can be handed in at the reception desk.

Emergency Road Closure

A reminder that Vale Drive will be closed between 8.00 a.m. and 5.00 p.m. on Tuesday 21st and Wednesday 22nd December 2010.

Children in Cars

I am WPC Avery DA935 the Neighbourhood Schools Officer for Worthing, Vale County First and Middle School is one of my schools. It has been brought to my attention by Parents of pupils that there is an issue with regards to parents travelling to the school with their children not correctly restrained in the cars. At this time of year and with the bad weather I have posted the legal position with regards to this issue. YOU HAVE BEEN WARNED. Your children are your most precious commodity, do not take their lives for granted.

Summary of the Seat Belt Laws for Cars, Taxis and Private Hire Cars

	Front seat	Rear seat	Who is responsible?
Driver	Seat belt MUST be worn if available.		Driver
Children under 3 years old	Correct child restraint MUST	Correct child restraint MUST be used	Driver

be used.

If one is not available in a taxi, then the child may travel unrestrained in the rear

Children aged 3 and above, until they reach EITHER their 12th birthday OR 135cm in height which is 4ft 5

Correct child restraint **MUST** be used

Where seat belts fitted, correct child restraint **MUST** be used

Driver

MUST use adult belt if the correct child restraint is not available in three scenarios:

- in a in a licensed taxi or private hire vehicle ;
- for a short distance for reason of unexpected necessity;
- two occupied child restraints prevent fitment of a third.

In addition, a child 3 and over may travel unrestrained in the rear seat of a vehicle if seat belts are not available

Child over 1.35 metres or 4ft 5, or 12 to 13 years

Seat belt **MUST** be worn if available

Seat belt **MUST** be worn if available

Driver

Adult passengers (ie 14 years and over)

Seat belt **MUST** be worn if available

Seat belt **MUST** be worn if available

Passenger

Legal Penalties

If you are convicted of failing to wear a seat belt as a driver or passenger, you could face a fine of up to £500. As a driver, if you are convicted of failing to ensure that a child passenger is using an appropriate child restraint or wearing a seat belt according to the legal requirements described above, you could face a fine of up to £500. In addition to the legal penalties, failure to wear a seat belt or failure to ensure that a child passenger uses an appropriate child restraint or wears a seat belt according to the legal requirements described above, could affect any claims against your motor insurance cover. You could also face civil proceedings for damages, if (for example) you failed to safely carry someone else's child.

But of course the most serious penalty of all could be that you or a passenger loses their life!

Thank you to Old Barn Nurseries

We are most grateful to Old Barn Nurseries at Dial Post for generously donating a beautiful real Christmas tree and lights which now greets everyone as they come through the school gates.

Feel the enchantment of Christmas with a visit to Father Christmas in his magical grotto at Old Barn Nurseries. It's hidden in a 'Winter Wonderland' full of cheeky elves, furry friends and amazing entertainers, so even the journey to get to him is full of surprise and excitement. He'll be waiting to welcome his visitors with a cheery smile, a jolly laugh and a quality present. Book early to avoid disappointment and to avoid the queues. Old Barn Nurseries can be contacted on 01403 710000.

Pinocchio's Circus Adventures at Shoots Garden Centre

Pinocchio must prove himself to be brave, honest and generous to be turned into a real boy! See the aerial acts, clowns, the blue Fairy, magic show, meet Santa plus much more at Shoots Garden Centre between Saturday 4th December and Sunday 2nd January. Tickets are £8 each, £28 for a family of four and children under 2 are free. To book please call 0843 208 0500, go online at www.shoots.co.uk or buy in-store at Shoots. Shoots are supporting local primary schools by donating 30% of ticket proceeds to participating schools.

AMF Bowling Christmas Packages

AMF Bowling in Worthing are offering the following Christmas promotions for under 16s until 31st January 2011:

Kids Xmas 1 Game – 1 game of bowling, a kid's meal and a drink for £4.95pp off-peak / £6.95pp peak

Kids Xmas 2 Game – 2 games of bowling, a kid's meal and a drink for £6.95pp off-peak / £8.95pp peak

Off peak – Sunday 6pm to Friday 6pm

Peak – Friday 6pm to Sunday 6pm

Turtle Day at the Sea Life Centre, Brighton

The Sea Life Centre at Brighton are holding their first turtle day at the centre on Thursday 30th December. Any visitors dressed as a turtle will only pay £1 for entry! This will go straight to supporting the turtle sanctuary currently being built in Zakynthos. There will be various activities during the day, including competitions with fabulous prizes up for grabs, such as a chance to feed the turtles. The turtle talks and feeds will still be taking place above the ocean tank and children can fill in activity sheets in the café learning all about the turtles.

Diary Dates

December 2010		
Fri 10 th Dec	4.00-5.00	FOV Christmas Disco Early Years
	5.15-6.15	FOV Christmas Disco Yrs 1 & 2
	6.30-7.30	FOV Christmas Disco Yrs 3 & 4
Mon 13 th Dec	2.15pm	EYFS Nativity at Free Church
Tues 14 th Dec	9.00 a.m.	Year 5 Assembly (Year 5 parents invited)
Wed 15 th Dec	9.00 a.m.	Year 5 Assembly (Year 5 parents invited)
January 2011		
Wed 12 th Jan	6.00 p.m.	KS2 SATs meeting in hall for Yr 6 Parents/Guardians
February 2011		
Mon 28 th Feb		INSET DAY (School closed for staff training)
March 2011		
Tues 22 nd Mar		INSET DAY (School closed for staff training)
April 2011		
Fri 29 th April		Royal Wedding (school closed)
May 2011		
9 th -13 th May		Key Stage 2 SATs Tests for Year 6 pupils
June 2011		
13 th – 17 th June		Year 6 Residential Trip to Herstmonceux
20 th – 24 th June		Year 7 Residential Trip to France
Thurs 30 th June		INSET DAY (School closed for staff training)

SCHOOL TERM DATES

AUTUMN TERM 2010

Wednesday 1st September – Friday 17th December 2010

Half term 25th – 29th October 2010

SPRING TERM 2011

Tuesday 4th January – Friday 8th April 2011

Half term 21st – 25th February 2011

SUMMER TERM 2011

Tuesday 26th April – Friday 22nd July 2011

Half term 30th May – 3rd June 2011

AUTUMN TERM 2011

Friday 2nd September – Friday 16th December 2011 (please note Friday 2nd September will be an in-service day)

Half term 24th – 28th October 2011

SPRING TERM 2012

Tuesday 3rd January – Friday 30th March 2012

Half term 13th – 17th February 2012

SUMMER TERM 2012

Monday 16th April – Friday 20th July 2012

Half term 4th – 8th June 2012