

# Victoria Lane Voice

## September 2018



## Mini Police Recruited at Victoria Lane Academy

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Newsletter Date 27th  
September 2018

The Mini Police project is coming to Coundon! PSCO-Abbie Dixon visited school yesterday with a colleague to interview potential candidates for the role of Mini Police.

A large number of Year 5 and Year 6 pupils were interviewed for this fantastic opportunity. We were delighted with the response and there were some very difficult decisions that had to be made as the quality of answers at interviews were excellent.

Fifteen of the candidates were successful and the Mini Police at VLA will consist of the following pupils: Alex Murray, Connor Walton, Eva Lee, John-William Walton, Ava Pendleton, Harry Gunell, John-Paul Reynolds, George Martin, Caysee-May Walton, Grace Buxton, Archie Kearton, Keavey Errington, Ellie

Mikalauskas and Lexie Johnson.

The Mini Police programme began today with the start of a seven week training programme that will focus on important aspects of policing including keeping safe.

A focus on Internet Safety will be shared with parents in a future assembly and with their peers in school to ensure that everyone knows how to stay safe online.

There will be a community event that will enable the children to work alongside the police to look at parking, road safety and speeding. They will be able to use specialist police equipment to detect speeding vehicles in the locality.

This is one of many aspects of our Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) curriculum. Currently, Class 4 are participating in FISCH, a weekly healthy lifestyle programme.



## EYFS News

Our new school year in Nursery and Reception has got off to a flying start with all of the new children settling in well.

Future events planned by our new Nursery teacher, Mrs Wagstaff, for parents to attend are soup making with a hamper raffle, chocolate apple making and Christmas crafts stay and play, Dates to follow.

Reception will be participating in a sponsored walk and further details will follow shortly.

We currently have places available for both morning and afternoon sessions. There are a few 30 hour places remaining for 3 year olds. Please contact Mrs Wagstaff to arrange a visit.



## Macmillan Coffee Day

We are delighted to be hosting a Macmillan coffee day in school on Friday 28th September.

Nursery, Reception and Y1 are holding their own coffee morning between 9.00 -10.00am. If your child has an older sibling they will be able to join you at that time.

We look forward to welcoming you there. If you want to attend on the afternoon, please do so we are just trying to avoid overcrowding in the hall.

Please support this excellent charity by donating cakes and coming along to have a cuppa and a cake, so we can raise as much money as possible.

We will also have a non-uniform day (Green Macmillan colours or own choice) and all donations of £1.00 (this will include a cupcake for each child in school) will go to the charity.

In addition, there will be sweet mix-ups on sale at both events at the cost of 50p, with all proceeds being donated to the charity.

Thank you for your support.



## Attendance and Punctuality Win our Weekly 100% Lottery

Improving our whole school attendance and punctuality is an ongoing priority. Many of our children who are late miss the phonics/reading lesson at the start of the day.

If your child is absent from school, they cannot learn as they are not there to learn. Children who are punctual and attend school regularly significantly improve their chances of being successful at school.

We want to continue to celebrate and reward good attendance and so as well as the £100 termly prize lottery, extra playtime for the class with the highest attendance, there is now also a weekly

cash lottery.

Every Monday morning, all of the children who had 100% attendance for the previous week, have the chance to win a £10 cash prize. This has been won already by Robson Cleasby and Imogen Brown. Well done!

Absence on Mondays and Fridays continues to be an issue as too many children have broken weeks at school. The Attendance Enforcement Team will be targeting this throughout the coming year and will be issuing penalties for term time holidays

***Whole school attendance for 2017-18 rose to 94.8%, Please help us reach our target of 96% this academic year.***



## Parents Evening

Here at Victoria Lane Academy, we are delighted with how your children have quickly settled into their new classes.

Next month, we intend to hold a Parent and teacher consultation meeting day on Monday 29th October, so you can discuss with your child's teacher how they are progressing, look at their work to celebrate their success and discuss any target areas for development. If you have any concerns or

require any further information about any aspects of your child's education, please contact us.

The school nurse, Debbie Horrocks, is holding a school drop in session. You can have a chat about any medical issues such as bedwetting, headlice or any other concerns that you may wish to discuss about your child on Monday 5th November from 9-11am. No appointment is necessary. Just come along!



## School Trips

Thank you so much for your support with voluntary donations towards the cost of our recent educational visits .

Every class enjoyed their educational visit that was based upon the current topic that they are studying. If you visit our website

[www.victorialane.durham.sch.uk/](http://www.victorialane.durham.sch.uk/), you can find out much more information about the curriculum that your child is currently studying.

Our Reception Children Visited Hall Hill Farm to learn about all the different animals.

Class 1 and 4 both visited Beamish Museum. Both Classes participated in workshops.

Class 2 visited Newcastle Castle and took part in a Knight school workshop.

Class 3 visited Centre for Life and participated in a Keeping Healthy

workshop.

Class 5 visited Eden Camp and experienced the sights, sounds and smells of wartime Britain.



## Halloween

A Halloween disco will be held in school on Tuesday 30th October for all pupils from Reception to Year 6.

Tickets will be on sale from next Monday at the cost of £2.50 per child . This will include entry to the disco, a range of Halloween activities on offer, as well as a hotdog and a drink.

A fancy dress costume competition will be held at this event. Please note some young children are frightened by the costumes

and the noise from the disco so there will be a separate room for younger children and a quiet Halloween activity room.

The disco is supervised by staff and Friend of the School volunteers.



## Whole School Photographs

Reminder , school photographs are taking place on Friday 5th October. Please make sure all forms are completed and returned to school before Tuesday 2nd October.

## Mr McGowan

Yesterday the children at Victoria Lane Academy and St Joseph's RC Primary lined the street outside the two schools to pay their respects to the late Mr McGowan, a former head teacher at St Joseph's RC Primary for almost 30 years!

We would like to thank the many children who participated as staff were very proud of the respectful manner in which they behaved. They were a credit to you and the school.

## Award Success for VLA!



We are Delighted to receive a Gold Sports Active mark for the second year running in recognition of our high quality PE and School sport. Last week, we were awarded the Primary Science Quality Mark (PSQM) to celebrate all of our fantastic science work that our school undertakes with your child and this is something that we are extremely proud of.

## St James' Church

Father Gary, our school chaplain, would like to invite you all to the following events at St James' Church. They will all be held at the church and are as follows:

Harvest Festival Service—Sunday 7th October at 10am

Harvest Broth and Bingo—Tuesday 9th October at 7pm

Coundon and Leeholme Village Remembrance Service —Sunday 11th November at 10am.

## Dates For Diaries

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Information</b>
Friday 28th September	Macmillan Coffee day	Nursery, Reception and Y1 will be 9-10am If you have older siblings they will be able to join you at this sitting. Y2-Y6 will be held at 2-3pm
Wednesday 3rd October	Harvest Festival Service	
Friday 5th October	Whole School Photographs	Letter was issued on Tuesday 25th September
Monday 8th October	FOS Meeting	2.30pm All parents are welcome
Friday 19th October	Non-uniform Day £1 School breaks up for half term	School re-opens Monday 29th October
Monday 29th October	Teacher and Parent Consultation Meeting	Letter to follow to book an appointment.
Tuesday 30th October	Halloween Disco 5-7pm	Tickets will be on sale from the school office from Monday 1st October. Cost £2.50 per ticket
Wednesday 31st October	Flu Vaccines	Reception—Year 5
Thursday 8th November	Armistice Garden Remembrance Service	
Friday 16th November	Children in Need	Charity Fundraising Day
Friday 30th November	Christingle For Kids	Dates to follow for Reception and KS1 Pupils
Monday 10th December	Whole school Christmas party	
Wednesday 12th December	Whole school Christmas Lunch	Letter to follow
Monday 17th December	Grandparents rehearsal Production	10am
Tuesday 18th December	Christmas production	10.15am and 2pm
Wednesday 19th December	Christmas Production	10.15am and 2pm
Thursday 20th December	Awards Bouncy Castle	
Thursday 20th December	School Breaks up for Christmas holidays	School re-opens on Monday 7th January