Valley View Voice

Friday 23rd October 2026

Smartphones have brought lots of benefits, but there is a growing conversation about what they might also be taking away from childhood. Parents can feel they wish they had waited, teachers are concerned about the impact of smartphones on learning, friendships and focus, and many young people themselves say they would like technology to have less of a hold on their lives.

This leaves families in a really difficult position. When it feels as though everyone else has a smartphone, saying 'not yet' can feel like you are making your child the odd one out. Saying 'yes', though, can bring a whole new set of worries. It shouldn't be a decision that families feel they have to navigate alone.

At Valley View, we think this is a conversation worth having together. The Smartphone Free Childhood campaign has some useful questions, information and resources to help families think about smartphones, social media and when the right time might be. The movement is centred on families supporting one another to delay smartphones and social media rather than having to make these choices in isolation.

With half term ahead, perhaps it's simply a timely reminder of the things children have always needed: time to play, talk, explore, create, spend time with friends and family, and occasionally have nothing at all to do. There are no easy answers when it comes to smartphones, but talking about it openly, sharing experiences and making space for childhood feels like a pretty good place to start. Have a great half term and I look forward to seeing you again on Monday 2nd November.

Mrs Claire Griffiths, Headteacher

Attendance

Last week's attendance was 95.66%. Well done to the children who won the Friday raffle - we will continue this next half term to motivate Friday attendance, as it is still a lower day. Children receive one raffle ticket for each Friday they are in school to work towards a prize that they helped choose.

Nursery - 97.06%
Reception - 95.23%
Year 1 - 93.75%
Year 2 - 98.00%
Year 3 - 97.02%
Year 4 - 94.50%
Year 5 - 94.71%
Year 6 - 95.96%

The class with the highest attendance last week was Derwent, who have won themselves an extra playtime!

Bonfire Night Menu

After half term, in celebration of Bonfire Night on Thursday 5th November the kitchen will be cooking a special menu. As this is normally Roast Dinner Day - which is a favourite of all - we have moved this to Wednesday instead. Details are on SchoolGrid and you can find the full menu here. Please be aware if you order your dinners in advance you may need to re-order due to the change in menus.

Halloween & Bonfire Night

With Halloween and Bonfire Night just around the corner, many of our families will be looking forward to trick-or-treating, fireworks and spending time together over half term.

The West Cluster has asked local schools to share a few simple safety reminders with families.

Please take care when you're out and about, particularly on darker evenings, and help children to enjoy the celebrations safely and respectfully. Fireworks should be left to adults, and under-18s must not possess fireworks in a public place.

Most of all, we hope everyone has a lovely half term filled with family time, fun and perhaps a few treats too!

Santa is Returning to Valley View!

We are happy to announce that Santa will be back at the lodge this year! Tickets will be on sale from Monday 2nd November. Be sure to check out ParentPay to book your time. This year tickets will cost £7.50 and are available on a first come first served basis.

School Photographs

School photograph proofs are coming home with children today with details of how to order through Tempest should you wish to.

Notification of admission policy consultation

Leeds City Council is running a public consultation on the 2028/29 admission policy for Leeds community and voluntary controlled schools. You can share your views until 2 December. Find out more at www.leeds.gov.uk/SchoolAdmissionsConsultations

Cheerdance News!

On Tuesday a group of children from Year 5 and 6 took part in a cheerleading workshop at Leeds West Academy. They had a great time and learnt some tricky moves! Well done to all involved.

Sponsored Colour Run

We want to thank all families who took part in the Sponsored Colour Run. We have had a re-count of the money raised, and thanks to your amazing efforts we have raised £2714.53! This is an amazing amount to have raised, thank you! Plans are underway to get quotes for the new climbing frame.

Music Champions

We hope parents and carers have spotted our new banner outside school—and it survives the wind coming this weekend! We are delighted that Valley View has achieved **ArtForms Music Champion School status**, joining just 16 schools recognised in this year's awards. This celebrates our commitment to music education, the positive difference music makes to our pupils' lives and the opportunities we provide for children to develop their musical creativity. We are incredibly proud of our enthusiastic young musicians and grateful to our staff, families and wider community for helping music to thrive at Valley View.

Autumn Disco

We hope all the children enjoyed the Autumn Discos held in school this week. Thank you to the PTA and staff who helped on the nights. The PTA have raised nearly £800 so far, with money still to come through from ParentPay, this could rise even further!

Our Focus

As a school, we're always looking ahead and building on our strengths to ensure every child thrives. This year, we are focusing on the following areas:

Attendance

- Helping every child to attend school regularly and achieve their best.
- Providing extra support for pupils who need it, including vulnerable pupils and those with SEND.

Personal Development and Pupil Leadership

- Ensuring children develop confidence, resilience and the skills they need for future success.
- Promoting wellbeing, safety, enrichment and wider life experiences.
- Creating more opportunities for children to lead, contribute their ideas and make a positive difference in school.
- Encouraging responsibility, citizenship and active participation in school life.

SEND

- Ensuring pupils with SEND are fully included and supported to achieve well.
- Continuing to develop high-quality teaching that meets the needs of all learners.

Curriculum, Leadership and Governance

- Strengthening our curriculum so that key knowledge is clearly taught, remembered and built upon.
- Developing leadership at all levels to drive ongoing school improvement and the best possible outcomes for pupils.
- Working closely with governors to provide effective support, challenge and strategic direction for the school.

Leeds West - Performing Arts Specialism Pathway

Leeds West Academy have asked us to share the information below with our Year 6 families. For pupils with a particular interest or passion for Performing Arts, they would love to introduce them to their Performing Arts Specialism pathway.

Specialism is a bespoke pathway that runs alongside their mainstream curriculum, giving students additional opportunities to develop their skills, confidence and creativity across Dance, Drama and Music. If your child is interested you can sign them up here.

Diary Dates

Oct	
Mon 19th	Training Day (school closed to all pupils)
Tues 20th	Individual school photos PTA Disco Y3 & 4
Wed 21st	Open Morning for Reception 2027 intake 9.15am PTA Disco Y1 & 2
Thurs 22nd	Leeds Utd session (Y5 only) PE kit needed PTA Disco Y5 & 6
Fri 23rd	Yr6 Height & Weight check. Break up for half term.
Nov	
Mon 2nd	Back to school
Tues 3rd	Open Evening for Reception 2027 intake 5.00pm
Thurs 12th	Open Morning for Reception 2027 intake 9.15am
Fri 13th	Children in Need
Mon 16th	Odd Socks Day - Anti Bullying
Dec	
Mon 7th	Yr3 Performance pm
Wed 9th	Reception Nativity
Tues 8th	Yr3 Performance am
Thurs 10th	Reception Nativity
Thurs 10th	Lineham Farm Parents Information Meeting 3.30pm
Thurs 17th	Christmas Jumper and Christmas Dinner Day
Fri 18th	Last day before Christmas holidays
Jan	
Mon 4th	Back to School

Is your child due to start secondary school in 2027?

You can apply online until **Saturday 31 October 2026** for a Year 7 place in **September 2027**

www.leeds.gov.uk/apply

Leeds

Star of the Week

Calder Class: Luna - *We have been so impressed with Luna's fantastic independent writing this week! She has written a wonderful ending to a story all on her own, making sure to apply all the new writing learning from this half term! A huge well done, Luna! Keep up the amazing work.*

Crimple Class: Rosie - *Rosie has impressed us all this week with how well she has risen to different challenges in writing. Her confidence, enthusiasm and determination to make her independent writing sentences the best they could be is amazing to see at this point in Year 1. She even did some independent edits in her green pen! Keep shining, Rosie!*

Deepdale Class: Deni - *Denni has worked hard in maths this week. She has been so focused and eager to join in during carpet time. Denni has also been independently using methods to work out problems. Her hard work is commendable. Well done, Denni!*

Derwent Class: Lyla - *Lyla has produced some amazing writing this week. She has created a lovely story, thinking carefully about what needs to be included and even edited her work! Well done Lyla!*

Hebble Class: Darcy - *Darcy is a very kind and friendly member of our class and she is a good friend to everybody. She also works hard in all her lessons and she is a superstar in our gymnastics lessons. Keep up the hard work Darcy!*

Humber Class: Jaxson - *Jaxson has worked very hard all half term and is a pleasure to have in class. He is kind and caring towards his friends and we have all seen his confidence grow this half term. He is participating more and more in class discussions and having the confidence to tackle tricky questions in class. Well done Jaxson and keep it up!*

Limley Class: Marnie - *Marnie is a delight to have in the classroom. She always tries her best and is an incredibly kind member of Limley. This week, she has impressed adults with her sewing skills. Marnie has shown great concentration whilst working on her Roman pouch and has even happily helped her peers when they found it tricky. Well done, Marnie!*

Loxley Class: Honey - *Honey has been an excellent role model this week at school. She always enters the classroom with a positive attitude and an excellent work ethic - showing her readiness to learn. Honey demonstrated these attributes in DT with her amazing attitude and determination designing and creating her Roman pouch. Excellent work, Honey!*

Ribble Class: Lexi - *Lexi has impressed all the adults in Ribble Class with her commitment to improving her attitude and throwing herself into every aspect of learning. We have been particularly impressed with her enthusiasm and effort in writing lessons. Well done, Lexi! Keep up the fantastic work!*

Ryburn Class: Sienna - *Sienna is such as hard worker and therefore a great learner. She is organised and is always thinking about her targets in order to improve.*

Washburn Class: Bella - *Bella is a valued member of Washburn Class. She approaches each day with enthusiasm, positivity and a bright smile. Bella contributes thoughtfully during lessons, listens carefully to others and shows respect. We are very proud of Bella and know she will continue to be a shining star. Well done, Bella!*

Wenning Class: Oliver - *Oliver has a fantastic attitude towards his learning. He is a very inquisitive learner who loves asking questions and finding out more about the world around him. Oliver always works hard and shows a real enthusiasm for learning. Well done - keep up the brilliant work!*