



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Message from the Head of School:

We are excited that in a few weeks' time we will be having a Dance Festival at school in the main hall. Parents, carers, family and friends are warmly invited to attend this.

The format for the Dance Festival is similar to our Christmas performance. The performances will be over three days. There will be seven classes taking part in each performance. Each class will perform one dance, then the seven classes will join together at the end for a final dance. Each class will only be taking part in one performance, so please do make sure you come along to the correct performance! Some of the dates are now different to those in last week's bulletin, so please do ensure you are noting these dates from today.

Monday 25th March at 2pm: Puffin, Owl, Heron, Bluebird, Wren, Magpie and Swan

Tuesday 26th March at 2pm: Dove, Parrot, Swift, Chaffinch, Goldfinch, Blackbird and Wagtail

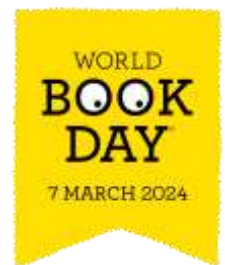
Wednesday 27th March at 2pm: Skylark, Raven, Starling, Hummingbird, Robin, Penguin and Sparrow

Please note we need to change the date and time for Jay, Firecrest, Red Kite, Kingfisher, Nightingale, Jackdaw and Woodpecker. This is due to essential internal works to the main hall following the previous flooding. We will be in touch early next week to the parents/guardians of these classes with the confirmed date and time.

Please note the new email address to contact Jo Smith (School Nurse) is schoolnursebooker@thevalefederation.com

Have a good weekend.

Marianne



World Book Day at Booker Park School:

Booker Park experienced a fantastic World Book Day and it was great to see the children immerse themselves in the world of books. We saw some fantastic dress up, activities and lots of happy faces around the school. Thank you for your support with this special day, we hope you enjoy looking at some of the photos taken during the day.

Here are some of the photos from the day for you to enjoy:



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Several of the staff and children volunteered to be masked readers. They were videoed wearing a disguise and sharing a book. The videos were shared across the school to give classes the chance to guess who the masked readers were. The Masked readers were:



Rachael (Assistant Head)



Julie (Dove Class Teacher)



Clare (Nightingale Class Teacher)



Katy (OT)

SCHOOL MEAL ORDERING FOR NEXT HALF TERM:

- **The Arbor school meals ordering window is OPEN to order all school meals for the next half term (Monday 15th April to Friday 24th May 2024) and will CLOSE at 12pm on Monday 18th March**
- Please access your school meals via the Arbor App or the online Arbor Portal to order your meal choice for your child's school meals
- The menu is available from our website - [click here](#) to view. You can also view guidance notes for the Arbor system here.
- You can choose any meal for any day
- Payment of £3.00 per meal is to be paid via the Arbor App or Portal
- Any child without an ordered meal WILL BE REQUIRED to have a HOME SUPPLIED packed lunch



School Road Entrance/Exit:

We would like to remind all parents/guardians dropping off and collecting pupils to be considerate to the local community and other road users at these times. We have received complaints of aggressive driving and cars exiting the school not giving way at the end of Stoke Leys Close - this is a normal road junction and subject to the usual road laws. Those in Stoke Leys Close have to give way to traffic on the main Kynaston Avenue and we are advised the Police will be randomly monitoring the area on a regular basis going forwards.

Thank you for your consideration.

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Family Support Worker Update:

We are aware that head lice have been detected within school. Please do check your child's hair immediately and treat if necessary.

Head lice and nits are very common in young children and their families. They do not have anything to do with dirty hair but are picked up by head-to-head contact.

Head lice are small insects, up to 3mm long. They can be difficult to spot in the hair. Head lice eggs (nits) are brown or white (empty shells) and attached to the hair.

Head lice can make your head feel itchy and like something is moving in your hair. The only way to be sure someone has head lice is by finding live lice. You can do this by combing their hair with a special fine-toothed comb (detection comb). You can buy these online or at pharmacies.

Please note:

- You can treat head lice without seeing a GP
- Treat head lice as soon as you spot them
- You should check everyone in the house and start treating anyone who has head lice on the same day
- There's no need to keep your child off school if they have head lice

How to get rid of head lice:

Wet combing

Lice and nits can be removed by wet combing. You should try this method first. You can buy a special fine-toothed comb (detection comb) online or from pharmacies to remove head lice and nits. There may be instructions on the pack, but usually you:

- Wash hair with ordinary shampoo
- Apply lots of conditioner (any conditioner will do)
- Comb the whole head of hair, from the roots to the ends

It usually takes about 10 minutes to comb short hair, and 20 to 30 minutes for long, frizzy or curly hair. Do wet combing on days 1, 5, 9 and 13 to catch any newly hatched head lice. Check again that everyone's hair is free of lice on day 17.

Medicated lotions and sprays

Ask a pharmacist for advice if you have tried wet combing for 17 days, but your child still has live head lice. They may recommend using medicated lotions and sprays. These kill head lice in all types of hair, and you can buy them from pharmacies, supermarkets or online. Head lice should die within a day. Some lotions and sprays come with a comb to remove dead lice and eggs. Some treatments need to be repeated after a week to kill any newly hatched lice. Check the pack to see if they are ok for you or your child and how to use them. If lotions or sprays do not work, speak to a pharmacist about other treatments. Some treatments are not recommended because they are unlikely to work. For example: products containing permethrin, head lice "repellents", electric combs for head lice or tree and plant oil treatments, such as tea tree oil, eucalyptus oil and lavender oil herbal remedies.

You cannot prevent head lice.

There's nothing you can do to prevent head lice. You can help stop them spreading by wet or dry combing regularly to catch them early. Do not use medicated lotions and sprays to prevent head lice, unless you have spoken to a pharmacist. They can irritate the scalp. There's no need for children to stay off school or to wash laundry on a hot wash.

Information from NHS England.

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Get to know your Governors:

Becky Belardo – Vice-Chair of the Governing Board

About me:

I joined the Vale Federation Governing Board at the start of December 2019. I am semi-retired after 32 years in Financial Services, mainly senior operational and project management roles. I now work part time in a local infant/primary school as Play Leader. I've 3 grown up children in their early 20s, each currently studying or working away from home. I love the outdoors so spend many hours walking our family dog and travelling around the country to explore new places with friends and family.

Why I became a Governor:

I wanted to contribute something to the local community working as part of a team to help the schools and its staff achieve the most fulfilling and enriched educational experience for pupils. I felt sure that being able to help the school's pupils to grow and develop would be very rewarding and fulfilling when my personal circumstances changed allowing me time to take on the commitment, including school visits and to attend training to develop in my role as a Governor.

What the role means to me

I am currently Pupil Premium and Wellbeing Governor and I'm the Governor who focusses on Pupil Personal Development, Early Years and Quality of Education, supported by other Governors.

I try to visit each school once every half term and always come away with a real sense of the dedication and bonding between the staff and pupils.

Areas of recent focus

Early Years visit to Booker Park to observe and get an understanding of the approach to learning within this group of children.

6th Form visit to Stocklake Park to get a better understanding of Student Voice and Pupil Wellbeing.

Introductory visit to Stocklake Park with a new Governor to meet staff and pupils.

Future areas of focus

Follow up sessions at Stocklake Park to experience how Assembly feeds into the community feel of the school and how this links to wellbeing, and to potentially drop in for an event when some parents are in school.

Visit to Booker Park to follow up from visits last year focusing on pupil voice and pupil wellbeing.

What I most enjoy/value from being a governor

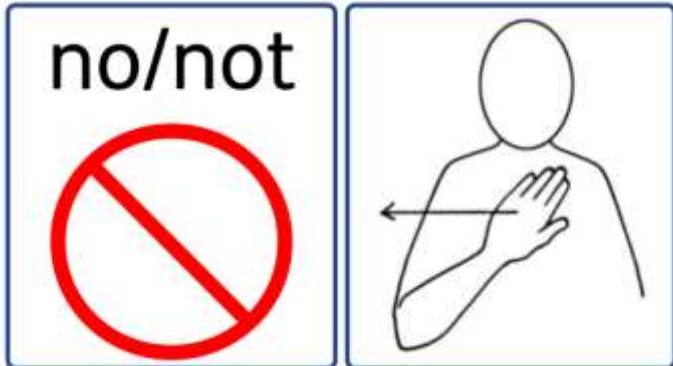
Being able to spend time in classrooms and at playtime with pupils and staff across the Federation. It helps me to appreciate the dedication in ensuring our special children and young people get as much enrichment and learning as possible during their time at school.

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Sign of the Week:



Makaton Update:

A small group of parents and siblings joined me to complete their level 1 Makaton workshop. Makaton is a unique language programme that uses symbols, signs and speech to enable people to communicate. It supports the development of essential communication skills such as attention and listening, comprehension, memory, recall and organisation of language and expression.

The course was split into three sessions and held over three weeks. Lots of learning took place but also great fun was had along the way. The participants supported each other throughout the course and shared stories and anecdotes along the way. The participants are now more confident in using Makaton signs and symbols at home and in the community to communicate with their children, siblings and other Makaton users.

I hope to run the course again later in the year for those who wanted to attend but were unable to this time round. If you have an interest in completing the level 1 Makaton course, please contact me at dcraig@thevalefederation.com.

Remember, the Makachat Café's are also continuing on the last Thursday of every half term at Stocklake Park School. There is no need to book, just turn up at 9.30am.

Some of the participants were a little photo shy, but here is a snap of those who weren't so shy at the end of the course!

Denyse



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Clare's fundraiser for MASKS

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/clareshalfmarathon>



Clare, one of our Senior Teaching Assistants, is taking on a personal challenge that will make a difference in the lives of children and young people with special needs. On May 6, 2024, she will be running the MK Half-Marathon, a gruelling 13.1-mile race through the surprisingly hilly Milton Keynes to raise funds for MASKS (Make A Special Kid Smile), a charity that supports Booker Park and Stocklake Park Schools in Aylesbury.

MASKS is dedicated to enhancing and improving the lives of these incredible children. They provide experiences that build confidence and support educational advancement. By donating to Clare's fundraising page, you can help make a positive impact on their lives.

Running through Berryfields, Clare is training hard to prepare for this challenging race. If you happen to see her pounding the pavement, give her a wave of encouragement! Your support means everything.

Donating through JustGiving is simple, fast, and secure. Your details are safe with JustGiving - they'll never sell them or send unwanted emails. Once you donate, your money will go directly to MASKS, making it the most efficient way to contribute. Let's come together as a community and support Clare in her mission to bring smiles to these special kids' faces. Join us in making a difference today!

 **Are you a parent or guardian of an Autistic child between the ages of 4-18?**
Does your child find bottom wiping difficult or were they delayed in acquiring this skill?

We want to learn about your experiences of the difficulties of bottom wiping for Autistic children. Please follow the QR code or link to find out more information and to complete a short survey. Thank you.

<https://forms.office.com/e/6htE6gb7fe>

For further information please contact:
 Nadine Stacey
 Stacey.N@ulster.ac.uk

Supervisor: Jean Daly-Lynn
 j.daly-lynn@ulster.ac.uk
 028 71675919



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Spring 2024 Theme: Trust and Respect	
Date	Event
Monday 18 th March	School meals ordering window closes at 12pm
Monday 25 th March	Comic Relief Dance Festival: Puffin, Owl, Heron, Bluebird, Wren, Magpie, Swan
Tuesday 26 th March	Comic Relief Dance Festival: Dove, Parrot, Swift, Chaffinch, Goldfinch, Blackbird, Wagtail
Wednesday 27 th March	Comic Relief Dance Festival: Skylark, Raven, Starling, Hummingbird, Robin, Penguin, Sparrow
Date and time to be confirmed	Comic Relief Dance Festival: Jay, Firecrest, Red Kite, Kingfisher, Nightingale, Jackdaw, Woodpecker
Thursday 28 th March	Makachat Café at Stocklake Park School
Thursday 28 th March	Last day of term
Easter Holidays 29th March – 12th April	

Have a great weekend.

Bradley Taylor
Principal



Booker Park School
Stoke Leys Close, Aylesbury
Buckinghamshire, HP21 9ET

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