

Valley Gardens



15th February 2019

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parents/carers

This half term has been another successful one for us at Valley Gardens. We have enjoyed numerous successes in various different sporting arenas and have enjoyed similar success in other events linked to curriculum areas such as STEM and Music. We are very proud of our young people who help to give our school such an excellent reputation. Once again we are delighted to be supporting a young student who is taking his civic responsibilities seriously as he attempts to become the Young Mayor of North Tyneside. We will continue to help this young man in the weeks and months ahead and will be asking young people in our locality to help him to succeed.

After half term I will be asking parents for their opinions on 3 key issues that I am working on in school currently: social media issues, healthy eating/snacks, and the school's curriculum offer. In the past we have found randomly selected focus groups of parents to be very successful at giving us a steer on parents' thoughts around certain issues. I would be hugely appreciative if you were to accept our invitation should your name be selected.

Have a great half term break.

Regards

David Godfrey
Headteacher

Street science!

Our Year 7 team of street scientists have been helping to inspire future scientists by visiting their allocated Year 5 classes and sharing some cool experiments and explaining how they work. Each experiment is chosen, organised and practised by the street scientists themselves and delivered to their Year 5 class as a group. Most experiments are quite easy to replicate at home if pupils wish. I am so proud of the Year 7 team for their creativity and their increasing science communication skills and confidence delivering the sessions quite independently. Watch out for a new logo and pictures from future sessions!

A big thank you to all the Year 7 street science team!

Mrs Fiona Bradley
Science Lead

Punctuality

Polite reminder about punctuality:

All pupils should be at school, on the yard at 8.35am to allow 5 minutes before the bell rings at 8.40am.

Game of Our Own



A group of Year 7 and 8 girls took part in an FA and Youth Sport Trust partnership event at the Beacon of Light called "A Game Of Our Own."

The girls also got to meet England ladies and Sky Sports legend, Sue Smith.

Holiday Soccer Camp

Newcastle United Foundation's soccer courses are a great way for children to stay active during school holidays. **Valley Gardens will be a venue during the Easter holidays 15th—18th April.** Open to girls and boys of all abilities aged five to 14, these soccer courses take place at venues across the region in every school holiday and during term time. They're perfect for getting children away from screens and helping them learn new skills, have fun, make new friends and create new memories.

To find out more or book a place contact foundation@nufc.co.uk or call 0844 3721892 ext 8451

Author Visit from Ann Cleeves

In November, Year 8 pupils were set the challenge to write a ghost story in 250 words. This type of writing, which limits the number of words used, is called Flash Fiction. The limitation of words means pupils need to be creative with their vocabulary, sentence structures and punctuation, so it increases the challenge. The Year 8 pupils took on this challenge and produced some amazing stories.

To judge, we invited a panel of Year 13 Literature students from Whitley Bay High to come across and read the work and pick the winners. This proved somewhat difficult and many arguments took place. After 2 hours, we eventually selected a winner, two pieces that were highly commended and a number of pieces the judges wanted to recognise and commend.

Pupils were told the results of the writing competition in a Year 8 assembly in January. We were lucky enough to have Ann Cleeves, author of 'Vera' and 'Shetland' in to give out the prizes, which included certificates, chocolates and a framed and illustrated copy of the winning story for our winner, Scarlett McCurry. The two Highly Commended entries were from Freya McDonough and Rebecca Hall. The Commended entries were from Chloe Banks, Frank Brown, Isobelle Colquhoun, Rachel Mills, Sophie Curtis and Emily Tose.

The winning entry and runners up are included below.



WINNER

Twin Towers

I remember it, the horrifying news of the Twin Towers, stunning and beautiful, which came tumbling down. I remember the flames, bright and fierce, engulfing the tall buildings and destroying everything. I remember the last words that she said, "I am not coming home father, I love you..." Her gentle voice saying these words again and again in my head.

I walk through the ruins, blackened, charred and still smouldering. I hear the echoing screams of the dead, smell the black smoke that is clogging my throat and stinging my cheeks. My eyes water as I realise she is still here, waiting for me among the rubble.

She rises up out of the ground to meet me, her form shrouded in smoke and flecked with ash. She cries with long, ghostly calls and then looks upon me as I stumble through the words I always wanted to say to her. I tell her the truth about me, her mother, everything.

My heart breaks and hot tears tumble like toxic rain from my eyes, making rivers down my face as she follows me to the roof. Her ghostly figure is only visible to me but I know I'm not dreaming. I see the skeleton of the plane and all the innocent passengers lying dead and burnt, panic plastered on their once happy, lively faces. As I step onto the edge of the roof I know I am ready to join my daughter.

Scarlett McCurry 8DR

It' time to "play"...

I heard them. They woke me. No one comes here. Not since the fire. I heard the old heavy door scraping through the dust and the rubble. I could just hear the snarky comments they made about my once sophisticated house. I decided it would be fun to "play" with them for a bit.

Obviously they think this house is supposed to be empty. The whole town thinks this but they are all wrong...

There were two girls. By the end of my "game" there will only be one.

I descended the stairs silently. The first girl. The small girl. She was my target. She had porcelain skin covered in freckles. She, unlike the other girl, had a timid, almost scared, look glistening in her eyes. The other girl was possibly the polar opposite to the first girl. She had dark wavy hair, crystal clear eyes which looked like never ending pools.

The second girl rudely suggested that they creep upstairs to explore. I could tell a lot about the girls by how they walked up my stairs. The first girl almost shrank into the wall whereas the second girl confidently strutted up the stairs. The first girl walked timidly into the bedroom but before the second girl could get in I quickly slammed the door and very slowly clicked the lock.

The girl in the room started slamming her fists against the door. At this rate she's going to break the door down!

It's time to "play"...

Sincerely
The Ghost from the Fire
Becca Hall 8SC

The Purple Lady

I remember looking out to the unknown, feeling loved. As the towering waves came to life battering against the dominating cliff I sensed an ominous wave gently roll through my body like someone or something was looking out for me. My hair whipped my bare, pale face yet I didn't care; I closed my eyes, believing I was somewhere else. Somewhere loving and calm. In another world. Someplace else. I didn't care about anything.

Suddenly I was snapped out of my 'other world'; I thought I saw something lurking in the distance amongst the crashing waves. A glow perhaps. Some time passed before I finally convinced myself I had imagined it, yet somehow I couldn't settle, I couldn't return to my calm, 'other place'. I thought I could feel someone breathing down my neck; maybe someone was hunting me down. Out the corner of my eye I saw the figure, a purple glow amongst the shattering rocks. Somehow my heart beamed, a warm sensation filled my body.

Slowly I stretched over the cliff edge to see her again but suddenly I had a gut-wrenching feeling of someone prodding my back. As I rapidly fell I once again felt relaxed.

I'm Billy Harrison, now I live with the Purple Lady amongst the rocks waiting for our next victim. I no longer seek my 'other world' for I am content with the Purple Lady.

Freya McDonough 8BU

Rowing

5 pupils from Years 7 and 8 -Phoebe Dixon, Jessica Tremble, Adelle Telford, Annabel Tremble and Noah Johnson qualified for the Tyne and Wear Rowing Finals. The application and sheer grit and determination displayed by all of these students who were competing against the top rowers in the area was incredible. Our pupils exemplified the true Valley Gardens traditions in every way - impeccable manners, supporting others, showing their gratitude to both the organising staff and myself.

Adelle is now the Tyne and Wear champion, Annabel finished in 3rd place, Noah finished in 4th place, Phoebe and Jessica were placed 7th. There were 20 rowers in each race. The top 4 rowers in each age category will now go through to the Regional Finals to be held at Durham University.

5CB Tombola Prize Winners

As a result of 5CB bringing in the most weight in chocolate for the Christmas fair tombola, The FOVG arranged a film night as a reward.

They watched the movie Boss Baby, with pizza, sweets and refreshments. The evening also included games and stand up bingo. The class's behaviour was excellent, all pupils were well behaved and really enjoyed themselves.

FOVG hope to arrange another event of this nature in future.

Upcoming Events and Activities

w/c 18th February

w/c 25th February

w/c 4th March

4th March

10th—17th March

11th March

18th March

28th March

4th April

4th April

8th—22nd April

23rd April

2nd May

6th May

w/c 13th May

19th—24th May

w/c 27th May

3rd June

Half Term Holiday

High Borrans Trip Year 5

Mock SATs Week

French Theatre Visit

Year 8 Ski Trip to Italy

Year 6 Height and Weight Measure

Gibber Theatre Group Year 8

Steel Pan Showcase

Year 5 Swimming Gala

Spring Concert

Easter Holidays

Pupils return to school

Polling Day (School Closed to Pupils)

Bank Holiday Monday

Year 6 SATs Week

Year 7 France Trip

Half Term Holiday

Pupils Return to School

Sporting Success

Our year 7 girls and Year 8 girls and boys school teams took part in the Tyne and Wear Sportshall Athletics finals in January. The year 7 girls were Gold medalists and the Year 8's in the top 5.

As a result of fantastic performances for the school the following pupils have been asked to represent North Tyneside in Sportshall Athletics.

Maya Turner

Finlay Lawson

Noah Johnson

This is a great achievement for these pupils - for the year 8's this could lead to a national competition.

Those that don't know Maya (in year 6) is one of the fastest girls in the country for her age group!

Hockey



One win, three draws and one loss in the U11 In2 Hockey Tournament achieved by our mighty Year 5 squad. Great achievement considering the team were up against pupils in Year 6. A real credit to the school.

The Under 13 Girls' Hockey team ably led by Hannah Winn have qualified for the Tyne and Wear Finals on 27th March after finishing runners-up in the North Tyneside Tournament.

School Calendar 2018 - 2019



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