



# Vale School Newsfeed

11th September 2025

## Welcome back!

What an incredible start to the new school year. We have had a fantastic week and the children have all settled so well back into school life. The children have amazed us with their confidence and independence already, especially our Reception aged children who have enjoyed exploring their classrooms and getting to know their new teachers.

## Inter house Cross Country - Friday 26th September

On Friday 26th September we are going to be holding our Inter-House Cross Country event on the Gallops. The children in Years 1 to 6 will take part in a race during the morning. Parents and Carers are very welcome to come along and cheer the children on. The children can come into school on this day in their PE kits and suitable footwear to run (trainers are best). We also ask that they wear a coloured t-shirt to represent their house colour.

House coloured T-shirts will be available to purchase from Friends of Vale starting next week. They will be selling them outside the front gates, and both cash and card payments will be accepted.

## Running order:

| Time    | Year Group | Race                                     |
|---------|------------|------------------------------------------|
| 9.10am  | Year 6     | 1 Small, 1 Long (Start from outdoor gym) |
| 9.40am  | Year 2     | 1 Small Lap (Start at top of path)       |
| 10.00am | Year 1     | 1 Small lap (Start at top of path)       |
| 10.10am | Year 3     | 1 Small lap (Start from outdoor gym)     |
| 10.30am | Year 4     | 1 Long Lap (Start from outdoor gym)      |
| 10.50am | Year 5     | 2 Small Laps (Start from outdoor gym)    |

Early Years children will be running on our AstroTurf on Monday 29th September at 9:00am.

## Individual Photos

On Tuesday 7th October 2025 the children will have their individual photos taken. Children should come to school in their full school uniform with their school jumper and tie. If your child has PE that day, they should bring their PE kit to school. They will have an opportunity to change for their PE lesson.

## Autumn Term Clubs 2025

By now you should have received an email confirming what club/s your child has been successful in gaining a place on. All clubs re-start next week w/c 15th September. On the day's your child is attending a sports club please make sure they bring in a change of clothes and trainers. They will be given time to change in their year

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groups. The green gates will be opened at 3:55pm for you to wait on the main playground where the club leader will hand your children over.

If for any reason your child **cannot attend** a club it is your responsibility to let the office know at your earliest convenience. If we have not been notified we will contact you to make sure they have collected safely. It is really important that we know where they are if they were due to attend a club.

### **Vale Community Lunchtime**

We have been trialling new lunchtime arrangements since the start of term to provide the best experience for the children and staff. In particular, we wanted to bring children together in their houses to enjoy the social aspect of eating and chatting together. This has provided children with opportunities to talk to people they haven't spoken to before and build on their social skills and confidence.

We are working closely with Chartwells to bring about this positive change and ensure an enjoyable lunch for all.

We are pleased to have already received such positive feedback from staff and pupils and it has been an absolute joy to see the children smiling, chatting and enjoying their lunch together.

The main changes are:

- Children having packed lunch or a hot meal now eat together in the halls
- Both our halls are now open to accommodate all the children - picture Hogwarts style!
- Children have a full 30 minutes in the lunch hall and 30 minutes outside play
- Children sit in their house colours, in their phase year groups on a staggered timetable for service and eating e.g. Yr 1/2 together, Yr 3/4 together and Yr 5/6 together
- Yrs 1-6 have the same lunchtime 12:15-1:15 / Early Years 12-1pm
- We promote independence with cutlery caddies on the table for pupils to lay their own place, pupils clear away their plate and collect their pudding.
- We promote good manners and excellent behaviour in the lunch hall so that everyone can enjoy this time together

### **Height and Weight Checks for Children in Year 6**

Every year in England, school children in reception and year 6 have their height and weight checked at school. This is called the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP). The checks are carried out by members of the Healthy Child Programme (HCP) 5-19 team who have been appropriately trained. Children are measured fully clothed, except for their coats and shoes, in a private space away from other pupils. The programme will be delivered in a safe way, in line with the school and local authority's safety control measures and national guidance for schools and healthcare. You can watch the NCMP process animation. The animation explains the process of the NCMP and why it is important. It will guide you through what it involves, how your child's data is collected and processed and what it will be used for.

Year 6 parents would have received more information on this this week and a date the screening will take place is to follow. Reception children screening will be done later in the academic year and information will be sent to those parents nearer the time.

If you wish to opt your child **OUT** of the programme please contact the nursing team on Tel: 0300 303 1137 option 2 email: [sc-tr.westsussexhealthychildprogramme@nhs.net](mailto:sc-tr.westsussexhealthychildprogramme@nhs.net) Children will not be made to take part on the day if they do not want to.

### **Starting School In September 2026**

We are now running tours for prospective parents of children who will start school in September 2026. We will be posting on Facebook & Instagram but if you can spread the word to friends and family, it would be much appreciated.

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If you would like to book a place on a tour please contact us on 01903 872322 or email the office on [office@valeschool.org](mailto:office@valeschool.org) or by scanning the QR code on the flyer. This will direct you to Eventbrite, where you can book a prospective parent tour. Alternatively, you can click the link below to access the booking page directly:  
[Book a School Tour on Eventbrite](#)

## Year 6 - Secondary School Applications for September 2026

The application process for children due to start secondary school in September 2026 opened on 8th September 2025. Please ensure you submit your application by the deadline of **31st October 2025**. For more information, please see the leaflet's attached at the bottom of this newsfeed.

## Parking & Safety Reminder

Can we please encourage everyone to park responsibly when dropping off or picking up your children each day. Please avoid parking on double yellow lines and particularly near the 4 corners of Vale Drive and Vale Avenue. These must be kept clear to enable pupils to cross safely. Unfortunately, we have already had a couple of complaints this week from local residents who haven't been able to leave their driveways due to inconsiderate parking. Thank you for your support in making the roads around school as safe as we can for our children.

## Useful links:

[Final Letter to parents for secondary transfer 2026](#)

[Secondary School Admissions Poster 2026](#)

[Final Secondary School Admissions Leaflet 2026](#)

[SEND-IAS Admissions poster 2026](#)

[Final checklist for applying for a school place](#)

[Vale New Starters 2026 Flyer/tours](#)

[St Oscar Romero's Open Evening 2025](#)

[St Andrews High School Open Events](#)

[Bohunt High School Open Events](#)

[Durrington High School Open evening](#)

[Drumming Lessons At Vale School](#)

[Vale Primary School Singing Recruitment](#)

## 2025/26 Academic Year - Important Dates to Remember...

|                    |                          |                                        |
|--------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>Autumn Term</b> | Individual Photo's       | 7th October 2025                       |
|                    | Interhouse Cross Country | Friday 26th September                  |
|                    | Reception Cross Country  | Monday 29th September                  |
|                    | Half Term                | Monday 27th - Friday 31st October 2025 |
|                    | INSET Day                | Monday 24th November 2025              |
|                    | Last Day of Term         | Friday 19th December 2025              |

## Term Dates and INSET Days for 2026

|                         |                       |                                         |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>Spring Term 2026</b> | First day Spring Term | Monday 5th January 2026                 |
|                         | INSET Day             | Friday 13th February 2026               |
|                         | Half Term             | Monday 16th - Friday 20th February 2026 |

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|                         |                       |                                    |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|
|                         | Last day of Term      | Friday 27th March 2026             |
| <b>Summer Term 2026</b> | First day Summer Term | Monday 13th April 2026             |
|                         | May Bank Holiday      | Monday 4th May 2026                |
|                         | INSET day             | Friday 22nd May 2026               |
|                         | Half Term             | Monday 25th - Friday 29th May 2026 |
|                         | INSET day             | Monday 29th June 2026              |
|                         | Last day of Term      | Wednesday 22nd July 2026           |

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