

Victoria Lane Voice

October 2019



As half term approaches this Friday, we would like to thank you for all of your fantastic support since September to ensure your child has the best education possible here at Victoria Lane Academy. School closes this Friday the 25th October and we wish everyone a happy half term holiday! **The last day on Friday will be a non-uniform day for a donation of £1.**

Important Information

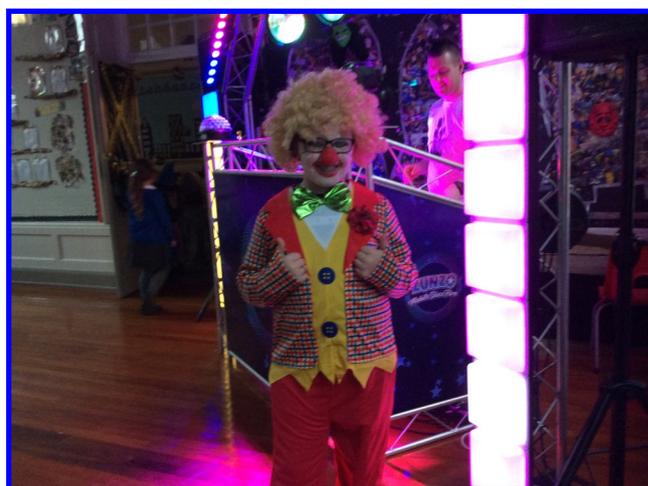


We have sent home a lot of information today as we are aware that not everyone is receiving regular updates on **Marvellous Me**. Messages are sent regularly using this app and if you are not receiving them, please contact Mrs Schofield in the school office for advice. Text messages will also be sent using Teachers to Parents service. This has replaced *Parent Mail* which we no longer use in school.

We can only contact you if we have up to date contact information. If you change your mobile telephone number, please contact school immediately as we need to be able to contact you in the event of an emergency.

Halloween Disco

Last night, 120 children, staff and Friends of the School volunteers thoroughly enjoyed the annual Halloween disco. Thank you to everyone for their support on the night. The costumes were once again fantastic.



Lumiere

This month, Class 4 were privileged to be one of the few schools chosen in the Bishop Auckland area to participate in a brilliant creative art project. The children attended a workshop with artist Dawn Belshaw at Coundon Library to produce a bottle festoon. These have been sent away to have lights added and will be in one of 3 bottle festoon locations during Lumiere 2019 in Durham from 14th to 17th November. Each school taking part will be informed where their festoon will be on the Lumiere map so information can be passed to families who may be visiting this year's event.

Parental Support

Our autumn parent's day, held on Monday 21st October, was extremely well attended. If you were unable to attend on the day, please contact the school office or speak to your child's teacher to book an appointment for an autumn update on your children's progress in their new classes.

PE and School Sports

Tag Rugby

This week our tag rugby team participated in a competition comprising of 26 teams. Our team was mainly Year 4 and Year 5 pupils but they played brilliantly, finishing fourth overall and all were awarded a medal. Well done!

Football League

VLA's new boy's football team for 2019 have just completed their first set of league games and they were an absolute credit to the school. Despite being a young, newly-formed team, Mrs Carr, who accompanied them, was extremely impressed with their performance, their excellent behaviour and display of sportsmanship. We wish them well at the Football Cup tomorrow.

Other festivals we have participated in this month include the gymnastics festival for selected Key Stage 1 pupils and all Y3 children attended the Multi-skills event. The yoga lessons have finished this week and all Year 1 and Year 2 pupils will participate in gymnastic coaching from an external coach alongside school staff after half term.

School Lunches

Please find in your pack, the new winter menu from Taylor Shaw, which includes our promotional Fishy Monday option that so many of our children enjoy. As the winter approaches I know many parents would like their children to enjoy a hot, healthy school lunch. There is a wide choice of food options and if your child would prefer a sandwich and school dessert this is available too.

School lunches are free for all children in Reception, Year One and Year Two classes as well as in Y3-6 if you are entitled to a free school meal. Many children now have a school lunch on a Monday and Friday for the fish fingers and chips that they love! The roast dinner on a Wednesday is also very popular.

The Halloween dinner was very successful yesterday and we have another promotional day **on Monday 18th November** to celebrate the birthday of Norman Cornish. The information is included here to order a school lunch for that day if your child is on packed lunch. The Fishy Monday option will still be available on that day too. Please contact the school office if you require any information about school lunches.

Great North Air Ambulance Collection

We are collecting charity donations for the Great North Air Ambulance. Bags have been sent out today with this letter. Please can you return any filled bags by the end of the school day on **Thursday 7th November**.

School Security

Please can we remind you that the vehicle main gate is for visitors and is not to be used by parents and children as this entrance is the vehicle school access so there are health and safety issues. The intercom controlled gate will now be locked to ensure the safety of our pupils at the start and end of the school day so please use the school entrances on The Crescent. Thank you for your co-operation.

Reading and Homework

Improving reading across the school is a major school target this year. School has been working hard to train all staff with the latest updates to improve our reading systems as well as purchasing brand new phonic resources and books for your children to enjoy. We aim for all of our children to learn to read fluently and with understanding and to develop a love of reading. All classes now have new reading books and quality "Storytime" books have been purchased for younger children to read and enjoy at home with their families.

Paired reading in school has been set up with great success. Last week Class 5 read together with Year 1 pupils and they were fantastic, supporting the younger pupils to read aloud and talk about what they had read. Older pupils from Year 4 upwards also access Reading Plus, which is an online comprehensive reading programme that enhances the teaching of reading and can be accessed at home too. Your child will have log in details that can be used at home with an internet connection.

Thank you for helping your child at home by listening to them read aloud and ensuring your child completes their homework. Please always sign their homework books so we can ensure they receive reading rewards in school. The children who have read the most will be rewarded with a trip to Waterstones bookshop at the end of term to buy new books for school. All of the latest information about reading can be found on our website. Many more children are now reading regularly at home and completing their spelling and multiplication tables homework, which is vital to consolidate their learning at school. If your child is having any issues with homework, please contact school.

Attendance and Punctuality

We are delighted that attendance is continuing to improve as we are getting closer to government targets of 96% with your continued support. If you have any concerns or require any advice in relation to your child's attendance, please contact Ms Hodgkinson or Mrs Richardson. School has to follow strict Local Authority guidelines and procedures on attendance and we can only authorise holidays in exceptional circumstances. Term time holidays of 5 days (10 sessions) and over will unfortunately result in a formal warning notice from the Local Authority or a fixed term penalty fine.

Punctuality is also much improved with many children now accessing the early morning breakfast bagel and book session (which starts at **8.40am** and **8.45am** in Nursery). This free, healthy breakfast is available to all children every day. All children from Reception onwards need to be in school **at 8.55am** at the latest please. Phonics and reading lessons start promptly at 9am so latecomers often miss valuable teaching at the start of the day. Thank you for your understanding and support as children who attend nursery and school regularly and on time are much more successful at school.



Friends of the School News

Our next meeting this term is on **Friday 15th November at 9am** in school. Everyone is welcome to pop along for a cuppa to help us plan our fundraising and school events. All of the money raised is being used to fund Christmas treats and visits for your children. After half term, we will be holding the following fundraising events:

Tuesday 12th November - A family bingo night to win prizes for parents and children with pie and peas will be held from 4.30-6.30pm. Tickets will be on sale from Monday 4th November at a cost of £5 per adult and £2.50 per child. This includes 2 bingo games and a pie and peas supper for adults and sausage bag for children. **An extra cash game of bingo will be available at a cost of £1 payable on the night.**

Friday 6th December— Christmas Fayre will be held at 2pm. School will be closing at 1.55pm on this day and all children must be collected by an adult.

When we return after the holidays, we are going to ask for weekly donations over a four week period and all the children who donate items will be able to take part in a non-uniform day that Friday. The donations will be recorded to ensure that your child is included in the non-uniform reward day.

- Week 1 - 8.11.19 will be chocolate/sweets
- Week 2 - 15.11.19 will be bottles for tombola
- Week 3 - 22.11.19 will be gift sets/tombola prizes
- Week 4 - 29.11.19 will be children's toys/soft toys for tombola

We will also be collecting party toys/small items e.g. wrapped sweets for Grab a Bag. Instead of plastic takeaway boxes, we are being more environmentally friendly and using paper bags. Bags will then be filled in school.

Dates For Diaries

Date	Event	Information
Wednesday 6th November	Flu immunisation Reception—Y6	
Thursday 7th November	Class 4 Trip Jorvik Museum	Letter issued Payment due Friday 1st November
Monday 18th November	Norman Cornish Celebration Lunch	Flyer in pack
Tuesday 19th November	Y3/Y4 Gymnastics Festival Afternoon only	Letter to follow to selected pupils
Wednesday 20th November	Y2 Multiskills Afternoon only	Letter to follow
Tuesday 26th November	KS1 Martial Arts Festival Afternoon only	Letter to follow to selected pupils
Wednesday 27th November	Class 4 Trip Durham University	Letter to follow
Friday 6th December	Christmas Fayre 2pm	School will close at 1.55pm All children need to be collected by an adult.
Tuesday 10th December	Christmas Lunch	Letter to follow
Friday 13th December	First Christmas Performance 10am	Tickets will be on sale from Monday 25th November
Monday 16th December	Second Christmas Performance 2pm	Tickets will be on sale from Monday 25th November
Tuesday 17th December	Last Christmas Performances 10am and 2pm	Tickets will be on sale from Monday 25th November
Wednesday 18th December	Christmas Disco 1-3pm	Children need to bring their party clothes to change into
Thursday 19th December	Christmas Dress Up Day (Non Uniform)	£1 Donation
Thursday 19th December	Santa Visit in school Nursery/Reception/Y1/Y2	Christmas visit from Santa on his sleigh All children will receive a gift.
Thursday 19th December	Y3 Bamboozles Christmas Trip Lunch included	Children will have lunch with Santa and receive a gift
Thursday 19th December	ROF 59 Trip Y4/Y5/Y6	Bounce and Climb session
Thursday 19th December	School closes for the Christmas holidays and re-opens on Mon- day 6th January	