

Valley Gardens



25th October 2019

Message from the Headteacher

Dear Parent/Carers

What a great start to the year we have had so far. All of our pupils have been amazing and have been a pleasure to be around. Our Year 5 pupils have joined us and settled in to school life extremely well and appear to be forging new friendships very quickly.

This term has seen the introduction of Project Based Learning which takes place every other week on a Wednesday afternoon. As part of this one of our groups recently attended a field trip down to our nearby seafront and along to the lighthouse where they had the opportunity to do some filming, including interviewing some of our locals. We received positive feedback from numerous members of the local community about our pupils which always makes us extremely proud.

A huge thank you to those of you who were able to come along yesterday to help and support us in raising funds for MacMillan Cancer Support. The morning was a great success and apart from raising some money, gave everyone a chance to get together and enjoy cakes made and bought by you all.

Keep an eye open for further opportunities to come and visit us in school. We are planning more Headteacher assemblies as well as class assemblies and other opportunities for you to visit us during the school day to see us in action and be a part of our school life.

The staff and I are very much looking forward to next half term and the exciting build up to Christmas. We have lots of exciting things in the pipeline for our youngsters including events, trips and performances. Watch this space!

Have a very restful and enjoyable half term.

Regards

David Godfrey
Headteacher

Friends of Valley Gardens

Did you know that in the last academic year FOVG donated £1900 to the school? Every penny has helped to benefit the pupils and here are some of the activities that FOVG have funded in the last year:

- £500 Maths equipment
- £250 Light boxes for Art
- £250 Lego Mindstorm Robots for Technology
- £250 Ipad for MFL
- £50 Library
- £100 Friendship group
- £200 Book club
- £300 Epraise rewards

We have lots more activities planned this year, including; the Halloween Disco, the Christmas Fayre including The Great Valley Bake Off, a Christmas Film Night, Year 8 Leavers Hoodies and the Leavers Party. If you have any more fundraising ideas, please get in touch.

The Christmas Fayre will be held on Thursday 12th December and we are very grateful for all of the raffle prizes that have already been donated. Can you help by donating a small gift or voucher that can be placed in the prize raffle? Please also keep an eye out for raffle tickets coming home with your child in November and we would welcome contributions for the tombola and chocolate stall closer to the date.

All your help really goes a long way. Thank you for your continued support!

FOVG

PE News Autumn Term 1

It's been a busy half term in the PE Department. I would first like to congratulate the recipients of the PE Most Valuable Pupil Awards for Autumn 1. These pupils have significantly impressed the PE department in terms of their approach both in and out of lessons. A girl and boy from each year group will receive this award every half term. There were several nominees for each year group, making it a difficult decision to pick the winning students. Well done and keep up the excellent work to all nominees and of course the MVPs!



Also, well done to the teams listed below for their continued success this half term:

Y5 & 6 Sportshall Athletics, Y8 Table Tennis, Y8 Badminton and last but certainly not least, all of our amazing football teams. Thank you to Mr Murphy, Mr Wallbank, Mr Dibden and Mr Roys for their time and effort in terms of training and fixtures.

Y5 MVP Nominees	Y6 MVP Nominees	Y7 MVP Nominees	Y8 MVP Nominees
Lucas Thompson	Alex Allan	James Russell	Dan Corrie
Scarlett Welton	Stuart Vergnano-O'Toole	Stephen Wilkinson	Will Lowery
Fraser Morton	Rory Wade	Jake Elliot	Callum King
Adam Podd	Gwen Lewis Hedley	Maeve Gillan	Sophie Jackson
Quenby Elsworth	Jessie Richardson	Jess Bird	Phoebe Dixon
Tanith Alderson	Ruby Dann	Ella Blakey	Ava Perkins
Y5 MVP Award Winners	Y6 MVP Award Winners	Y7 MVP Award Winners	Y8 MVP Award Winners
Lilly McColl	Martha French	Emily Silmon	Ruby Mills
Dominic Hanna	Alex Box	George Bogg	Joseph Chandler

There have been some fantastic sporting performances in a number of different activities. Below is a summary of the highlights:

Trampolining

KS3 Girls Elite Team - 1st Place - Alice Romer (2), Emily Silmon (4) and Ava Quinn (5)

KS3 Boys Intermediate Individual - 3rd Place - Ben Staerck (qualified for the next round)

KS3 Girls Elite Individual - 2nd Place - Alice Romer (qualified for the next round)

Cross Country

Team Results:

Y5 Girls - 2nd, Y5 Boys - 1st

Y6 Girls - 1st, Y6 Boys - 1st

Y7 Girls - 4th, Y7 Boys - 4th

Individual Results:

Y5 - Lily McColl (3rd), Quenby Elsworth (4th), Sam Philipson (4th)

Y6 - Ruby Dann (1st), Aidan Turner (3rd), Adam Feenan (4th), Anna Johnson (4th)

Y7 - Will Massie (10th)

Year 5&6 Sportshall Athletics team participated at Marden Bridge to qualify for the North Tyneside Finals in December. The team were excellently behaved and had some outstanding performances on the track and in field events also! Well done!

Year 7&8 Sportshall Athletics will be next half term 27th & 28th November respectively.

Northumberland team cross country championships took place at Gateshead Stadium on the 8th October. School had teams from year 5, 6 & 7. There were a huge amount of schools participating and we had some fantastic team and individual results.

Year 5 boys - 1st

Year 5 girls - 2nd

Year 6 boys - 1st

Year 6 girls - 1st

Year 7 boys - 4th

Year 7 girls - 4th

Special mention to top 10 runners in each of the respective year groups - Sam Phillipson, Lily McColl, Quenby Elsworth, Aidan Turner, Adam Feenan, Ruby Dann, Anna Johnson, Will Massie.

Steam Week

STEAM WEEK: Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths. The end of October saw our annual STEAM week. Pupils in KS3 had a visit from the Roadshow Team sponsored by the RAF, BAE systems and the Royal Navy. Pupils saw how mobile phone masts work, coding and saw Mr Best and Mr Godfrey roll around in a life size hamster ball, to demonstrate how algorithms work! All year groups had a STEAM theme assembly and Mrs Hill explained what a mondegreen is and Mrs Bradley talked about the periodic table, launching a competition to design a visual to explain an element of their choice! Year 6 had an afternoon competing in an escape room style activity - with 6KE the overall winners!

Fire Safety



Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service visited Year 7 to help them fully understand the dangers around fire and how to stay safe. They saw some real life examples of just how easily things can go wrong. They were asked by the Watch Commander to check that any smoke alarms at home are working properly and to test them regularly. Have a safe Halloween and Bonfire night.

Bob a Job for Dave

School have agreed that we will support the Bob a Job for Dave fundraising request from a local family.

This father of two, has recently been diagnosed with multiple myeloma (an incurable blood cancer) and he needs a drug (Revlimid) which is currently not available on the NHS.

All pupils have been given a sponsorship form if they would like to support this campaign and do Bob a Jobs over the holidays.

Author Visit

We are very excited about a visitor who is coming to see us on 25th November 2019.

Writer Eoin Colfer, author of the Artemis Fowl series, is visiting Valley Gardens Middle School to talk about his books, his writing and his latest novel. Children in KS2 will be able to listen to him talk about his life and his work and all students will have an opportunity to purchase one of his books.

More information will be sent out about this event nearer the time.

Macmillan Coffee Morning



A big thank you to all who supported this worthy cause. We raised a fabulous £406.32



Fundraising

Our good citizens have raised the following amounts for Charity. Well done!

Show Racism the Red Card £141.07.

Year 5 children pupils bake sale for Air Ambulance £20.00 and Newcastle Cat and Dog shelter £49.71.

Non Uniform day re Jeans for Genes £513.36.

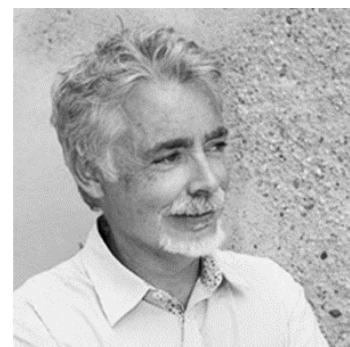
Young Minds non uniform day £589.97.

Bob a job for Dave this holiday



- **Ask your family & friends to sponsor you for**
 - **gardening, household chores, dog walking, washing cars...**
 - **Get out in the sunshine, get some fresh air and raise money to help Eleanor's daddy get the medicine he needs**
- **Please submit your sponsorship donation to**
<https://www.gofundme.com/please-help-buy-time-for-dave>
or alternatively send in to school by 8th November.

For details of the campaign please see:
<https://www.gofundme.com/please-help-buy-time-for-dave>



Modern Foreign Languages

Chinese Lessons at Valley Gardens

你好白老师

Nǐ hǎo Bái lǎoshī

Welcome Jue Bai!

In the second week of October, Valley Gardens were pleased to host Ms Jue Bai, who will be teaching Chinese lessons for the next ten weeks. Lessons take place on Wednesday after school between 3:30pm and 4:30pm. Ms Jue Bai is a native Chinese speaker, who currently works for the Confucius Institute in the United Kingdom. She is currently teaching a group of pupils from Years 6, 7 and 8 the basics of Mandarin Chinese as well as giving them a fascinating insight into the culture and traditions of China. The pupils are thoroughly enjoying the experience and are gaining a real insight into another aspect of our amazing world.

There are a limited number of places available on a Wednesday after school. If your Valley Gardens Middle School child is interested, please contact Mr Oliver for further details.



Spanish Lessons at Valley Gardens



The MFL department will be running two Spanish lessons. One class will be for Year 8 before school on a Wednesday morning before school (8:00am-8:40am) and one for Years 5 & 6 at lunchtime on Thursdays (12:20pm-1:00pm). The Year 8 lesson on Wednesday will be delivered by Mrs Thomson and is an opportunity for those pupils who are thinking about doing Spanish at Whitley Bay High School to get a grounding in the fundamentals of the language. Focus will be on speaking and pronunciation, but there will be written work too. The Year 5 and 6 lesson on Thursday lunchtime will be delivered by Mr Oliver. This will be an opportunity for pupils to start from the very basics. The aim is to continue this program of study next academic year and build upon the foundations of what they have learnt this year.

If you think your child is keen to take part in these lessons and they will be committed to attending every lesson, please direct your attention to the letter sent via email to parents. Lessons will start week beginning 11th November.



European Day of Languages

The European Day of Languages (EDL) is celebrated across Europe on the 26th of September every year. It aims to promote the rich linguistic diversity of Europe and raise awareness of the importance of lifelong language learning for everyone. It was set up by the Council of Europe and was first celebrated in 2001.

Pupils in Valley Gardens Middle School marked this event with a number of activities and even a competition. Mr Oliver gave an assembly to Year 5, talking to the pupils about the importance of learning foreign languages and how this promotes our school's core values of kindness, resilience and respect. Mr Oliver impressed upon the pupils the importance of cherishing your family's culture and traditions, celebrating where your family comes from and valuing the native languages of all your family members. The other groups were challenged to learn how to count up to 20 in Finnish before the end of the school day. Many pupils succeeded, well done to them all!

Upcoming Events and Activities

5th—7th November	Year 7 Warkworth Trip
8th November	Years 5 & 6 Open Day Parent Tours
18th—22nd November	Year 7 High Borrans Trip
19th & 21st November	Year 8 Parents Evenings
22nd November	Years 7 & 8 Open Day Parent Tours
25th November	Author Visit Eoin Colfer
26th & 28th November	Year 7 Parents Evenings
3rd & 5th December	Year 5 Parent Evenings
w/c 9th December	Achieve Assemblies
8th—14th December	Year 8 Germany Trip
12th December	FOVG Christmas Fayre
13th December	E Praise Afternoon
23rd December—3rd January	Christmas Holiday
6th January	Pupils Return to School
16th January	Year 6 SATs Information Evening
21st & 23rd January	Year 6 Parent Evenings
w/c 27th January	Careers Week

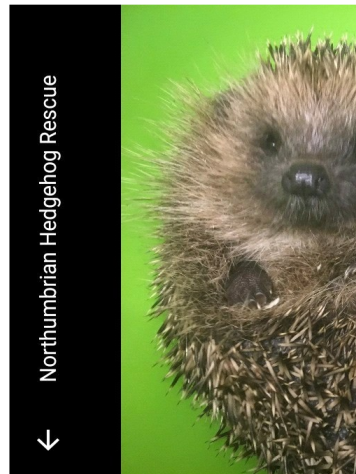
Planner Learning Tool

In the new planner there are some really useful learning tools to check for understanding of all pupils during question and answer sessions. One of which is a whiteboard. To utilise this fully, we are requesting that pupils all have a thin black whiteboard marker in their pencil case. Pupils can either purchase their own, or if it is more convenient, they can be purchased from the school library at a cost of 40p.

Term and Holiday Dates 2019-20

Term One Term starts for students Half Term Term ends for students	Tuesday 3 September 2019 Monday 28 October to Friday 1 November 2019 Friday 20 December 2019
Term Two Term starts for students Half Term Term ends for students	Monday 6 January 2020 Monday 17 February to Friday 21 February 2020 Thursday 2 April 2020
Term Three Term starts for students Half Term Term ends for students	Monday 20 April 2020 Monday 25 May to Friday 29 May 2020 Friday 17 July 2019
Bank holidays	Good Friday 10 April 2020 Easter Monday 13 April 2020 Monday 4 May 2020 Monday 25 May 2020
School closures for staff training days	Monday 2 September 2019 Friday 25th October 2019 Friday 3rd April 2020

Hedgehog Rescue



On Monday 9th September, Marley Wales found two baby hedgehogs drowning in a drain in our school. He spoke to Trevor, our caretaker, who very kindly opened the drain and rescued these lovely little guys.

Our two little hedgehogs were in a very poor state when Marley found them. Together with the support of Trevor, Lisa Fairley our Learning Mentor, Carol Richardson and myself, we settled them into a box with a hot water



North Shields Commemorative Fun Run

Start times and approximate distances

1pm Under 17's (Years 11 & 12)
2000m (2 laps)
1:30pm Under 9's (Years 3 & 4)
1000m (1 lap)
2pm Under 15's (Years 9 & 10)
2000m (2 laps)
2:30pm Under 11's (Years 5 & 6)
1000m (1 lap)
3pm Under 13's (Years 7 & 8)
1000m (1 lap)

£2.00 per entry

Entry forms from
Beacon Centre, North Shields or visit
www.notan.info



**Sunday 17th November
2019 from 1pm**



SIR JAMES KNOTT TRUST

Entries close: 8th November 2019.

Halloween pop up café and crafts at St Mary's Lighthouse

Looking for a fun half term activity?

Come join us for tasty treats and creepy crafts at our fun sessions in the lighthouse pop-up café serving hot drinks and snacks with lovely views.

Pop up café and crafts open...

Monday 28 th Oct	10:30 - 12:00
Tuesday 29 th Oct	10:30 - 12:00
Wednesday 30 th Oct	10:30 - 12:30
Thursday 31 st Oct	10:30 - 13:00



- Enjoy the views and wildlife as you walk over the causeway, visit the bird-hide on the island.
- All welcome, crafts are suitable for children over 3 and cost £3 per child (biscuit decorating, a hot chocolate and some fun craft activities which we recommend takes about 1 hour.) We suggest booking but you can also drop-in during the times above.
- The lighthouse is also open and you can climb it during the times listed above (£3.30 adult, £1.70 child over 5). Children must be accompanied.
- We sell hot drinks at 50p if you bring your own reusable (clean) mug (£1.70 if not)!

To book please call 0191 643 4778

