



Notes from the Vale

Friday 17th January 2025

Volume 23, Issue 8

Welcome from Mr Lewis-Cole

Welcome back after the Christmas break (although it does seem like a distant memory now!). We have started the new term with great enthusiasm as pupils have been introduced to new topics and new learning. Classes will be updating their website pages over the next week so that families can see for themselves the key learning that will be taking place, including any opportunities for extending their learning at home.

New Foundation play space

We are really pleased that our brand new foundation play space was completed over the Christmas break. There was great excitement on the first day to be able to get out and explore it for the first time. As well as a track for bikes and scooters, a mud kitchen and reading den, the space also has a climbing space and slide (!). This new space will mean that learning can be extended to the outside throughout the school day and that pupils will be able to access outdoor learning in all weathers, another great investment in our outdoor spaces.

Update on PSA vacancy

As you will know, Liz Farmer sadly left Lipson Vale Primary at the end of last week. We know this is a vitally important role within school and have been keen to find a new PSA as equally brilliant as Liz. I am pleased to say that, following recruitment this week, we have offered this position to someone new. I am not able to share their name at this point but will update you as soon as I can. It is likely that they will join the team after half term.

In the meantime, the PSA phone is currently switched off. If any families need support from school (who would have previously spoken to Liz), please get in touch with the school office and ask for a call back from myself, Mrs Stephens or Miss Naylor.

Parents' Evenings

We will be holding our spring term parents' evenings on 11th and 13th February. Parents/carers will shortly be receiving a link to our online booking system to book an appointment with your child's class teacher. Spring term parents' evenings are a valuable opportunity to find out about the progress your child has made in the last term, see what they have been up to in their books and hear about how we will be continuing to support them. We had 87% of families book an appointment in the autumn term but let's try and get above 90% for the spring term.

BoomReader, TTRS and Numbots

We know families have busy lives outside of school. We have been thinking carefully about how to support pupils to engage in learning outside of school with increased independence. BoomReader, TTRS and Numbots are great examples of how we are working towards this. Thank you for your engagement with these apps and please continue to support your child to access these at home to log their reading and secure their knowledge of key facts in maths. If you need any help accessing these, please speak to your child's class teacher.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Together we are inspiring a community with a bright future.

Resilience, Collaboration, Responsibility, Bravery, Communication, Self-belief

Together we

Congratulations



Harris Cup
Grace



Reading Cup
Khushi



'H' Cup
Harrison

Each of you are excellent role models for your peers and have shown significant determination and effort to your learning.

to our weekly cup winners.

Attendance

We know that regular and punctual attendance to school has a significant impact on a pupils life chances. Pupils that are well enough should be



Attendance Matters

Every student. Every day.

Foundation & Key Stage 1

| | |
|-----------|------|
| Puffins | 89.5 |
| Coral | 91.0 |
| Seahorses | 96.3 |
| Oysters | 92.1 |
| Mussels | 95.1 |
| Starfish | 98.3 |

Key Stage 2

| | |
|-------------|------|
| Turtles | 99.1 |
| Sunfish | 91.3 |
| Otters | 95.4 |
| Dolphins | 94.6 |
| Anglerfish | 94.0 |
| Orca | 94.0 |
| Angel Shark | 91.4 |
| Rays | 97.5 |

The **highest class attendance** last week

Starfish in FS/KS1

Turtles in KS2

GREAT ATTENDANCE



On Time Octopus

Seahorses,
Oysters, Starfish

Punctuality Penguin

Turtles, Otters &
Orca



celebrate

News & Events



Things to talk about at home...

- Tell someone at home about the types of things you enjoy watching and where you like to watch them. Ask someone older what they watched as a child. Ask about the choice of programmes and where and when they were able to view them.
- Do you believe there should be more checks and rules for what people watch online?



A huge thank you to Lola and Isla, for your fabulous team work in organising children to keep our school grounds litter free. Thank you to this lovely team of litter pickers and for being so enthusiastic about keeping our school clean. We all really appreciate your hard work and dedication.



Together we

love to learn

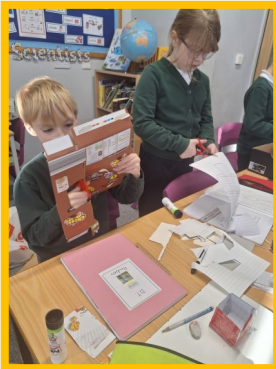
Here are a few photos showing the wonderful and varied learning Year 1 have been doing this week. They have been busy doing the following:

- learning to count forwards and backwards within 20 through a fun competitive game
- using colourful semantics to write sentences
- building towers and using their measuring skills to see how tall they are
- creating and mixing in our mud kitchen
- making 2-D shapes by stretching elastic bands on a geoboard
- making lily pads so that their toads can sit on them and float on water just like in our class story 'Tuesday'
- practising their balance skills in the garden
- exploring the 'Mayflower' voyage through role play
- creating colour wheels by mixing primary colours to make secondary colours



love to learn

Together we



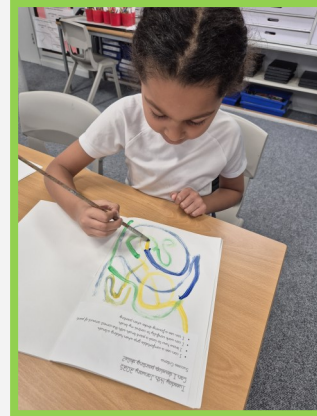
In Year 4, the Dolphins and Otters classes have enjoyed undertaking a design and technology project this week, designing and creating shell structures for desk tidies. During the week, the children have investigated the properties of 3D shapes, created nets using computer aided design (CAD) and considered the features the net would require to be assembled into a sturdy structure, including the positioning of the faces and tabs. We have had great fun learning to score and laminate material, assembling and decorating our structures.



Together we



This term year 2 are exploring painting in our Art lessons. Children worked on using a comfortable grip when holding a brush and knowing how to load a paint brush with the correct amount of paint. They then spent time working on their control and ability to paint flowing strokes to paint a rollercoaster.



love to learn

“

I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things.

MOTHER TERESA

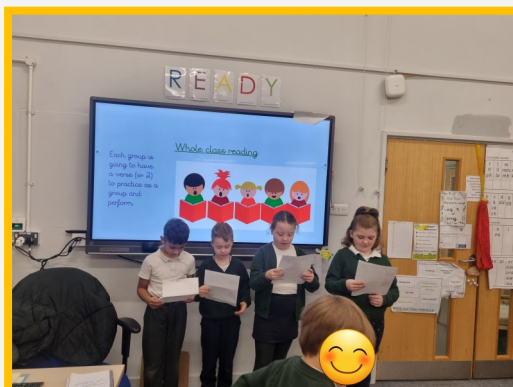
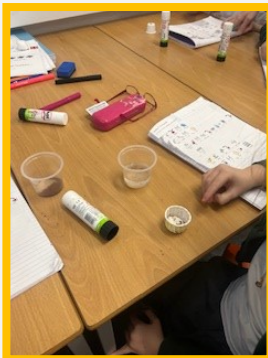
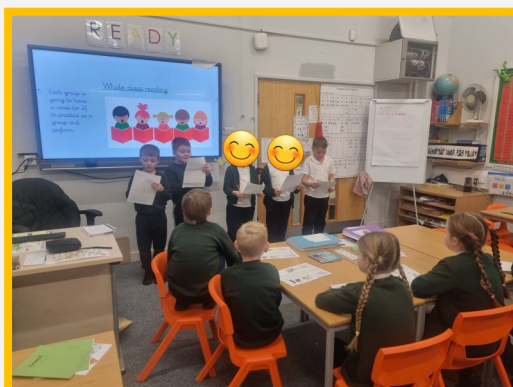
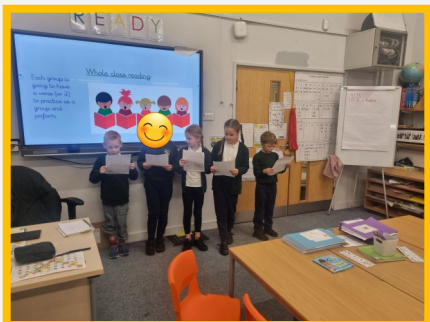
Southern Living

Together we

love to learn

Year 3 have had a great start to the spring term! We have started our new writing sequence all about instructions, we've started by ordering instructions for a cress head and then using them to make our own!

We've also had successful reading lessons and working as a team to perform a poem.



**UPDATE YOUR
DETAILS**



If you have recently changed any contact information (phone number, address etc) please let the school know so that we can update our records. We have added a simple online form to our website which you can complete (in seconds) to notify us of any changes.

love to learn

Together we

We are Readers



New library books

This week, our school librarians had the pleasure of exploring some fantastic new additions to our library, purchased with the commission earned from our Christmas book fair. Thank you again for your generous support of this event. We are delighted to add exciting new titles to our bookshelves for our children to enjoy.

BoomReader

Thank you for your continued support in recording your children's reading at home on BoomReader. It is wonderful to celebrate and support the reading our pupils enjoy beyond the classroom. If you need any assistance with using BoomReader or would like any reading recommendations, please don't hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher.

Reading recommendations

Books for Topics invited teachers to vote for their best classroom read-alouds, the books that were the biggest hit with pupils and the top books to support the curriculums. The books that their community of teachers and librarians voted as their favourites in the various categories can be found here:

[Teachers' Favourites on BooksForTopics | Recommended children's booklists sorted by age or topic...](#)

Also, on the Book for Topics website, there is a tempting overview of some great titles being published over the next couple of months: [Best children's books - Ones to Watch - New Children's Books Spring 2025](#)

Happy reading.



Collective Worship

We started off the term by welcoming every one into the new year thinking about resolutions. Together, we created an acrostic poem for 'New Year' which identified some of our commitments for the year ahead.

This week, Mrs Stephens encouraged pupils to consider our vision statement 'Together we achieve'. She helped pupils to think about what this means in their everyday lives and how we can work together as a team to achieve better outcomes.

How will you demonstrate 'Together we achieve' in the week ahead?

Dates for your diaries:

| | |
|----------------|--------------------------------|
| 29.1.2025 | Year 4 Victorian Day |
| Wb 3.2.2025 | Children's Mental Health week |
| 7.2.2025 | NSPCC Number Day |
| 10.2.2025 | Boccia/Kurling Whole School |
| 11.2.2025 | Parents' Evening #1 |
| 13.2.2025 | Parents' Evening #2 |
| 17—21.2.2025 | Half term |
| 24.2.2025 | Year 4 Swimming starts |
| 6.3.2025 | World Book Day |
| 19.3.2025 | Year 4 Morwelham Quay trip |
| 20.3.2025 | Dr Bike in school |
| Wb 24.3.2025 | Big Walk and Wheel |
| 31.3.2025 | Tennis/Pickleball Whole School |
| 3.4.2025 | Year 5 Viking Day |
| 7 - 18.4.2025 | Easter Break |
| 22.4.2025 | Pupils return after break |
| 22 - 25.4.2025 | Year 5 Residential |



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Lipson Vale Primary

