



Victor Seymour Infants' School Newsletter

Date of issue: October 2023

A word from Miss Morrissy

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,

It has been an absolute whirlwind of activity over the past half term. Our staff and children have worked so hard each day to learn as much as they can in the time they have been in school. It makes us all very proud to be a part of such an amazing community!



We hope that you have all enjoyed the opportunities to come into school and take part in class assemblies, Christmas performances, Learning Showcase, Stay and Play, Phonics workshop and Nursery workshops.

School Parliament have been absolute legends this term and have represented our school on so many occasions. We are all very proud of you! The PTA have had an outstanding series of events that have focussed on bringing the community together and raising money that will benefit every pupil at Victor Seymour. A massive thank you to each and every person who has taken the time, in whatever way they can, to support us. We have raised a whopping **£2420** at our Christmas Fair, **£500** from the Christmas Tree sales and **£170** from the hot chocolate stand... bringing the PTA fund to a total of **£3290**. Thank you to The PTA. Our choir performances at Laurel Lodge and at the Christmas Fair were a huge success! There will be many more performances in the future so watch this space!

I would like to thank our wonderful teaching team for consistently going above and beyond in everything that they do. I would also like to thank our talented catering team, Midday Supervisors, cleaning team, office team and the site team who make sure that the building in which we learn and work is always clean and safe, the food is always hot and delicious. A special mention to our wonderful office team who are always ready to help anyone in need.

We would like to wish you a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and a Happy New Year!

Stay safe and we shall see you on 8th January 2024!
Samantha Morrissy

Children In Need

Thank you so much for your contributions.
We raised an amazing £214!



Dates for the diary

Monday 8th January 2024 – First day back in school
Thursday 18th January – Wellbeing Coffee Morning
Friday 26th January – Pink Class assembly
Friday 2nd February – Lime Class assembly
Thursday 8th February – Valentine Disco
Friday 9th February – INSET day

HALF TERM: 12th–16th February

Tuesday 20th February
-YN Stay and Play – Gold 8:30am, Silver 8:30am and 3pm
-YR Stay and Play – 9am and 2:45pm
-Y1 and Y2 Learning Showcase – 9am and 2:45pm

Friday 23rd February – Purple Class assembly
Friday 1st March – Turquoise Class assembly
Thursday 7th March – World Book day (dress up to celebrate your favourite author or story!)
Friday 8th March – Green Class assembly
Tuesday 12th March – YR trip to Bockett's Farm
Friday 15th March – Indigo Class assembly
Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th March – Parents evening (in person)
Wednesday 27th March – Y2 trip to Hampton Court Palace
Thursday 28th March – Last day of the Spring Term

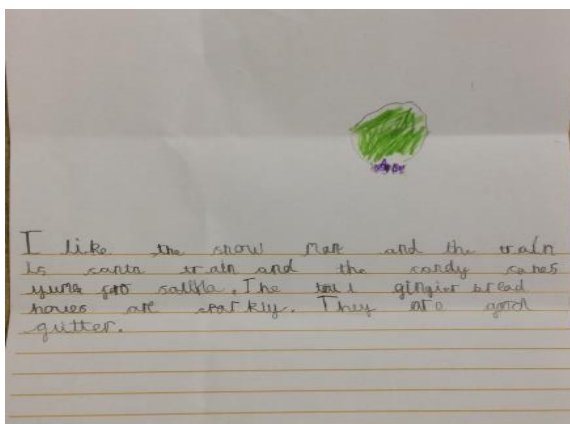
NURSERY

In Silver class this half term, we have explored many seasonal stories! We have had a runaway 'Gingerbread Man', we hunted for him in the classroom and drew wanted posters to find him! We read 'Stick Man' and found the real Stick Man in the Grove Park! We also explored the story of Diwali and painted mehndi on our hands as part of the Hindu festival! We perfected the art of putting on a Sari and enjoyed dancing whilst wearing them! Finally, we have loved decorating our classroom and learning about the story of Christmas, we have a kindness tree that has a bauble placed on it each time one of our friends is kind to the other! Amazing learning this half term Silver Class, we are so proud of you!



YEAR ONE

Green Class have their very own special Christmas display. The children have been writing about it.



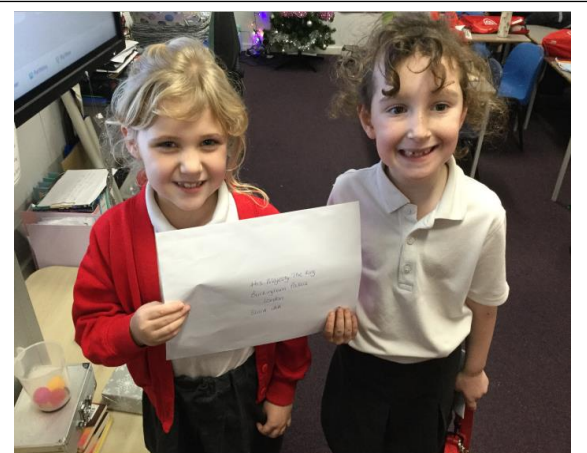
RECEPTION

In Red Class, Sid the Elf visited in the morning before everyone was awake and made the class a snowman. Sadly, the snowman melted but the children managed to put him back together again.



YEAR TWO

The children spent time learning a lot of facts about the King and the Royal family, so we decided to write letters to the King himself. The children wrote about our Royal Tea Party, wrote some facts they have learnt and asked a few questions. The children tried extremely hard with their letters, so we sent ALL the letters to Buckingham Palace. We are hoping to get a letter back in the New Year!



YEAR 2 ROYAL TEA PARTY

As an introduction to Year 2's new topic 'Bright Lights, Big City', the children attended a Royal Tea Party. They came in dressed up as if they were going to meet the King. The children spent the day learning about the Royal family and partaking in a Tea Party - which included a selection of sandwiches, biscuits and juice. The children learnt a lot and thoroughly enjoyed the day, especially eating afternoon tea!

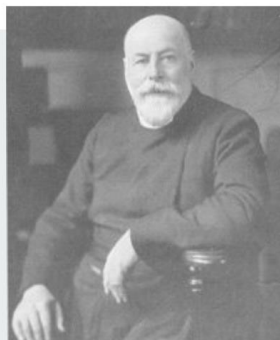


A BIG thank you to our staff in the school kitchen for serving all the children and staff a lovely Christmas Dinner. It was delicious and we loved every bite! It was a musical, festive feast for all.



Our visit to The War Memorial

Y1 and Y2 School Parliament visited the War Memorial on 10th November to lay the wreaths that we had made in school. Whilst we were there, we read a poem and studied the names that are written on the War Memorial. We also visited All Saints Church to pay our respects to the Fallen and have a tour of the church. The parish priests were kind enough to tell us a little information about Victor Seymour who was a Rector at All Saints in 1884. We had a wonderful time and learned so much.



Lord Victor Seymour became rector at the church in 1884 and was responsible for building the new parts of the church, as at the time the old church was unsafe.





Arriving late can affect your child's attendance!

Every minute counts



Lateness = lost learning

(Figures below are calculated over a school year)

5 minutes late each day	3 days lost!
10 minutes late each day	6.5 days lost!
15 minutes late each day	10 days lost!
20 minutes late each day	13 days lost!
30 minutes late each day	19 days lost!



As few as 19 missed reduces your child's SAT results across all subjects

days over the school year chances of success. Your could drop by one grade

Don't let your child miss out!

What you can do:

- Have a regular routine for the start of each day.
- Help your child get their clothes and equipment ready before they go to bed.
- Set a reasonable bed time to make sure they get enough sleep.

Get your child to school on time. If they are late they have a bad start to the day.

If your child arrives late for class:

- They miss out on important learning, which could effect their achievement.
- They don't have the social time to settle into class.
- It can be embarrassing for them.
- They may disrupt the learning of the rest of the class.

When should my child return to school?

NHS

Chicken Pox

When all spots have crusted over

Conjunctivitis

None*

Diarrhoea & Vomiting

48 hours from last episode

Glandular Fever

None*

Hand, foot & mouth

None*

Impetigo

When lesions are crusted & healed or 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics

Measles or German Measles

4 days from onset of rash

Mumps

5 days from onset of swelling

Scabies

After first treatment

Scarlet Fever

24 hours after commencing antibiotics

Slapped Cheek

None*

Whooping Cough

48 Hours after commencing antibiotics

Flu

Until recovered

Head Lice

None*

Threadworms

None*

Tonsillitis

None*



*No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed.



SCHOOL PARLIAMENT

School Parliament met with Will Smith, who is the CEO of Greenshaw Learning Trust. We asked him lots of questions and learned all about being a CEO!



SCHOOL CHOIR

School Choir completed their first performance at Laurel Lodge and the next day, we performed at the Christmas Fair! Christmas Jumper Day was celebrated at the same time so we all look decidedly Christmassy!!



LOCAL FAMILY INFORMATION

Wellbeing Coffee Morning

There will be a Wellbeing Coffee Morning in school on Thursday 18th January 2024 at 8:45am.

Everyone is welcome to come. There will be hot drinks and biscuits.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Family Hubs

Family Hub Connectors
Part of Sutton Family Information Service

We provide free information, advice and guidance on childcare, activities and support services in the London Borough of Sutton, for children and young people aged 0-19 (or 25 if the young person has additional needs) and their families.

You can contact the Family Hub Connectors via:

Telephone: 020 8770 6000
Email: familyinfo@sutton.gov.uk
Online: www.suttoninformationhub.org.uk or scan the QR code

Our Family Hub Connectors, regularly go into the community, visit our website to find out who your local connector is and where they are this week.

Sutton

PTA UPDATE

PTA Update

Thank you to everyone who joined in and contributed to events this year.

It's been a fantastic half term with some great fundraising activities and events for the school community.

Earlier in the term the children designed beautifully creative **Christmas cards** for their friends and families which raised £200 for the school.

The Christmas fair really got us in the spirit of the season, with wonderful singing from the children's and adult choirs, and lots of fun had across the games and crafts stalls. Raising a fantastic £2,420! Thank you to all the volunteers helping to run the event so smoothly.

A big thank you to Dave, Claire and volunteers for braving the wind and rain to run the **Christmas tree sale**, which raised a further £500. And to our brilliant hot chocolate makers keeping everyone warm on the last Friday of term with their delicious **hot chocolate** and cream, which raised an additional £170.

Elfridges is our final event of the year and we really hope all the children enjoy choosing a gift for their adult, family member or friend.

Thank you so much for all your support so far this year.

In total, activities and events this half term have raised £3,290 for the school!

This has meant the PTA can continue to fund extra activities for the children, including just this term, the Christmas Panto performance for Reception, Year 1 and Year 2, Christmas workshops for nursery and class Christmas presents for all.

This year we hope to put any extra money we raise towards improving the school playground.

We're really looking forward to holding more fun events for the school community in 2024, including a Valentines Disco and Bingo night.

Keep an eye out in the New Year for updates!

Contact us : myvspta@gmail.com

Christmas message from Mrs Wilkinson SENCO

Christmas can be an exciting and fun time for many of us, but it can be overwhelming for some children.

- Good planning and communication can help your child to enjoy Christmas with their family.
- Involving your child is central to successful planning for their needs.

Do what works for your family. There is no right way to celebrate

Preparing

Children and adults can find any kind of change difficult. Planning and preparation is key in making Christmas as enjoyable as possible.

- ❖ Think about ways you can enjoy the festive season that work for you – don't feel pressured into doing things just because that's what other people do.
- ❖ Wherever possible, plan your Christmas in advance with your family, friends.
- ❖ Make sure all plans are shared and you know what you will be doing and when, and who else will be there.
- ❖ If it is helpful, use visual aids such as calendars, lists and schedules to help plan your Christmas.
- ❖ Think about and plan around sensory differences that could cause you distress or discomfort, consider ear defenders etc for times of potential sensory overload.
- ❖ Create or find a quiet space where you can take a break if you get overwhelmed. You may want this to be a completely Christmas-free area, particularly around the main days of Christmas or at key times that there may be additional stress.
- ❖ Don't just plan for Christmas Day, plan for the whole festive break and give yourself quiet days to recoup if needed.
- ❖ If you're visiting family and friends, tell them about anything that could help make your visit be as stress-free as possible.

Schedules

Children have a strong need for routine. If schedule and routine is important to you, you might want to:

- ❖ Keep your daily schedule the same as possible, including on Christmas Day.
- ❖ Use visual timetables
- ❖ Gradually introduce Christmas activities into your daily schedule. For instance, you could put up a few decorations on one day and more on another, plan a short Christmas shopping trip or decorate the tree, then switch on the tree lights on another day.
- ❖ Keep a copy of your schedule with you when you go out.
- ❖ Talk to your child about Christmas in advance, and give them lots of information about the changes they'll see. It can also help to prepare for specific events - for example, if you're going to see Father Christmas, show them a photo of a man dressed as Father Christmas so they know what to expect.

Remember your survival strategies

Walking into a house full of relatives can be terrifying so when you're visiting, it's best to arrive before everyone else if you can.







































- ❖ Talk about 'safe zones' with your child and explain how they can always retreat somewhere if things get too much, even if it just means sitting outside in the car for a while.
- ❖ Take a pack of familiar things with you too.
A 'Survival Kit for Days Out' could include, the zones of regulation visual, a visual timetable, your child's preferred foods, their own cutlery and crockery, fidgets, a small weighted blanket, a phone or tablet (with charger and spare batteries), sunglasses, ear defenders or an iPod with ear buds, and a hoodie or hooded coat/cardigan to create a kind of portable safe space.
- ❖ Use the calm down techniques and strategies if you can see they are becoming overwhelmed before they reach the 'red zone'

Be good to yourself

Make time for yourself as well in the busy schedules, taking long baths or even put your feet up with a cup of tea– It is a busy time of year for all!







































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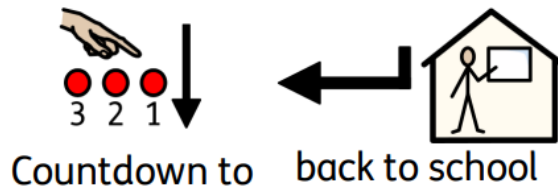



 Monday	 Tuesday	 Wednesday	 Thursday	 Friday	 Saturday	 Sunday
				1  School	2  Home	3  Home
4  School	5  School	6  School	7  School	8  School / Afterschool Christmas Fair	9  Home	10  Home
11  School	12  School / Reception Christmas Show	13  School / Year 1 Christmas Show	14  School / Year 2 Christmas Show	15  School	16  Home	17  Home
18  School	19  School	20  School	21  School	22  Home	23  Home	24  Home
25  Home	26  Home	27  Home	28  Home	29  Home	30  Home	31  Home

2024



 Monday	 Tuesday	 Wednesday	 Thursday	 Friday	 Saturday	 Sunday
1  Home	2  Home	3  Home	4  Home	5  Home	6  Home	7  Home
8  School	9  School	10  School	11  School	12  School	13  Home	14  Home
15  School	16  School	17  School	18  School	19  School	20  Home	21  Home
22  School	23  School	24  School	25  School	26  School	27  Home	28  Home
29  School	30  School	31  School				



			17	16	15	14
13	12	11	10	9	8	7
6	5	4	3	2	1	 School

Help your child to be able to express their needs Using Zones of Regulation

What Zone Are You In?			
Blue	Green	Yellow	Red
			
Sick Sad Tired Bored Moving Slowly	Happy Calm Feeling Okay Focused Ready to Learn	Frustrated Worried Silly/Wiggly Excited Loss of Some Control	Mad/Angry Mean Yelling/Hitting Disgusted Out of Control

Brain breaks

It is important that the children have an opportunity to calm and regulate as it is a busy time of the year with lots of changes to routines and the excitement for Christmas.



<https://childhood101.com/christmas-dances-brain-breaks/>
<https://www.youtube.com/user/CosmicKidsYoga>
<https://www.mindfullittleminds.com/create-a-calm-down-space/>





Please remember that Reading Eggs is a great way to practise reading skills at home. Any reading should be recorded in reading records, for teachers to monitor reading skills and to ensure your child receives their certificate! The leadership board for Reading Eggs this half term is:



A big well done to these classes. Remember, if your child receives a certificate on Reading Eggs they can bring in to share in our Friday celebration assembly. If you feel your child is not at the correct level on Reading Eggs please send an email to the class teacher for their placement test to be reset.

The new reading books seem to be a big hit with the children. These are based on their phonic phase level, guided by their class teacher when they listen to them read.

Phase 2	Pink1	Phase 3	Red 1	Phase 3 Mastery	Yellow 1	Phase 4	Blue 1	Phase 4	Brown 1	Phase 5	Green 1	Phase 5 Alternatives	Grey 1	Phase 5 Alternatives	Orange 1
Phase 2	Pink2	Phase 3	Red 2	Phase 3 Mastery	Yellow 2	Phase 4	Blue 2	Phase 4	Brown 2	Phase 5	Green 2	Phase 5 Alternatives	Grey 2	Phase 5 Alternatives	Orange 2
Phase 2	Pink 3	Phase 3	Red 3	Phase 3 Mastery	Yellow 3	Phase 4	Blue 3	Phase 4	Brown 3	Phase 5	Green 3	Phase 5 Alternatives	Grey 3	Phase 5 Alternatives	Orange 3
Phase 2	Pink M1	Phase 3	Red 4	Phase 3 Mastery	Yellow 4	Phase 4	Blue 4			Phase 5	Green M1	Phase 5 Alternatives	Grey 4	Phase 5 Alternatives	Orange 4
Phase 2	Pink M2	Phase 3	Red 5	Phase 3 Mastery	Yellow M1	Phase 4	Blue M1			Phase 5	Green M2	Phase 5 Alternatives	Grey 5	Phase 5 Alternatives	Orange 5
		Phase 3	Red 6	Phase 3 Mastery	Yellow M2	Phase 4	Blue M2					Phase 5 Alternatives	Grey 6	Phase 5 Alternatives	Orange 6
		Phase 3	Red 7			Phase 4	Blue M3					Phase 5 Alternatives	Grey 7		
												Phase 5 Alternatives	Grey 8		
												Phase 5 Alternatives	Grey 9		

The colour band system remains but you may find that your child fluctuates between each 'level' in the colour band. This is because the order is not necessarily hieratical and is more about how secure they are at reading the sounds in the book. Turquoise, Purple, Gold, White, Lime and Free Reader books have remained unchanged, as these books allow children to consolidate all phonetic knowledge they have previously been taught.