



## Diary Dates



### Wednesday 2 February

Year 2 visit to synagogue

### Thursday 10 February

Year 1 trip to Cannon Hall Farm (tbc)

### Friday 18 February

School closes for February half term

### Monday 28 February

School reopens after February half term

International Day of Hygge

### Thursday 3 March

World Book Day

### Monday 21 March

School book fair in school all week

### Monday 28 March

Living Eggs week—Year 1

### Wednesday 6 April

Aspirations Day—Whole School  
Early Years visit to St John's Church

### Thursday 7 April

Y4, Y5 & Y6 water safety talks

### Friday 8 April

School closes for Easter holidays

### Monday 25 April

School reopens after Easter holidays

### Monday 2 May

May Day Bank Holiday

### Tuesday 3 May

Reception and Year 6 school photos

### Week commencing Monday 9 May

Year 6 SATs week

### Wednesday 25 May

School closes for Spring Bank holiday

### Thursday 9 June

School reopens after Spring Bank

### Wednesday 15 June

Y1, Y2 & Y3 water safety talks

### Tuesday 26 July

School closes for Summer holidays



## Headteacher's Message



Happy New Year!

I hope you had a fantastic Christmas and New Year. Though it seems like a lifetime ago, it was fantastic to be able to welcome our parents, carers and visitors into school to watch our amazing Christmas performances. As always, the children and staff were outstanding and certainly did themselves proud! A selection of photos from the Christmas period can be found on page 3 of this newsletter.

Though cases of Covid-19 are on a downward trajectory nationally, we have seen a notable increase in cases in school over the last two weeks. All schools are required to have contingency plans (sometimes called outbreak management plans) in place, and on Wednesday this week we made the decision to revert to Plan B of our contingency plan. For the remainder of this week and throughout next week, pupils will remain in bubbles and lunchtimes will again be staggered. There will be no assemblies. Any decision to reintroduce 'bubbles' is not taken lightly and we have taken every possible action to ensure the delivery of the curriculum remains as effective as possible. We will review the plan next Friday (28 January) and sincerely hope cases have declined significantly so we can again return to normality.

We are also experiencing staff shortages at the moment which places additional pressures on the day-to-day running of a school. Your support and understanding is very much appreciated—my sincerest of thanks for your kind words, encouragement and prompt communication when it comes to absence.

### Finally, I would like to reiterate the changes to current guidance regarding self-isolation:

- As of Monday 17 January, people who are self-isolating with Covid-19 will have the option to reduce their isolation period after 5 full days if they test negative with lateral flow tests on day 5 and 6 and do not have a temperature. For example, if a person tests negative on the morning of day 5 and the morning of day 6, they can return to school immediately on day 6.
- The first test must be taken no earlier than day 5 of the self-isolation period and the second must be taken the following day. All test results should be reported to NHS test and trace.
- If the result of either of the day 5 and 6 tests is positive, they should continue to self-isolate until they have negative results from lateral flow tests on 2 consecutive days (or after completing 10 full days of self-isolation, whichever is earliest).
- Anyone who is unable to take lateral flow tests or who continues to have a temperature must complete the full 10 day period of self-isolation.
- There is no need for primary age pupils (those in year 6 and below) to regularly test, unless they have been identified as a contact for someone who has tested positive for Covid-19 and therefore advised to take lateral flow tests every day for 7 days.
- School attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age and it is a priority to ensure that as many children as possible regularly attend school.

**For further information please use the link below or contact school on 01535 604240.**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

## Attendance for the last three weeks is as follows:

w/c 6 December 21		w/c 13 December 21		w/c 3 January 22	
Reception	84.2%	Reception	85.8%	Reception	85.4%
Year 1	90.8%	Year 1	94.1%	Year 1	85.8%
Year 2	91.1%	Year 2	93.7%	Year 2	88.4%
Year 3	94.5%	Year 3	93.5%	Year 3	84.7%
Year 4	89.5%	Year 4	89.3%	Year 4	86.2%
Year 5	83.9%	Year 5	86.5%	Year 5	79.6%
Year 6	92.0%	Year 6	91.7%	Year 6	92.0%



At the end of each half term, every pupil who has achieved 100% attendance in that half term are entered into a raffle to win a scooter.

Well done to Travis in year 5 who is our latest winner!

Travis informed his parents and class teachers that, as he already has a scooter, he would like to donate it to a child who does not have one.

If you know of a child who does not already have a scooter but would love to have one, please email Mrs Barnes in confidence at [t.barnes@worthvalleyprimary.co.uk](mailto:t.barnes@worthvalleyprimary.co.uk)

Thank you to Travis for his generosity and kindness!

### School-Led Tuition

As part of the National Tutoring Programme, school have received a ring-fenced grant to provide intensive and individualised academic support to pupils in one-to-one or small group arrangements. The sessions are led by existing school staff; including teachers, higher level teaching assistants and the senior leadership team, all of whom are familiar to our pupils. Biscuits and juice or hot chocolate are provided to help keep energy levels up!

Tutoring is known to have a hugely positive impact on pupils' academic progress and sessions are closely tailored to children's specific needs.

A number of pupils in Year 6 and Year 1 have been offered after-school tuition this half term, to focus on maths and phonics respectively. The feedback we are receiving is extremely positive and we are already beginning to see the impact in the classroom. Sessions will run until February half term in the first instance and will be reviewed thereafter.

## Christmas 2021

