

VALENTINE PARENT UPDATE 1



Information for parents and carers, including what we've been up to, what we have planned and more...

A NEW ERA FOR VALENTINE - THE NURSERY

The nursery at Valentine is opening in the next few weeks. We are delighted to welcome new staff members - experienced nursery and childcare leaders - to our team to support the new children we are admitting.

We cater for babies (0-1) including cots for sleeping in separate spaces. We take in 'rising twos' aged 1-2 and pre-schoolers aged 3-4. Parents and carers are welcome to come and visit and see this beautiful new space.



VALENTINE ATTENDANCE

Whole School Attendance: 95%

- Year R: 96%
- Year 1: 97%
- Year 2: 94%
- Year 3: 94%
- Year 4: 96%
- Year 5: 90%
- Year 6: 95%



RECEPTION - SETTLING IN PARENT EVENING (16-17 OCTOBER)

MEETING

Visit your child's classroom: Between 3:30 and 4pm on 8 October, the Reception Blue and Red team are available to tour you around the class.

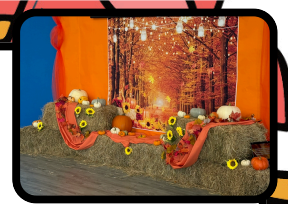
Sit-down-conversation: On the 16 - 17 October (3:30-5:30pm) there will be a ten minute formal appointment with your child's teacher and this will be booked on Arbor.

HARVEST FESTIVAL - DONATIONS FOR MONDAY 6 OCTOBER

On Monday 6 October we will celebrate Harvest Festival in a school assembly.

The scarecrows from the Community Afternoon will be judged by the PTFA, we will sing our Harvest Songs and celebrate the season of autumn. We are asking for donations - which will be sent to Sholing St Mary's with Vicar Garry.

- Year R: Tins (beans, soup)
- Year 1: Pasta (spaghetti, penne etc)
- Year 2: Rice
- Year 3: Tinned fruit, vegetables
- Year 4: Flour
- Year 5: Cereals (packet)
- Year 6: Sauces (for pasta)



HEALTHY LUNCHBOX - CAN YOU HELP US?

Quite a few children are bringing in lunchboxes this year. A reminder that all children in Reception to Year 2 are entitled to free school meals. For those of you sending in lunches across the school - please can you look at ensuring it is balanced. We recommend bread/pasta, fruit and vegetables, dairy (yoghurts) and water.





EVERY CHILD HAS AN IXL ACCOUNT FOR LEARNING!

Valentine are excited to be partnering with IXL to provide every child a free account this year. IXL is a national curriculum based quiz tool that helps children with their learning. It encourages a child to answer questions (these can be read out loud for those who cannot yet fully read) and measures the impact of the responses. This information feeds into the classroom enabling teachers to pick up misconceptions.

At home - let your child have a go on IXL for 20 minutes. Children make a year progress (on average) by using this programme.



Your child has a login card. If they lose it, just ask a teacher and we can replace it.

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM - POLYTUNNEL

Children have started their lessons in outdoor gardening and learning about the environment - every week - with Mrs Lovell. During their outdoor timetable, they are learning how to grow plants and vegetables and will soon be able to take these vegetables to cook in a technology room opening soon!



READING CHALLENGE

Following our successful Summer challenge, won by a leaving Y6 child. This term the challenge is about reading non-fiction texts.

Another Kindle Fire is up for grabs - and details will be coming out next week.

Please help your child read each evening - it REALLY moves them on.



SINGING ASSEMBLIES - PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS

All children have singing assembly on either Wednesday (KS2) or Thursday (EYFS/KS1) with Mr Constable-Phelps. They love it - and so do staff! Many parents have given feedback on the autumn songs that they've practiced at home (sorry-not-sorry! 🎵).

A friendly notice that we will begin practising our Christmas songs mid-October. We will send YouTube links for you to sing-along and learn with your child.



WHAT ARE WE DOING TO TAKE VALENTINE FROM GOOD TO GREAT?

COOKING CLASSROOM AND CLASSES

Over the half-term holiday, through grant funding, we are turning the ground-floor SLT office into a cooking classroom complete with a set of ovens and hot plates. We already have two in there - but adding 4 more will ensure a whole class can cook together. 🍳👨🍳👩🍳

Your child will learn not only how to grow vegetables (through our gardening class) but through Design Technology - **they will learn to make meals, prepare different foods for cooking and be able to eat what they have made with their peers.**

Every teacher is receiving training from a local secondary school in teaching cookery - and we will include cooking in our new clubs lists in Spring! **We are doing everything we can to give your child great life chances for a happier, healthier future.**



COMING SOON...



Look out for the staff sing-a-long to our Autumn Banger 'Cauliflowers Fluffy'

