

School Snow Closure



Unfortunately, our school like many others, was unable to open on Thursday 18th January. Severe weather conditions ensured that kitchen and teaching staff, who travel from all over County Durham, were unable to travel into school on that day. We can only apologise for any inconvenience caused. The following day, the children and staff enjoyed playing on the snow covered playing fields during golden time.

Please can you ensure that school always has up to date contact numbers so the text messaging service sends messages to the correct contact number and so you are always contactable in the event that we need to contact you urgently.

PE and School Sport



PE and School Sport is an important part of the school curriculum and our School Games Gold Award shows our commitment towards ensuring we provide the best quality PE and school sport experience for all of our children. Congratulations to the two Basketball Teams, who were a credit to the school at the recent festival where they were 5th and 6th respectively in the league.

Every child needs a PE kit in school every day for their PE lessons, taster days, festivals and competitions etc. that they regularly participate in.

Currently, school has external coaches coming into school to teach Taekwondo, Gymnastics and Fencing. Sporting after school clubs currently running free of charge include: ALLSTARS (Dance), Change4Life, Football and Hoopla Club for your children to enjoy. Please ensure your child has a PE kit when attending these clubs.

Victoria Lane is also one of only a handful of schools in County Durham, who have implemented a fantastic new SSP daily fitness programme in school as well as weekly two hours of PE lessons to develop a healthy, active lifestyle.

Attendance

The Attendance School Enforcement officers visited school recently to examine school attendance figures and were concerned about the number of broken weeks and the number of children absent on a Friday. Our attendance drops by 2% on this day so they will be monitoring especially closely any absences on a Friday. We have sent home your child's attendance report so far this year so you can see how your child is doing towards their target of 96%. Please help us by ensuring your child attends school regularly..



Parent Consultation Meetings with Teachers

Parents consultation meetings will be held next Monday 5th February so you can discuss how your child is progressing with their teacher. Letters were issued last week for you to make an appointment. If you have not already responded, the school office will be contacting you to arrange a mutually convenient time.

SATs

Thank you to Y6 parents for attending our recent SATs meeting. Y6 Booster Club started last week and was a great success. This week due to staff mental health training Y6 Booster Club will be held on Tuesday evening.

The Y6 SATs are going to be held on Monday 14th May to Thursday 17th May. Please can you avoid any holidays prior to this date.

Y2 SATs will be held throughout May so please avoid any holidays at this time. Thank you for supporting the Y2 Booster Club by ensuring your child attends weekly and completing any additional homework that they will be set.

Both year groups will be rewarded with a fun visit as a reward for all of their hard work. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher or myself.

Fundraising

Thank you for your kind donations and purchase of raffle tickets at the Christmas performance that raised £320 for school funds. This money is being used to buy a wooden outdoor Mudpie kitchen for our younger children to enjoy. In addition, we have bought some new reading books for the newly revamped library that our independent readers in KS2 have chosen which include David Williams, Jacqueline Wilson and popular Michael Morpurgo novels.

Thank you for your generous donations towards a school defibrillator that will be installed on site during February. I would especially like to thank Mrs Angela Howe, who collected from a wide range of businesses and people in the local community. I would also like to give a special thank you to parent, Mrs Elaine Kelly, who held a paranormal evening at Bishop Auckland and raised £355.

School Uniform

Please can you label your child's school uniform as we have lots of unnamed uniform in school that we are trying to send home to its rightful owner. On parent's day, which is Monday 5th February, there will be tables of this unclaimed uniform on display.



Staff News

We are absolutely delighted to announce that Y5 teacher, Mrs Parker, is expecting a baby and will be leaving in March to begin her maternity leave.

Deputy Headteacher, Mr Adams, left our employment last term and we wish him well for the future.

Mr Trueman, who had been covering the class since his absence will remain as the Y3/4 class teacher for the remainder of the school year, supported by Mrs Ambrose and Mr Mason.

Future Events

Parent's Day Monday 5th February

Internet Safety Day Tuesday 6th February

School closes for Half term holiday 9th February

School reopens Monday 19th February

World Book Day- Booky Breakfast Thursday 1st March

Mother's Day Event Wednesday 7th March



Victoria Voice

January 2018

School News

Adam Bushnell



Author, Adam Bushnell, visiting Nursery children and parents last Friday to share one of his fantastic story tales.

Adam Bushnell captivated both adults and children alike when he visited VLA last week and worked with Nursery children as well as Year 3, 4 and 5 children on topic related writing and poetry. His website is www.adambushnell.co.uk where parents can find out how to help their child with reading and enjoying books.

Jet Visits VLA



Recently, we were excited to welcome Durham Police including our local PSCO, Abbie Dixon, into our Nursery and Reception classes with Jet, the police dog. Ben, the other well-known police dog, is now happily retired onto a farm.

Jet and the police officers visited school to teach the EYFS children all about Keeping Safe and Stranger Danger. Police officers explained how they can help the children and the local community. If you have any concerns in your local area, you can contact Abbie Dixon, our local police community support officer, by calling 101 and ask for extension 742306.

Road Safety Competition

Next month, our school is collaborating with St. Joseph's RCVA Primary in a road safety competition to design road safety posters for the local community. Councillor Charlie Kay will be organising funding for the prize winning designs to be produced and to be put on display on the school perimeter fences.