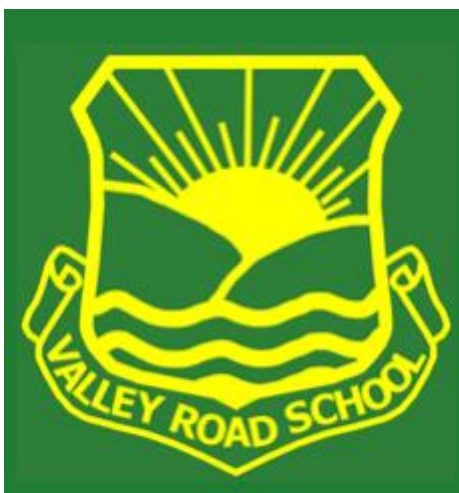




September 2 2026

Friday 18th September

Dear parents and carers,

We've had a great start to the term, with our topics well underway. Year 5 and 6 have had their first swimming lessons and Meadow Class have completed their first full week — well done to them all!

Thank you also for your support at our Meet the Headteacher briefing. It was lovely to meet so many of you and to have the opportunity to share some of our plans for the year ahead. There is lots of work to do, and I know that we have a strong community of children, staff and families working together to make Valley Road the very best it can be.

Thank you for your continued support as we settle into the new school year. It really is appreciated.

Best wishes,

Gemma Sterjo

Headteacher

Break-time snacks and treats clarification

Apologies for the mixed communication around snacks at break time.

We want break time to be a healthy and enjoyable part of the school day, while keeping it safe and inclusive for every child.

Following the implementation of Benedict's Law, Reception and KS1 children do not need to bring a snack, as a suitable snack is provided in school. KS2 children may bring fruit or vegetables for break time.

We also ask that birthday sweets, cakes or other treats are not brought into school to share. With children in school who have severe food allergies, sharing food can present a significant risk. This approach supports our commitment to allergy awareness and the requirements of Benedict's Law.

Thank you for your support in helping us to keep break times safe, healthy and enjoyable for everyone.

News from the PTA

AGM

Our AGM last night was a special reminder of how much our wonderful school benefits from the whole community of staff, parents, and children contributing their time and energy throughout the year to fundraise, take part in events and generously give time and money.

WELL DONE

Some highlights reported on were the full renovation of our reception class, new KS1 toilets, new playground equipment, new maths workbooks, reading books and helping with the KS2 Lion King production. Wow! What a lot.

A huge thank you to our outgoing committee of Victoria Montgomery (co-chair), Natalie Postlethwaite (co-chair), Nicky Watts (Treasurer) and Laura Holmes (assistant treasurer). We are grateful for the blueprint you have left us, your many years of hard work, and for your ongoing support!

We on the new committee look forward to working with teachers and parents over the year ahead, and having fun together as we enjoy the events planned.

The first for your diary is the annual Halloween disco and pumpkin carving on 23rd October! More details to follow next week.

Have a great weekend

Jess Bond (secretary), Debbie Bruwer (chair), Nina Angove (assistant treasurer), Mark Gibbons (treasurer)

Attendance

We've made a fantastic start with attendance this term, with children arriving on time and ready to start their day. Your support in helping children get to school on time makes such a difference to their learning and wellbeing.

Dates (this section is updated regularly)

Friday 25th September: Day of Languages celebration in school. Look out for how we celebrated the day on Teams

Thursday 1st October: National Poetry Day - look out for how we celebrated the day on Teams

Thursday 8th October: 9.30am-10.30am: Open morning for prospective parents - please share the attached poster

Tuesday 20th and Thursday 22nd October: Parents' evenings (more details to follow)

Friday 23rd October: PTA Halloween Disco & Pumpkin Carving (more details to follow)

Friday 23rd October: Term ends at 3.20pm

Monday 26th-Friday 30th October: Half term

Monday 2nd November: Term 2 starts