

FEBRUARY 2025

NEWSLETTER



Message from the Principal

The dark and miserable mornings are giving way to some lighter days, and hopefully warmer temperatures are around the corner. This dark and chilly time of the year does not typically raise the spirits especially, but as ever, the children and young people across the school lift our moods and give us cause to smile. I have had the pleasure of going into classes over the past couple of weeks alongside other leaders to observe lessons, and it has been wonderful to see our youngsters engaged and happy in their learning.

There have been some challenges across both schools over the term with staff illness and absence, alongside ongoing support staff vacancies. By way of a brief update, I wanted to outline the measures we take across both schools to address this:

- We have rolled out a new training programme for all staff as of September '24, with monthly specific training for all roles, supported by an online portfolio
- We have an enhanced induction package over 10 weeks for class-based staff, covering all topics related to special school matters
- We closely follow our school policy regarding absence, involving back to work meetings, support and monitoring
- We are in the process of introducing reflective practice sessions across both schools with the support of an independent specialist school, to provide support to all staff working in classes
- We have increased the number of Mental Health First Aiders across the Federation, now numbering 17
- We hold mini staff forums on a half termly basis to iron out issues that arise specific to areas of each school



- We continue to explore every avenue possible to recruit new staff to our vacancies, which has included representation in local towns at the weekend, advertising through all social media and online channels, and attendance at recruitment events.

Whilst we are not yet at the end of this journey, we have seen an improvement in key metrics and continue to work together to eliminate the challenges of special school recruitment, which is a national challenge. We thank you for your support in us working towards this aim.

Have a lovely half term

Bradley

Enjoy our newsletter offering this time around and please do give us feedback for how you might like to see it develop.

Please send all feedback to either

office@bookerpark.bucks.sch.uk or office@stocklakepark.bucks.sch.uk



Bradley
Taylor
Principal

Catering Update:

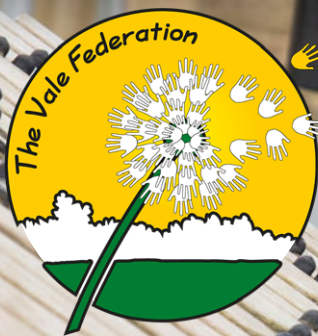


We would really love to hear from parents and carers regarding their children's eating habits at home and invite you to take less than 5 minutes to complete this survey:

<https://forms.office.com/e/FpB7tzkuwC>

The results will help us to design a menu which incorporates more of your children's favourite meals.

We also welcome any suggestions or feedback you may have.



Booker Park

Message from the Head of School

This half term the topics of “Music” for the Early Years classes, and “Once Upon A Story” for Key Stages One and Two have given lots of positive learning opportunities. The children have engaged well and are making progress towards their individual targets. Some of the resources and photos will be on display in the hall during the next parents’ evening for you to see.

Parents’ evening will be in the first week back after the half term break, on Wednesday 26th February. Please do book a slot to meet with your child’s teacher. I look forward to seeing you then.

Have a safe half term.

Marianne



**Marianne
Murphy**

Head of School



Class Updates

Jay Class

Jay Class has enjoyed taking our learning and mark-making skills outdoors this term. This gives our students an opportunity to use a differentiated learning approach to mark-making, by using barrels to lean against, drawing vertically on walls and being inspired by the wonderful outdoors.





Class Updates

Magpie Class

In Magpie class we have been learning about shapes and using circles to create pictures. We dipped different sized lids into paint.



We have also been writing cvc words, practicing our counting and fine motor skills.





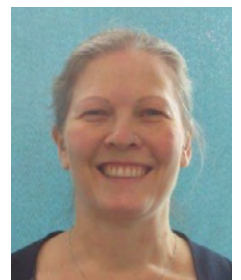
Stocklake Park

Message from the Head of School

Today Tiani, our Safeguarding Officer, goes on maternity leave. For those of you who are used to seeing her in meetings, you may see Grace, Salma or myself in her place while she is off.

We find that the majority of our students thrive on routine. One suggestion for surviving the holidays is to create a routine during the holidays where there are predictable times for some things during the day, whether that's mealtimes or screen time.

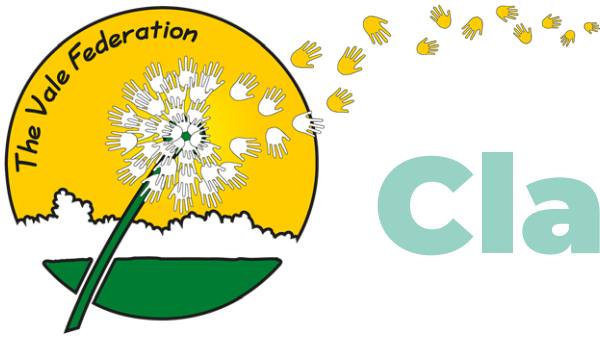
We have been focussing on phonics in school and there are some free games which you can access with your child at home at <https://www.phonicsplay.co.uk/> and on Twinkl. I know that lots of parents have told me that their child feels that schoolwork stays at school - using educational games might help you to get around this at home. Here are a couple of examples of some of our students using technology to support their learning.



**Rhonda
Gosney**
Head of School

Enjoy the half term break.

Rhonda



Class Updates

Pine class

Pine class has had an amazing spring half term with us doing outstanding learning each day. Some of the student's most liked lessons have been doing photography at our favourite place Vale Park, learning about poems and how to rhyme, art recycling where we designed robots, learning independence with washing hair, brushing teeth, and practicing our tennis skills in physical activity. Here are some pictures of the great times we have had in class, filled with a lot of learning but equal amount of laughter.





Denyse and Ellie are running a very long way to raise money for a drive deck.

What we are doing:

Running, walking, crawling the Brighton Marathon on 6th April 2025

How you can help:

Sponsor us by clicking on the link.

https://www.justgiving.com/page/denyse-craig-1?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=CL

Share the link to your social media pages and any companies you feel would donate.

Support and motivate us with words of encouragement.



What we are raising money for:

Many of our children are wheelchair users and are reliant on their carers to help them access their environment. A Drive Deck enables wheelchair users to gain vital independence skills in mobilising and accessing their environment.

The Drive Deck is designed to enable access to powered mobility through the comfort of their own supportive seating system. It can be set up to meet each individual child's needs and access abilities, making it a powerful motivational tool to support the development of independence skills, sensory processing, social skills and community involvement.

Due to the NHS's limited funds, they do not provide powered mobility unless there is evidence to prove safe and capable powered mobility skills. The Drive Deck provides us with vital evidence to support the provision of powered mobility, enabling our children to have life changing opportunities for a more independent future

The Drivedeck recently appeared on the BBC documentary "A Special School"

<https://www.smilemart-tech.com/drivedeck-featured-on-bbcs-a-special-school/>

Case study:

Jack is a wheelchair user at our school. He has a diagnosis of Cerebral Palsy and needs to use specialist seating; he relies on an adult or helper to take him everywhere he goes, however, the Platform/ Drive Deck has enabled Jack to access parts of the school independently using switches. Jack has now been prescribed his own powered wheelchair which he drives himself using head switches. Jack now has an element of freedom that he previously did not have. The Platform/ Drive Deck has been an integral part in his journey.





Useful Links

Here are some links for useful information with what's on in half term:



<https://freetimewiththekids.com/february-half-term-whats-on/>

<https://directory.familyinfo.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/>

<https://letsgowiththechildren.co.uk/events/buckinghamshire/>

<https://berkshire.redkitedays.co.uk/event/february-half-term-activities-buckinghamshire/>

<https://friarssquashshopping.com/news-events/dino-day/>



PLACES WHERE KIDS EAT FREE (OR FOR £1) FEBRUARY HALF TERM 2025

moneysavingcentral.co.uk/kids-eat-free



MORRISONS

Spend £5 from the hot menu and get one free kids meal all day, every day.

BILLS

Kids eat free Mondays - Fridays from Monday 17th - Friday 28th February 2025.

PRETO

Kids up to age 10 eat free all day, every day with paying adults at Preto in Half Terms

ASDA

Kids eat for £1 Daily at Asda cafes, with no adult spend required.

LAS IGUANAS

Download the app and join 'My Las Iguanas' for free meals for mini Iguanas under 12.

WHITBREAD INNS

Two kids under 16 eat for FREE with every adult breakfast purchased

BEEFEATER & BREWERS FAYRE

Two children under 16 can get a free breakfast every day with one paying adult!

TRAVELODGE & PREMIER INN

Buy 1 Adult Breakfast from just £8.99 & up to two kids eat breakfast for free

SIZZLING PUBS

Every Monday to Friday, 3 - 7pm, kids' mains are £1 with every adult meal.

TGI FRIDAYS

Kids Eat Free When 'Stripes Rewards Members' purchase any adult meal (Via App)

GORDON RAMSEY RESTAURANTS

Kids under 8 eat FREE all day, every day

IKEA

Kids get a meal from 95p daily from 11am

BURGER KING

From Friday 14th - Friday 21st Feb 2025, Kids Eat Free with every adult meal purchased via the app.

EMBER INNS

Kids eat for £1 from Monday 21st October to Friday 1st November 2024 (excludes weekends)

COCONUT TREE

One child (under 10) eats free every day Monday 10th - Sunday 23rd February 2025

SAINSBURYS CAFES

Kids eat for £1 with the purchase of an adult hot main. From 11:30am every day.

BELLA ITALIA

Children eat for £1 with any adult main. The offer is valid 4-6pm Sun to Weds. All Day Thursdays

HARVESTER

From Monday 10th - Friday 28th Feb 2025, kids eat for £1 with every adult meal via the app

TABLE TABLE

Two children under 16 get free breakfast daily with one paying adult!

PAUSA CAFE @ DUNELM

Kids get 1 mini main, 2 snacks & a drink FREE with every £4 spend after 3pm

BREWDOG

Pre-book online using code: **KIDS EAT FREE** and Kids under 13 eat free (various dates, see link)

HUNGRY HORSE

Kids eat for £1 on Mondays

THE REAL GREEK

Kids under 12 eat FREE Sundays with £10 spend

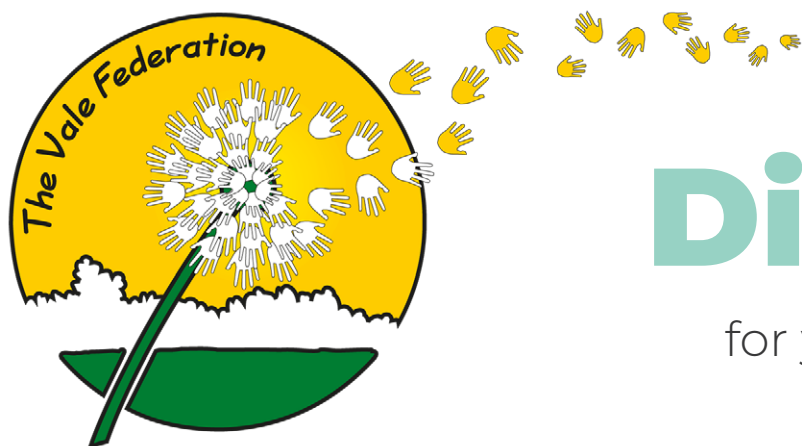
SA BRAINS PUBS

Kids eat for £1 on Wednesdays

FUTURE INNS

Under 5s eat for free with any adult meal.

Copyright of MONEY SAVING CENTRAL



Discounts

for young people with SEND

There are various schemes and charities which can help save money if your child has an additional or special need.

Max Card

[Max Card](#) is a national, local authority-commissioned discount initiative for looked after children and children with additional needs aged 0 to 19 years. The scheme enables families to visit hundreds of attractions across the UK at a free or discounted rate.

[Sign up](#) to the Disabled Children Register to receive a card for free.

Merlin's Magic Wand

[Merlin's Magic Wand](#) offers magical days out at Merlin Entertainments attractions such as Legoland, Sea Life Centres and Madame Tussauds. They welcome applications on behalf of children aged 2 to 18 years with a confirmed serious illness/long term illness, disability or disadvantage.

CEA Card

[CEA Card](#) enables a disabled cinema guest to receive a complimentary ticket for someone to go with them when they visit a participating cinema.

Access Card

The [Access Card](#) translates your disability/impairment into symbols that highlight the barriers you face and the reasonable adjustments you might need. It then informs providers quickly and discreetly about the support you need and may gain you access to things like concessionary ticket prices and complex reasonable adjustments without having to go into loads of personal detail.

It costs £15 for three years.

For more local and national discount schemes visit the [Discounted sport, entertainment and travel page](#).



Foodbanks

and food sharing

Here is a list of Foodbanks in Buckinghamshire. To get a foodbank referral and vouchers speak to your Family Centre, Health Visitor or Social Worker or local Citizens Advice office.

You can also use the [Trussell Trust's website](#) to find its 400-strong network of Foodbanks.

Aylesbury - Store House

[Storehouse](#) helps anyone in need by providing food and other items like furniture and clothing to people on low incomes, benefits or who are in temporary hardship.

Areas covered: Aylesbury Vale area.

Referral or voucher needed.

Aylesbury Foodbank

[Aylesbury Foodbank](#) provides three days' nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to people with a voucher or referral.

Areas covered: Aylesbury.

Referral or voucher needed.

FoodCycle Aylesbury

[FoodCycle](#) Aylesbury welcomes anyone to attend as a guest and enjoy a FREE hot meal. No need to book. Just turn up on the day!

Come and enjoy company and conversation with others from your local area over a delicious meal, prepared with care by FoodCycle volunteers.

Areas covered: Aylesbury and the surrounding areas.

No Referral or voucher needed.

Berryfields Community Store

Berryfields Community Store is open each Thursday morning from 10.30am for anyone in a financial crisis. For a £5 donation, you can choose 25 items of food including fresh meat, vegetables and household items (depending on available stock).

The address is Roman Park, Sir Henry Lee Crescent, HP18 0YT. For further information please contact help@romanparktrust.org.uk.

Areas covered: Aylesbury

No referral or voucher needed

Beaconsfield - Hope Community Drop-in

[Hope Community Drop-in](#) is a drop-in service where local people referred by doctors or social services can receive an emergency food package. The drop-in runs every Friday at the Holts spur Youth Club building from 8:45 am to midday.

Areas covered: Beaconsfield and neighbouring villages.

Referral or voucher needed.

Burnham - Care and Share Food Distribution Project

Burnham Health Promotion Trust (BHPT) [Care and Share food distribution project](#) is a collaborative community initiative which offers pre-filled food bags and a voucher to buy fresh fruit and vegetables.

Voucher needed.



Foodbanks

and food sharing

Chiltern - Chiltern Foodbank

Chiltern Foodbank provides three days' nutritionally balanced emergency food and support to people with a voucher or referral.

Areas covered: *The Chiltern District and nearby surrounding areas such as Wendover.*
Referral or voucher needed.

Chesham Community Fridge

Chesham Community Fridge distributes free surplus food that is good to eat to anyone who comes to the Fridge. There is no referral or voucher needed. Chesham Community Fridge is open Wednesday and Saturday mornings in the yard behind Broadway Baptist Church, Chesham.

Areas covered: *Chesham.*
No referral or voucher needed.

High Wycombe - One Can

One Can provide free, nutritious food parcels to those deemed 'in crisis' by their partner organisations.

Areas served: *High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire and surrounding areas.*
Referral or voucher needed.

Wycombe Community Fridge

Wycombe Community Fridge shares food locally with anyone and everyone regardless of income or means. No referrals are needed.

No referral or voucher needed.

Wycombe Food Hub

Wycombe Food Hub collects crates of unsold food like bread, fruit, vegetables, chilled and frozen foods every week from supermarkets, farms and shops. The products are then made available to people unable to buy food.

No referral or voucher needed but food is available for a small donation.

Milton Keynes - The MK Foodbank

The MK Foodbank provide food parcels that can be picked up from one of their serving sessions located around the city. Clients can receive a food parcel 5 times within a rolling 12-month period.

Areas served: *Milton Keynes.*
Referral or voucher needed.

Thame Food Bank

Thame foodbank provides emergency supplies of essential food items to those in the community who are struggling financially.

Areas covered: *Thame.*
Referral needed.

Wendover

- Wendover Free Church Foodbank

Wendover Free Church Foodbank provides food parcels for the local area.

Areas served: *Wendover and neighbouring villages.*
Referral or voucher needed.

Wing Foodbank

Areas covered: *Wing*
No referral needed.

Not in Buckinghamshire but nearby

Rickmansworth Foodbank

Rickmansworth Foodbank provides food parcels for the local area.

Areas served: *Rickmansworth and nearby towns and villages.*
Referral or voucher needed.



We need your help



We are looking for the following resources for our loose parts play collection. Please label clearly and drop off at reception or send in with your child.

Please bring any resources you can donate and drop off at parents evening.

- Pastry brushes
- Blankets
- Ice cube trays
- Sieves
- Washing up brushes
- Different materials
- Hair rollers
- Suction pads – such as sink plungers (unused)
- Wooden Mug trees
- Rolling pins
- Ribbons
- Lamp shades
- Containers - variety
- Corks
- Sponges
- Fun bags / make up bags/ wash bags
- Boxes
- Strong cardboard / ramps
- Wrapping paper
- Foil
- Water wheels / sturdy marble runs
- Plastic bottles (different sizes)

- Trays/boxes with compartments
- Baskets – different sizes
- Wool
- Pots and pans
- Wooden spoons /ladles/potato mashers/handheld whisks etc



- Pinecones
- Seashells
- Curtain rings
- Jar lids/ milk bottle lids
- Cardboard tubes
- Cotton reels
- Hard hats
- Straws
- Sticks/drift wood/twigs
- Baking trays / muffin tins
- CDs
- Wooden blocks
- Pasta – different sorts
- Cards
- Pompoms
- Large threading items





FREE training available through Bucks CAMHS 2025



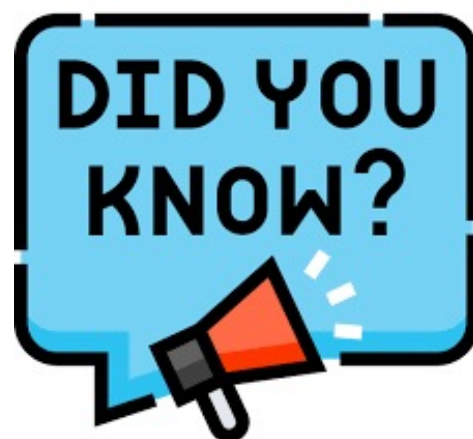
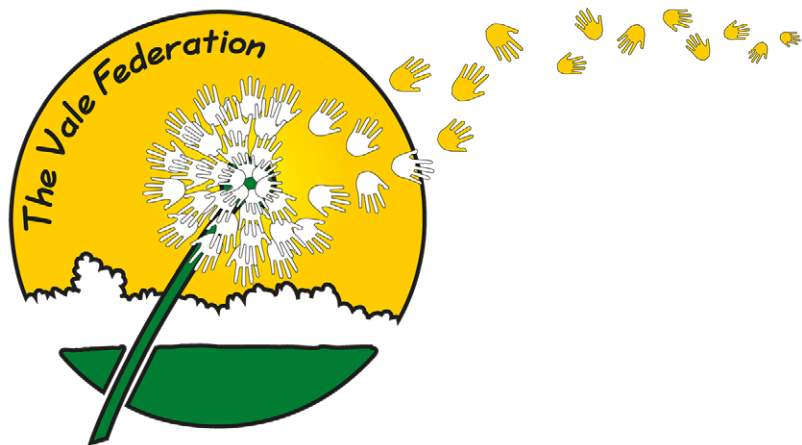
We are now offering training in the following topics

To Register for the training please email;

TrainingAtBucksCAMHS@oxfordhealth.nhs.uk

Date	Venue	Module	Trainer
25th February 2025	15.30-1700	Adolescent Anxiety	Amanda / Kate
25th March 2025	15.30-1700	Overview of Mental Health	Amanda /Kate
29th April 2025	15.30-1700	Low Mood	Sally/Amanda
27th May 2025 TBC	15.30-1700	ASD	TBC
24th June 2025	15.30-1700	Overview of Mental Health	Kali/Kate
1st July 2025	15.30-1700	Spa who we are and What we do	Katherine / Tara

PPEP (Psychological Perspectives in Education and Primary) Care sessions have been designed to help staff in primary care and education to recognise and understand mental health difficulties in children and young people and offer appropriate support and guidance to children, young people and their families.



We offer exclusive hire of our soft play centre!

Soft Play - 3 hour hire time

Mon- Fri £100 plus VAT* - School holidays only

Sat - Sun £112.50 plus VAT*

Additional hours on request

Capacity: up to 20, Maximum number of children on the equipment at one time is 5. No children over 8 years old

Includes: Exclusive Use/Toilets/Tables & Chairs

For further information please contact
facilitiesbookings@thevalefederation.com

*Prices valid up to 3/08/2024. From 1st September 2024 prices increase.

Please email facilitiesbookings@thevalefederation.com for more details"