

Valley Gardens



21st December 2018

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents/carers

It has been a wonderful festive season for us here at Valley Gardens with particular highlights being the Christmas performances from Year 5 and Year 6. We were so proud to see our pupils performing with such confidence and clearly enjoying themselves at the same time. It has also been great to see so many parents, carers and grandparents in school to share these occasions with us. I have asked the staff to continue to look for opportunities for us to open our doors to parents and carers so that you can play an even more active role in our school community.

I'd like to thank all of the parents who have taken the time this year to write to us with positive comments and thanks; we really appreciate such letters.

It remains for me to wish you all a wonderful Christmas break and we look forward to seeing you in the new year.

Merry Christmas

Regards

David Godfrey
Headteacher

Christmas Performances

A massive thank you to everyone, children, staff, volunteers and parents alike, involved in the Year 6 production. It was a great example of working together in recognition of the Spirit of Christmas and celebrating the positive aspects of our community, while at the same time remembering those less fortunate than ourselves. The performances were not only hugely enjoyable but brought in considerable donations to the local foodbank. Well done to everyone.

Year 5 have performed their Christmas play three times this week. They've worked really hard for the last few weeks and audiences have been blown away by how wonderful all 191 of the pupils were. Sasha got Swept up the Chimney has been a wonderful success and both the children and the staff have thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Special thanks to all of the parents, grandparents and friends who came along to support the children. The Year 5 staff would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2019.



The final donations were collected today by The Bay Foodbank. The representative was overwhelmed by the generosity of our parents and pupils. A huge thank you to everyone who made a donation.

Upcoming Events and Activities

7th January

8th January

15th and 17th January

24th January

25th January

29th and 31st January

1st February

7th February

w/c 18th February

w/c 25th February

w/c 4th March

10th—17th March

w/c 25th March

28th March

4th April

8th—22nd April

23rd April

Staff Training Day

Pupils return to school

Year 7 Parents Evenings

Year 6 SATs Information Evening

Holocaust Memorial Day

Year 8 Parents Evenings

Year 8 Careers Day

Year 6 SATs Parent Evening

Half Term Holiday

High Borrans Trip Year 5

Mock SATs Week

Year 8 Ski Trip

Achieve Assemblies (time tbc)

Steel Pan Showcase

Spring Concert

Easter Holidays

Pupils return to school

Christmas Fair

The FOVG worked extremely hard putting on the annual Christmas Fair. The support from parents, staff, children and in particular local businesses, who donated some fantastic gifts for the raffle, was amazing. The winning class, who collected the most weight in chocolate is 5CB. Congratulations to Miss Campbell's class but a massive thank you to all who donated. The winner of the Great Valley Bake Off was Mia Livingston Polly of Year 7 with a beautiful cake with a festive theme.

The night was a huge success, we raised a grand total of £2850, which is a huge effort nearly doubling the efforts of last year. Thank you to everyone involved.

A big thank you to the Friends of Valley Gardens Committee who work tirelessly to help and support pupils and staff throughout the year. Merry Christmas to you all.



Computing

Computing Club

Monday night's Computing Club continues to go from strength to strength covering a range of technologies. It is open to all year groups, and is held between 3.30pm - 4.30pm in Mr Fairlamb's room.

First Lego League

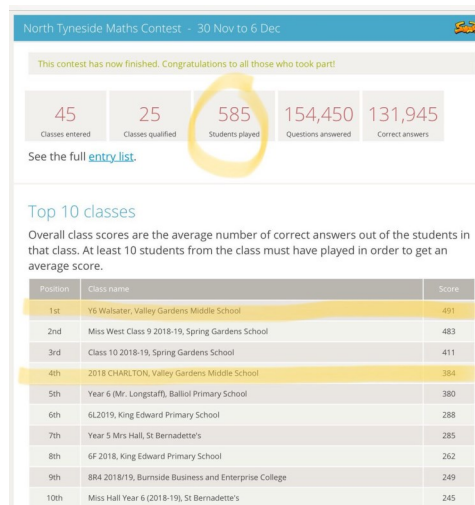
Two teams have been assembled from a selection of Year 5 to 8 pupils to compete in this year's First Lego League. The teams have been working on the three elements namely Core Values, Project and Missions which involve a variety of designs, building, research, presentation and coding skills. This year's tasks revolve around the theme of space and an astronaut's life in space. The teams compete in the regional finals at the end of January 2019.

Computing Lessons - Year 6

Year 6 pupils have been learning about real-world applications of computing and technology in the NHS Blood and Transplant Service. Nicola Thorn from NHSBT came in during December to deliver a session in Computing lessons which were very well received by the pupils, and threw up some interesting ideas on how to attract more donors using technology. Thanks to Nicola and NHSBT for their time and effort in providing the opportunity for our pupils to see the application of computing and technology.

Sumdog Maths Competition

Many pupils have been working hard, in their spare time, on Sumdog (an educational website) lately. Some of the Year 6s featured on the 'individual top 50 list' in a recent North Tyneside Sumdog competition - one class even won the whole competition and got a free 6 month Sumdog subscription as a prize, which has unlocked many more games as well as given teachers access to see highly tailored reports about their skills. During the competition, many pupils played for hours after school every day and answered far more than the 1000 questions that were recorded. Sumdog is always available, even when there are no competitions running, and is a fun and engaging way to improve your maths skills!



Routes into Languages

In November Year 8 pupils received a visit from the Newcastle University Routes into Languages ambassador. She lead an assembly about the benefits of learning a foreign language and the potential impact upon future opportunities for studying and careers. Pupils found the assembly particularly interesting and most agreed that learning a language could help support them in their future ambitions.

Foreign Language Assistant

After the success of last year, the MFL department is delighted once again to welcome a Foreign Language Assistant to work with us! Charmaine Fonseca-Hall will be joining us for the Spring term to work with targeted groups of pupils. We are sure she will love working with our pupils and helping pupils to understand more about both the language and culture of French speaking countries.

U13 Sports News

English Schools Cross Country Championships

Many congratulations to the Under 13 cross country teams that took part in the ESSA Cross Country Cup. The boys finished in a very creditable 5th place and the girls won through to the Regional Finals by finishing in 2nd place. All of the girls displayed commitment and endeavour over a tough course in Stockton and finished in 10th place overall. A great effort!

North Tyneside Schools Table Tennis League

The Under 13 boys squad played some brilliant table tennis in the North Tyneside Central Venue League held at Churchill Community College. Going into the final round the scores were very close between a number of schools. Ultimately we missed out on the Tyne and Wear Finals by finishing in 3rd place. Once again a great effort from all squad members.

Healthy minds: Help for pupils and their families

I recently attended the 'Going the Extra Mile 2 Conference: overcoming Social, Emotional and Mental Health barriers' which focused on the difference we can make to children's lives by going the extra mile to understand what the world might look like from their viewpoint. At its heart was how to support them to be ready to learn, to build self-belief and self-regulation to help them to thrive in all phases of their school life and communities. It was an opportunity to access a wide range of North Tyneside LA expertise, practical advice and share best practice from local schools.

In a time when accessing additional services to support our children and young people is increasingly challenging, it was good to discover a range of resources which can be used both in School and at home, to try and help equip them for the variety of stresses and challenges that life can bring. Our link Educational Psychologist also shared a range of resources that are suitable for use with our children. It may be useful to look at some of the websites first to ensure they are relevant and suitable, before sharing with your child.

Remember, should there be something your child is struggling with, please let us know. We are keen to work together to support your child as best we can, to ensure they are able to make the most of their Valley Gardens experience.

Books for Anxiety and anger:

'Help I've got an Alarm Bell Going off in my Head' by K. L. Aspen

'Blame My Brain- the Amazing Teenage Brain Revealed' by Nicola Morgan, good for parents and children.

Websites for young person:

youth.anxietybc.com/relaxation

www.moodjuice.scot.nhs.uk

youngminds.org.uk

www.moodjuice.scot.nhs.uk/anger.asp

Websites for parents:

www.minded.org.uk/

www.nhs.uk/conditions/stress-anxiety-depression/ (adult mental health)

www.pookyknightsmith.com/anxiety

mindedforfamilies.org.uk

www.annafreud.org

www.childhoodbereavementnetwork.org.uk



Counselling:

www.kooth.com : A confidential online counselling service pupils can access anonymously which also provides blogs and articles related to issues that matter to them and opportunity to chat. riseabove.org.uk: 11-16 year olds build emotional resilience by equipping them with knowledge and skills to deal with pressures they may face. An online platform through which young people can converse with peers alongside professional support.

Parallel Games

A group of 8 Key Stage 2 pupils participated in the Parallel Games held at the Parks, North Shields.

Every member of the team displayed immense enthusiasm and worked really hard, executing the tasks that were set for them. We are delighted to inform you that as a result of their effort the team have qualified for the Grand Final to be held after Christmas.

Well done.



Children in Need

The amount raised from our non-uniform day, for Children in Need this year, was an amazing £942.72.

Sports News

Mr Smith would like to extend his thanks to all of those members of staff (and outside providers) who have given up their valuable time to provide further sporting opportunities for our pupils outside of school hours. We have managed to offer skipping, rowing, fencing, street dance, fitness, badminton, basketball, indoor athletics, hockey, netball, football, lacrosse and gymnastics to a very large number of pupils. A new sports clubs timetable will be in operation after the Christmas break, please check the website for details. Those pupils wishing to attend any new sports club must sign up and be committed to attending.

PE Curriculum

Pupils have participated in activities that have developed six essential components of fitness, cardio-vascular endurance, agility, flexibility, speed, strength and balance. They have engaged in lessons that have enhanced their tactical awareness and decision-making through a Teaching Games for Understanding (TGfU) approach in invasion games. Pupils now have a better understanding and appreciation of the lateral transfer in terms of knowledge, concepts, behaviours and skills. All year groups have completed an intensive course of indoor athletics and the net game of badminton. All teachers of PE have promoted a "can do" philosophy with the pupils in their respective classes.

Active Lives Children and Young People Survey

Our school was randomly selected to participate in a national survey administered by Sport England. A small sample of pupils from our school were asked several questions about their engagement in sport, physical activity and exercise. The results of this survey can be found attached to this newsletter. For more detailed information about the overall messages from the survey, please follow the link below or see the attachment sent with this newsletter.

<https://www.sportengland.org/activeliveschildren/>

Sporting Successes

Athletics

Year 6 Indoor Athletics Team qualified for the Tyne and Wear Finals on 14th January after two superb rounds in North Tyneside

Year 7 Girls Indoor Athletics Team have reached the Tyne and Wear Finals

Year 7 Boys Indoor Athletics Team finished equal 2nd in the North Tyneside Round but didn't progress on countback

Year 8 Boys Indoor Athletics Team has qualified for the Tyne and Wear Finals

Basketball

The Under 13 boys squad played some outstanding basketball in the North Tyneside Central Venue League and suffered only 2 defeats in 10 games. It was a real shame that George Stephenson's audacious long range shot from the half-way line that went straight into the basket was just after the final whistle had gone in the last match.

Girls Football

The U13 Girls have won all of their Malcolm Berry Cup matches and will have a Quarter final in the New Year.

The U12s have won their National Cup matches and will be in the 3rd Round during the first week back.

U12s are North Tyneside Rotary Cup 5-a-side Champions and will take part in the regional finals in January.

U11s are into the Quarter finals of the County Cup after Christmas.

The U11s were also unfortunate not to make the Finals of the NUFoundation tournament after going unbeaten and unbreached in 5 games.

Tilly Maughan and Grace Corbett from Year 6 were selected for the North Tyneside Girls U11 Squad.

Erin Donachie, Caitlin Pethick and Macy Maughan made the U13 North Tyneside squad

Boys Football

The Under 11 team have progressed in the County Cup following a 2-1 victory over Ovingham Middle School. Both Ollie Cassells and Owen Lees were selected for the North Tyneside squad.

The Under 12 team are still going strong in the league, County and Tyne and Wear Cup competitions having won 5 matches and losing 2. The team is unfortunately out of the National Cup and lost narrowly 1-0 in the Rotary Club 5-a-side Cup Final. The Under 12 B team have been involved in two fantastic National Cup ties beating Ponteland but losing in extra time 4-3 to Kingsmeadow. Congratulations to Oscar Berry for his North Tyneside selection.

Netball

The Under 11, 12 and 13 squads have played a number of friendly matches and attended regular practices for the tournaments after the Christmas break.

Bikeability

The first cycle (excuse the pun!) of pupils in Year 5 have completed their Level 2 Bikeability Award. Further training will be delivered in the next two terms

Sporting Successes

Hockey

The Under 12 and 13 squads have attended regular practices and are looking forward to participating in the Northumberland Schools League and Cup competitions in the new year.

Skipping

Liz Bellilios from Skipping School took every class in Year 5 for a really fun skipping workshop where pupils were able to develop their individual and group techniques. 6 pupils in Year 6 are currently helping to finely tune the skipping squad in Year 5 in preparation for the annual skipping festival early in the new year.

Cross Country

15 pupils from Years 7 and 8 qualified for the Northumberland Schools Cross Country Championships to be held at Temple Park on 15th January. Our regular sustained run of 6 - 10 minutes in every PE lesson is certainly making a difference. The team results are below:

Minor Boys		
1	Kings Priory	33
2	Marden High A	40
3	Valley Gardens A	56
4	Marden Bridge A	78
5	Churchill A	105
6	Valley Gardens B	119
7	St. Thomas More	120
8	George Stephenson	137
9	John Spence	141
10	North Gosforth Academy	166
11	Wellfield	173
12	Marden High B	176
13	Churchill B	195
14	Burnside	235
15	Marden Bridge B	256
16	Monkseaton Middle	264
17	Norham	276
18	Marden High C	285

Minor Girls		
1	Valley Gardens A	25
2	Marden High A	56
3	St. Thomas More	59
4	Wellfield A	65
5	Kings Priory	90
6	Valley Gardens B	93
7	John Spence	114
8	Marden Bridge A	140
9	Marden High B	146
10	Churchill	164
11	Valley Gardens C	171
12	Monkseaton Middle	182
13	Wellfield B	211
14	Marden High C	226
15	North Gosforth Academy	228
16	George Stephenson	257
17	Marden Bridge B	267
18	Norham	291

Junior Boys		
1	Valley Gardens A	47
2	George Stephenson	52
3	North Gosforth Academy A	58
4	Marden High A	73
5	John Spence	85
6	Valley Gardens B	104
7	Kings Priory A	119
8	St. Thomas More	128
9	Churchill A	145
10	Marden Bridge A	179
11	Churchill B	181
12	Wellfield A	204
13	North Gosforth Academy B	207
14	Valley Gardens C	232
15	Burnside	246
16	Monkseaton High	272
17	Wellfield B	299
18	Kings Priory B	320
19	Marden Bridge B	331

Junior Girls		
1	Whitley Bay	56
1	Marden Bridge A	56
3	Valley Gardens A	60
4	St. Thomas More	68
5	Wellfield A	74
6	Marden High A	80
7	North Gosforth Academy A	108
8	Valley Gardens B	113
9	Marden Bridge B	136
10	Valley Gardens C	164
11	Wellfield B	178
12	Kings Priory	206
13	Marden High B	215
13	Churchill	215
15	Monkseaton Middle	260
16	North Gosforth Academy B	276

School Calendar 2018 - 2019



Term One Term starts for students Half Term Term ends for students	Tuesday 4 September 2018 Monday 29 October to Friday 2 November 2018 Friday 21 December 2018
Term Two Term starts for students Half Term Term ends for students	Tuesday 8 January 2019 Monday 18 February to Friday 22 February 2019 Friday 5 April 2019
Term Three Term starts for students Half Term Term ends for students	Tuesday 23 April 2019 Monday 27 May to Friday 31 May 2019 Friday 19 July 2019
Bank holidays	Good Friday 19 April 2019 Easter Monday 22 April 2019 Monday 6 May 2019 Monday 27 May 2019
School closures for staff training days	Monday 3 September 2018 Monday 7 January 2019 Thursday 2 May 2019 (Election)