

Parent Newsletter

Friday 1 December 2023

Dear Parent and Carers

I hope you've had a positive week.

As we move into the Christmas season, we are looking forward to a number of community events at school and in Stockbridge. We will be having Christmas lunch on 13th December; I hope as many pupils as possible can come together for this special occasion. Christmas Jumpers may also be worn on this day, normal uniform rules apply for the shirt, skirt, trousers and school shoes. Also, on the 13th December, we will also be holding our annual Christmas Concert at St Peter's Church 7:00-8:00pm, it would be lovely if you could join us to for this magical event.

Back by popular demand is our Year 7&8 Christmas Disco on Friday 8th December, kindly organised by our wonderful PTA, I'm sure it will be a night to remember!

This week a large number of pupils have completed a well-being questionnaire supplied by the #BeeWell Team, we will be using data from this research to adapt our PSHE and RSHE lessons in the new year. Many thanks to all who took their time to complete it.

As previously mentioned, we'd like to capture some more parent and carer voice to help us benchmark against our school improvement priorities. Please could I trouble you to spend a few minutes completing the questionnaire in this [\(link\)](#). Many thanks to those of you who completed the surveys at the end of the Year 10 Parent and Carers evening on Thursday, we're grateful for your feedback.

Our drive to engage all parents with ClassCharts has been a real success, 79% of parents have viewed their child's ClassCharts account so far. It would be great if we could hit 100% before the end of the term!

Our attendance has dipped a little since last week, I appreciate flu season is well upon us and we're all starting to feel tired. Please do encourage your child to attend as far as possible, it's vital learning time isn't lost. Our Attendance Officer has had to chase a number of parents this week as they haven't reported that their child is off school, please can you use the following link to report an absence. We need to know why pupils are absent and this has to be reported to the local authority.

Absence Line: 01264 810555 Option 1 or online absence reporting [\(link\)](#)

As the temperature has plummeted this week I've noticed a number of pupils without coats, please encourage your child to wear one to keep warm. I can see a few more trainers appearing, please do ensure school shoes are worn, I need to be fair to all pupils. If there's a legitimate reason, please supply a note and a uniform card will be supplied.

Finally, a polite reminder that we have an Inset day on Monday 4th December 2023, staff are undertaking training on Adaptive Teaching strategies as well as gaining a better understanding of children with Neuro diversity. Our last day of term is Friday 15th December, all pupils will be expected on that day, we will break up at 12:50pm, buses have been notified of the early finish. Have a lovely weekend when it comes.

Warm wishes
Nicky Goodridge

More about all the activities occurring in and out of lessons at Test Valley School can be found on our Facebook page: Test Valley School, Twitter Feed: @testvalleysch and Instagram Account: testvalleyofficial. Reshares and likes are always appreciated!

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Vacancies

Please see our website for current vacancies: [Test Valley School - Vacancies](#)

Venue Hire

Do you require a room for a meeting or sports event? School facilities are available to hire outside of the school day. Please email leisure@testvalley.hants.sch.uk for all enquiries.

Forthcoming Dates

w/c 4 December is Week 1 Timetable

- 4 December – INSET Day
- 5-7 December – Yr 9 Exams
- 8 December – Yr 7 & 8 Christmas Disco
- 13 December – Pupil Christmas Lunch
- 13 December – Christmas Carol Concert, St Peter's Church
- 15 December – End of Term, School closes at 12.50pm

Late Registration

If your child comes into school after the gate has closed for registration, for example after an appointment or being stuck in traffic, can you remind them to come straight down to Reception where we can sign them in before they head off to lessons. This helps to ensure we know exactly who is on site, vital for keeping our students safe particularly in an emergency situation.

Thank you for your help with this.

Consultation on the 2025/26 admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools

Hampshire County Council, in accordance with statutory requirements, is consulting on changes to its admission arrangements for 2025/26 for community and voluntary controlled schools within its area and is seeking your views.

You can view the full consultation, including how to respond, at:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/aboutthecouncil/haveyoursay/consultations/admission-arrangements25-26>

The consultation will run from Monday 13 November to Friday 29 December 2023.

Peter Symonds College Applications

Year 11: Please note that the application window for Peter Symonds College closes on **Monday 11 December**.

Christmas Lunch



This year we will be having Christmas Lunch on Wednesday 13 December. Please look out for the communication which will be sent home shortly. A reply will be required from all parents to confirm if you wish your child/children to have a lunch provided or not, and menu choices. Thank you.

Christmas Concert

We will be holding our annual Christmas Concert at St Peter's Church in Stockbridge on the evening of Wednesday 13 December. Further information will follow.

PTA – Chocolate Tombola



Thank you to everyone who has donated to the Chocolate Tombola.

The PTA will be holding the chocolate tombola at the Stockbridge Lights switch on being held on Friday 1 December.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

All monies raised will support the school and our children's learning by providing equipment and resources.

Sports roundup

We had a busy week last week with pupils showing commitment, resilience and determination in a variety of sports, gaining a few wins and losses along the way. Every child tried incredibly hard and represented Test Valley in its best light. Well done all no matter what the result.

- U16 Girls basketball won 38 - 6 away at Romsey with the bare 5 players.
- U16 Boys basketball lost 40 - 9 to Cantell.
- Girls U13 football team took part in the Andover and District tournament at John Hanson.
- Girls U16 netball team went down 16 - 7 to John Hanson
- U14 Girls netball team went down 16 - 10 to Harrow Way.

Finally, the Year 7 & 8 Dodge ball squad played at a tournament at Peter Symonds College having a great time against schools from all over.

Celebrations

We love hearing about what our pupils do outside of school and below is a small snapshot of their recent achievements:



Another great week for Victoria, she represented Test Valley School at the SW Regional Shooting Championships run by British Shooting. The event was very hard fought with over 60 pupils in the junior section. The National Schools Shooting sees athletes shoot air pistol from 10 metres at four separate targets with 5 shots per target. Victoria shot a respectable 130. Some of the top shooters were scoring high 150s and even some scores of 160. Victoria finished in the top third. What an excellent achievement.



Congratulations to Tom E for his incredible performance in Priscilla Queen of the Desert at The Lights Andover this week, we're all proud very proud of you!

Shoutouts to our top  points earners w/c 20 November

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Jude B	William G	Chiedza M	Oliver L-C	Keysha M
Charlie K	Jack W	Nardia M	Zack S-J	Mollie S
Leo H	Mia H	Matilda L	Megan R	Chloe W
Ellie O'S	Victoria S	Joao Pedro T	Ailsa S	Esther M
Jude W	Grace R	Alexis B	Eleanor Y	Sam J

Year 11

Year 11 progress reports will be published on 14 December and we will be holding a Parent/Carer Consultation Evening on Wednesday 3 January.

Andover Rotary Club Competition

Please find below some information regarding some competitions being run by Andover Rotary. Any pupils wishing to take part can get an information pack and application form from:

Young Chef: Mrs Davey or Mrs Vincent.



Calling all young chefs

Fancy yourself as a budding cook? Put your culinary skills to the test and have your two course meal judged by industry professionals as part of the annual Rotary Young Chef competition. (Age 12 to 16)

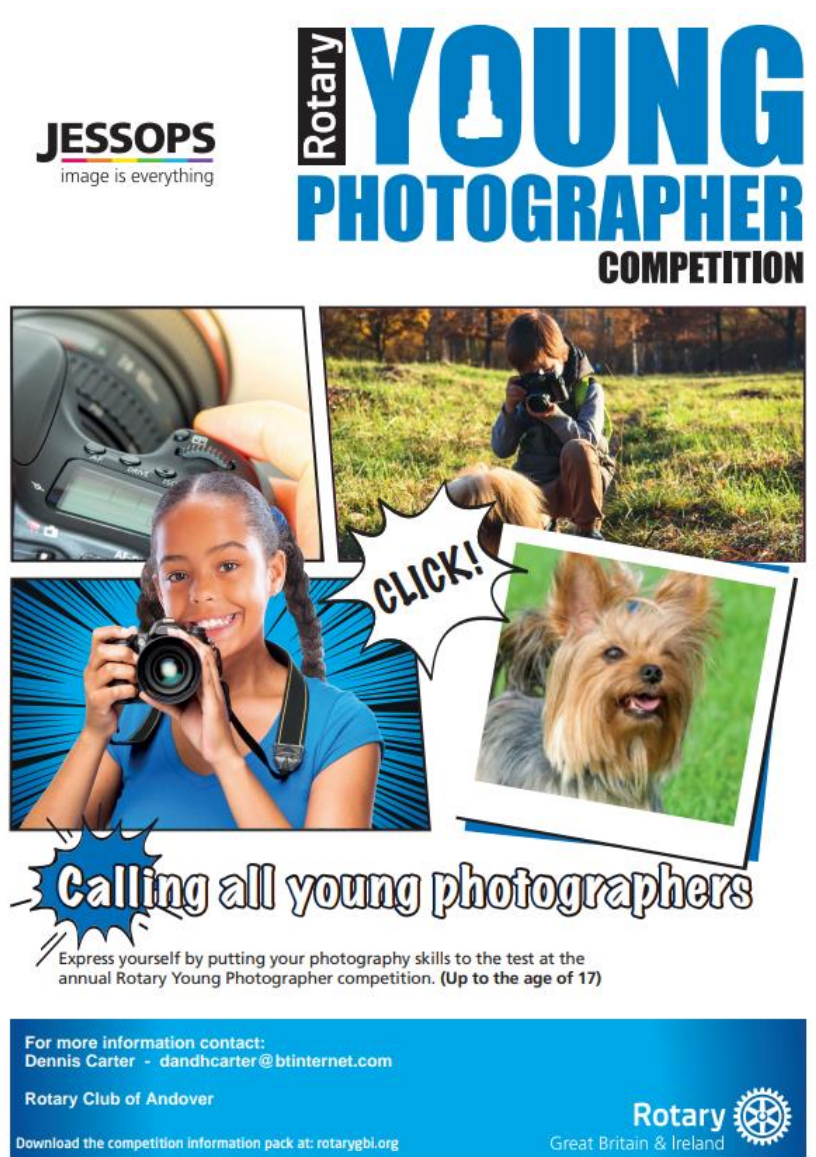
For more information contact:
Ian Carpenter - carpenterpantiles@btinternet.com

Rotary Club of Andover

Download the competition information pack at: rotarygbt.org

Rotary Great Britain & Ireland 

Young Photographer: please see Mrs Brush for an information pack and entry form.



The poster features the Jessops logo (image is everything) and the Rotary Young Photographer Competition title. It includes images of a camera lens, a young girl taking a photo, a person in a field, and a photo of a dog with a 'CLICK!' speech bubble. The text 'Calling all young photographers' is written in a stylized font, followed by the invitation to participate in the annual competition (up to age 17). Contact information for Dennis Carter is provided, along with the Rotary Club of Andover logo and the website rotarygb.org.

JESSOPS
image is everything

Rotary YOUNG PHOTOGRAPHER COMPETITION

Calling all young photographers

Express yourself by putting your photography skills to the test at the annual Rotary Young Photographer competition. (Up to the age of 17)

For more information contact:
Dennis Carter - dandhcarter@btinternet.com

Rotary Club of Andover

Download the competition information pack at: rotarygb.org

Rotary
Great Britain & Ireland

College Open Events

There is lots of information on our website regarding forthcoming College open events, including dates and how to book a place.

[Test Valley School - College Open Events](#)

Salisbury 6th Form College: [Test Valley School - Salisbury 6th Form College](#)

The application window is now open and closes on Wednesday 31 January 2024

Sparsholt College Open event: [Test Valley School - Sparsholt College](#)

Recommended to apply by 31 December 2023

Peter Symonds Open Event: [Test Valley School - Peter Symonds College](#)

The application window for PSC is now open and closes on Monday 11 December 2023

Andover College Open Event: [Test Valley School - Andover College](#)

Health and Wellbeing

Please see our website for more useful information: [Test Valley School - Wellbeing](#)



Community News

Please see information below from Hampshire County Council regarding their Winter 2024 timetable of courses/events.

Test Valley Family Support Service Core Timetable

Winter Term – January – March 2024

Half Term – 12th – 16th February 2024

Day	Time	Group Name	Details	Venue	Frequency	Booking
Monday	10:00am to 11:30am	FSS Coffee and Catch Up (Andover)	For any parents who have accessed Early Help Support via level 2 or 3	Spring Meadow (Andover)	Monthly Last Monday of the month	Level 2 request for service form to be completed and returned to FSS Duty. testvalley.earlyhelp@hants.gov.uk Facilitator: Hilary Briley
	7.00pm – 9.00pm	Family Links Nurture Programme 	For parents with children aged 5 – 12 (Positive behaviour and emotional development)	Via Microsoft Teams	10 Week Course 8th January – 18th March (No session during half term)	Level 2 request for service form to be completed and returned to FSS Duty. testvalley.earlyhelp@hants.gov.uk (01962) 846363 Facilitators: Abby Courtney & Jane Vella
	3:00pm to 4:30pm	Peer Supervision for EHCs	Case discussion for Early Help Coordinators	Via Microsoft Teams	Every other week	For more information, please contact our ATM Sarah Farrow Sarah.Farrow@hants.gov.uk
Tuesday	12.00pm – 2.00pm	ACEs (adults)	For parents who have experienced Adverse Childhood Experiences	Spring Meadow (Andover) (Copse)	10 Week Course 3rd January – 13th March (No session during half term)	Level 2 request for service form to be completed and returned to FSS Duty. testvalley.earlyhelp@hants.gov.uk (01962) 846363 Facilitator: Annie Guest & Lauren Burrows
Wednesday	7.00pm – 8.30pm	Family Links - Talking Teens 	For parents with or preparing for teenage children (Positive behaviour strategies and emotional development)	Virtually (Microsoft Teams)	4 Week Course 28th February – 20th March	Level 2 request for service form to be completed and returned to FSS Duty. testvalley.earlyhelp@hants.gov.uk (01962) 846363 Facilitators: Melody Lee & Hilary Briley

Thursday	10am to 12pm	NVR	For parents with children aged 8 - 18, who are being abusive or violent toward them or who appear out of parental control	Spring Meadow (Andover) (Copse)	10 Week Course 11th January – 21st March (No session during half term)	Level 2 request for service form to be completed and returned to FSS Duty. testvalley.earlyhelp@hants.gov.uk (01962) 846363 Facilitator: Bryony Lewis & Kalbe Wallace
	12:15pm to 2:30pm	Early Help Hub	Professionals only	Via Microsoft Teams	Weekly Every Thursday	Professional Invite only Please contact our admin, Ann, for more information Ann.Richards1@hants.gov.uk or testvalley.earlyhelp@hants.gov.uk
Weekly Appointment Available		SOS Appointments	1hr appointment with our AFSW for signposting and guidance on a single issue of need	Flexible to suit the needs of the parent	One off appointment	Level 2 request for service form to be completed and returned to FSS Duty. testvalley.earlyhelp@hants.gov.uk (01962) 846363 Facilitator: Hilary Brlley
Saturday	9:00am to 12:00pm	Me and My Dad's Club	Dads and their children stay and play session	Spring Meadow (Andover)	Every other Saturday	For more information: https://en-gb.facebook.com/MeandMyDadClub

Agency	Address	Telephone Numbers
Test Valley Family Support Service	Spring Meadow, Smannell Road, Andover, SP11 6JP Facilitating Hub, the Nurture Programme, Talking Teens, 0-5 Workshops, HENRY, Tots Talking, ACEs, NVR, WIC and SOS appointments.	Professional Consultation Line Daily available Monday to Friday 8.30am to 5pm (4.30pm on Fridays) on: 01962 846363 Email: testvalley.earlyhelp@hants.gov.uk
Me & My Dad's Club	Spring Meadow Children's Centre on every other Saturday	https://en-gb.facebook.com/MeandMyDadClub/
Andover & Winchester Barnardos	Hampshire Primary Care Trust, Unit 3 Tidbury Farm, Sutton Scotney, Winchester, Hampshire, SO21 3QQ	https://hampshirehealthyfamilies.eventbrite.co.uk/

Programme info:

[\(please click the hyperlinks to be directed to the course/project's websites\)](#)

What is Family Links Parenting?

Nurture Programmes provide adults and children with understanding and skills to lead **emotionally healthy lives, build resilience, empathy, self-esteem and support positive relationships**. 2015 research showed: On average 8 out of 10 parents attending groups report significant improvements in their children's behaviour and family life. For example, a significant reduction in conduct problems and hyperactivity, improvement in mental health outcomes for both children and their parents, an increase in levels of self-efficacy in 8 dimensions of parenting: emotion and affection, play and enjoyment, empathy and understanding, control, discipline and boundary setting, self-acceptance and learning and knowledge. Parent Group Leaders report more parents entering education, training and employment, and a reduction in the number of children subject to safeguarding plans.

We have programmes suitable for parents of children from 0- 19 years:

- A 4-week **0-5 early years workshop** which focuses on early relationships, the importance of play, routines, and early communication.
- A 10-week **primary school age group** developing positive behaviour strategies, collaborative rewards, communication, negotiation, developing empathic and emotionally secure children, and building resilience and self-esteem in children and parents.
- A 4 week **Talking Teens Programme** - Using the most recent research on adolescence, and consistent with the principles of the Nurturing Programme, the group provides a positive view of teenage development and focus' on improving relationships within the family, communication, negotiating, decision-making, and strategies to reduce conflict. The programme increases parents' understanding of teenagers' feelings and behaviour and delivers key strategies for maintaining and improving relationships. Key topics include exploring the importance of parents for teenagers, developing parents' understanding of teenage development and influences of the brain.

What is Who's in Charge?

Who's in Charge? is an **8-week child to parent violence programme** aimed at parents whose children are being abusive or violent toward them or who appear out of parental control. The first part of the programme aims to **change parental attitude, and in particular reduce blame, guilt and shame**. The second part of the programme **explores the use of consequences** to change unwanted behaviour. This has similarities to the content of mainstream parenting programmes, but there are important differences. The third part of the programme **supports parents to make changes within the home** while working on a few advanced topics; **anger; assertiveness; self-care**.

What is ACEs?

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are stressful events occurring in childhood that can negatively influence how individuals live their lives. The ACEs course uses a **trauma informed approach** and a **strength-based perspective** to help parents to **understand the possible impacts** of ACEs on family's **emotional, psychological and physical wellbeing, development and health** and empowers them to address them. A **10-week course** for parents of children who have experienced ACEs.

What is NVR?

Non-violent resistance (NVR) addresses violent, destructive and harmful behaviours in children and adolescents. The methods and ideas of non-violent direct action and resistance from Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King and Rosa Parks are used in community and family settings to help parents and carers with their parenting. NVR can help parents and carers overcome their sense of helplessness. It can help develop a support network that will stop violent and destructive behaviours both in and out of the home. It can improve relationships between family members and the outside world. 9 weeks course of **2-hour** sessions.

What are SOS appointments?

This is a **1-hour appointment** for a family to sit with a family support worker for **advice, guidance and sign posting at level 2** for a single issue of need. For example, challenging behaviour, eating, financial concerns, housing, parenting challenges, substance misuse, routines, toileting, anxiety, personal hygiene, sleep, or any other single issue. A **professional referral** should be made to the family support service by another agency or practitioner using the level 2 referral form. **Signed parental consent** on the form is essential. Once the referral has been received, an appointment will be made to see the family (not in the family home), to discuss the issue

and provide advice and support. The Family Support Worker will then **follow up** after a period of time to review progress and find out if any further support is needed. To request referral level 2 referral form please email testvalley.earlyhelp@hants.gov.uk

What is Back to Basics?

An approach that may help empower parents and carers to support their child's emotional wellbeing **within the home**.

Looking after the family's wellbeing is very important. Families all need some help from time to time due to life changes or events. Using the back-to-basics approach can empower you to take control using the 5 ways to wellbeing.



Waiting lists are available for the following courses:

What is Tots Talking?

Tots Talking is a targeted 8-week speech and Language course where practitioners share the Programme with parents and children through conversations and joint activities focusing on aspects of speech, language, and learning. Each session is based on a child development topic, which contains:

- talk time, to share key ideas with parents and carers
- ways to put ORIM into action (Opportunities, Recognition, Interaction, Modelling)
- songs and rhymes
- books and stories
- creative play activities (during the session and/or ideas to try at home).

Singing, talking, and playing together help strengthen relationships and develop children's listening, talking and later literacy.

What is Henry?

The HENRY group aims to promote **Healthy Eating, Exercise and Nutrition in the Really Young (0-8)**. This is done by supporting the whole family to make **positive lifestyle changes**, creating **healthier and happier home environments**.

All of our support for families is underpinned by the HENRY approach to supporting behaviour change which helps parents **gain the confidence, knowledge and skills** they need to help the whole family adopt a healthier, happier lifestyle and to give their children a great start in life.

What is Growing Together?

A group for young parents who have either attended You Matter or would like to. The group is a space to meet others who have experienced some of life's challenges, build friendships and have a place for their children to socialize with other children. <http://www.ybrp.org.uk/>

What is Dad's Club?

Me and my Dad Club is an Andover based group set-up to encourage **fathers** to spend more **quality time** with their **children up to age 8**. Meeting every other Saturday morning, fathers have fun and relaxed space to spend time with other dads. See Facebook page for more information.

Extra Curricular PE Activities

The following activities are available for pupils to take part in, just turn up and have a go.

Day	2 nd Break 13.50 – 14.15	After School 15.20 – 16.30
Monday	Girls Basketball All years Sports hall - MT	Netball All years Sports hall – SD & KE
Tuesday		Indoor football Year 7 & 8 Sports hall – CF
Wednesday	Badminton Club All years	Indoor football Year 9, 10 & 11

	Sports Hall - RB	Sports hall - MT
Thursday	Boys Basketball All years Sports hall CF	(*Boxing Club All Years Gym) (TBC)
Friday	Dodgeball Club Years 7 & 8 Sports Hall - CF	Badminton All staff & pupils Sports Hall

* Payment for this activity will be required in advance.

Activities at 2nd break will require pupils to change into their PE shirt & trainers but they do not have to wear shorts, this is to reduce changing time.

After School Clubs – Autumn Term

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
School Production Rehearsals Room 42 (3.20pm-5pm) Commences w/c 16 Oct Mrs Brush	MFL Club (Room 62) Mr Wareham	STEM Club Mrs White	Art - Postponed until further notice	Badminton All staff & Pupils (Sports Hall)
Netball all year groups (3.30- 4.20pm) Sports Hall Mrs Dunn and Mrs Wray	Humanities Film/documentary Club (3.20-4.20pm) Ms Martin	Indoor football Yrs 9, 10 & 11 (Sports Hall) Mr Thomas	*Boxing Club All Years (Gym)	
Homework Club (3.20-4.20pm) Room 1 Mrs Ling	Indoor football Yrs 7 & 8 (Sports Hall) Mr Falkingham		Homework Club (3.20-4.20pm) Room 1 Mrs Ling	
	Homework Club (3.20-4.20pm) Room 1 Mrs Ling			
*Payment for this activity will be required in advance				

Have a concern about you or
someone else?



At Test Valley we are committed to building an engaging inclusive environment where success and excellence is experienced by all. We will achieve this by ensuring:

KINDNESS

We always show care, respect and consideration for each other. Test Valley is a warm, welcoming and safe place for all.

RESILIENCE

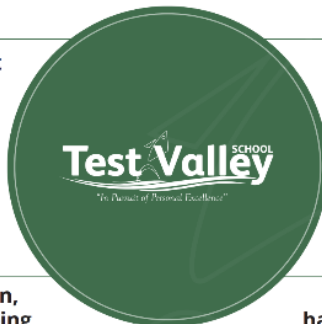
We show courage by not giving in, challenging ourselves, stepping out of our comfort zones and not fearing failure.

EXCELLENCE

We are relentlessly determined to strive for the best in all we do; developing excellent learning habits which help us to grow.

EMPOWERMENT

We help pupils to evolve into happy, independent, knowledge rich citizens who have the skills to make a real difference in our ever changing world.



In pursuit of personal excellence you must dream big work hard and make it happen.