



Valley Park Parish Council Newsletter

2023 - Spring Edition

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To keep up to date visit our website at www.valleyparkparish.org or visit our Facebook Page @ValleyParkPC

Community Orchards

Children from St Francis CoE and Knightwood Primary Schools helped plant the community orchards in early February in six different locations: Sandringham Close, Hornbeam Road, Fairbairn Walk, Wood End Way, Wicklow Drive & Salcombe Close.

The children were assisted by the Mayor of Test Valley and Chairman of Valley Park Parish Council, Councillor Alan Dowden and Councillor Celia Dowden. The Parish Council would like to thank Test Valley Borough Council for providing the community infrastructure levy money for the parish to enable planting of these orchards and wild



Valley Park Council Tax

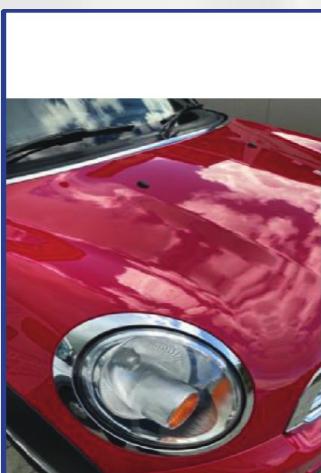
Valley Park has maintained the lowest Council Tax in Test Valley Borough by far. The Parish has reduced its element of the Council Tax by 40% from 14 years ago. In our neighbouring parishes, the rates are much higher.

Comparison of Parish element of the Tax at Band D



Voter ID

Voter ID is coming!



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News from Knightwood Primary School

Knightwood children have had a busy start to the school year. Here are a few highlights of the learning and activities the children have got up to!

Year 5 visited the Monks Brook river to complete some fieldwork, where we identified key features and processes of the river. Despite it being freezing, Year 5 were able to apply all of their learning in the classroom to their local river using key geographical terminology. The fieldwork will help towards comparing their local river to a national river (River Tees) and an international river (The Amazon) to help answer our big question.



Year 6 have been enjoying their World War II topic and learning about the Battle of Britain. We have been researching facts about this and summarising what they had found out in a variety of ways. Many chose to present their findings in the form of a TV show. It was fantastic to see the children being creative, having fun and showing off what they had learnt.



Year R had a 'buddy morning' with Year 6 pupils and designed emotion monsters. They enjoyed spending time together and talking about different emotions.



Year 2 have had a really fun week full of Titanic themed activities. On our Titanic Day we explored artefacts, discussed who was to blame for the tragedy and had a first class tea party. It helped us to imagine what life would be like on

We also went to the Sea City where we enjoyed taking part in activities where some passengers lived.



In Year 1, we have been designing and making our own farmer puppets to retell the story *Pig in the Pond*. First we tested which fasteners would join the arms and legs to the body so they could move but our puppet would still be strong—split pins were the clear winners! Then we cut and fastened it all together. Year R our brilliant work!



In Year 3 we finished our Stone Age survival kits! Our topic question this half term has been "What Did People Need to Survive in the Stone Age?" We made necklaces out of clay, turned shoe boxes into Neolithic houses and even tried flint knapping with soap! We have really enjoyed our active history!

News from St Francis CoE Primary School

Champagne Badminton!

Fabulous news! We entered the local schools Badminton tournament and absolutely smashed it! We won convincingly. Playing 12 matches, children participated in singles and in double based games. The format of the tournament was the winner would be the team with the most points gained from all the games. We won every game and earned an eye-watering total of 448 points from our games!

Despite destroying their opposition, what was also on display was fantastic sporting attitudes. All of them went out of their way to support each other and other teams at the tournament. This is a common characteristic of children of St Francis. We are all very proud of them: worthy winners. They went on to represent St Francis at the Hampshire School Games Badminton Final event.



Music Stars

Well done to Grace and Mia in Year 6 who have both just passed their grade 3 violin exam with distinction!

Grace and Mia both travelled to Portwood Church to complete this.

We are very proud of you, girls. Well done.



As part of this half term's RE Topic, The Gospel, we spent some time at the church with Reverend Sarah asking her what it takes to be a church leader.

We had great fun finding out what Sarah does during the week and we were amazed at just how many people Sarah works with.

The children listened to her answers carefully and they have since used the information in RE lessons.