

Headteacher's Letter

November 2016

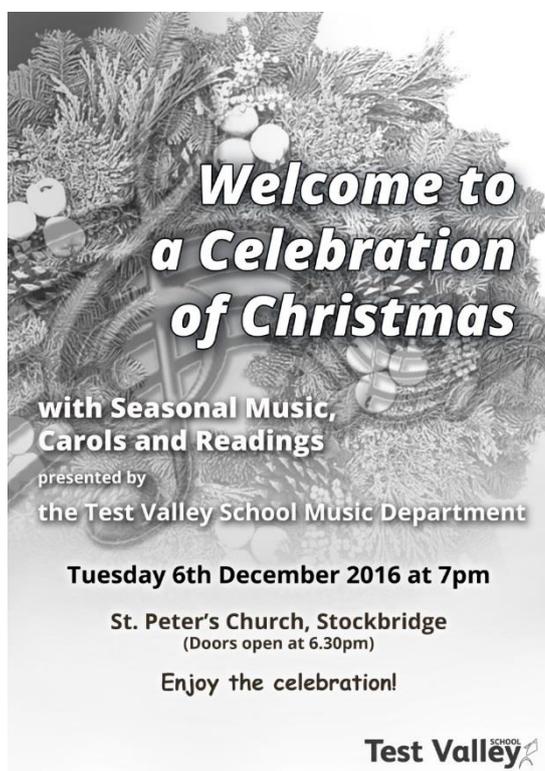
Dear Parent

Diary dates:

Thursday 1 st December 2016	Year 7 Monitoring data published to parents
Friday 2 nd December 2016	Year 9 Monitoring data published to parents
Monday 5 th December 2016	STAFF INSET: School closed to pupils
Thursday 8 th December	Year 8 Monitoring data published to parents
Friday 9 th December 2016	Year 10 Monitoring data published to parents
Monday 12 th December 2016	Year 8 Parents' Consultation Evening Main Hall 4.30-7.30pm
Thursday 15 th December 2016	Year 11 Pupil Monitoring Data and Reports published to parents
Friday 16 th December 2016	Last day of Autumn Term

As reported in my last letter to parents in September we were very pleased with our pupils' achievements in their GCSE examinations again this year. We look forward to many of the year group joining us for our annual **Presentation Evening on Thursday November 24th** to celebrate their success.

We are delighted that our **Celebration of Christmas Concert** will be taking place on **Tuesday December 6th at St Peter's Church in Stockbridge at 7.00pm** (doors open 6.30pm). Preparation and rehearsals are already underway and we do hope you can join us for this special occasion.



My next **Parents' Coffee Morning** is on **Wednesday December 14th at 9.15am**. At our last gathering our discussion covered a range of topics and it was lovely to be joined by so many parents with children across our year groups. I extend a warm welcome to all parents to join me for this informal opportunity to meet over a cup of coffee.

On **Friday December 16th (the last day of term)** pupils in all year groups will be involved in a number of activities to mark the end of a long and busy term. Parents of Years 10 and 11 have already received letters outlining the trips their child can choose from although there will be alternative activities based in school if they do not wish to go on one of these. Years 7, 8 and 9 will be based in school for their activities and their Year Co-ordinators will be confirming the details nearer the time. All pupils do not need to wear school uniform for this day but should ensure their choice of clothing is appropriate for their chosen activities.

Staff News:

We were sad to lose three of our support staff during this term but wish Mrs Guyatt, Mrs Martin and Mrs Moulton all the very best for the future. I am pleased to confirm we have appointed and welcomed the following new staff to our office team:

- Mrs Cleland (Senior Administrative Assistant)
- Mrs Juliff (Pupil Services Manager)
- Mrs Richardson (Afternoon Receptionist)

I am certain many of you will meet or have contact with them should you visit the school or contact the school office in the near future.

Unfortunately Mr Allsopp is currently still absent from school and we send him our best wishes. Mr Gardner (an experienced Design Technology Teacher) is covering his teaching and we are pleased to have him on board.

We congratulate Miss McFarlane (Acting Head of Science) on her wedding during half term and she will now be known as Mrs Jones.

We look forward to welcoming Miss Clarke in January as our new Head of Science and my thanks to Mrs Jones (nee McFarlane) who stepped up as Head of Science for this term.

Opportunities to train to teach:

Are you, or someone you know, interested in becoming a secondary school teacher? Now is a fantastic time for anyone who has ever considered a career in teaching to look at the variety of options open for training.

As a school we are now working in partnership with other local schools to provide school-led teacher training in the local area through the School Direct model. This route retains the accreditation and rigour of university based training leading to a Post Graduate Certificate of Education (PGCE) with Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) but much of the training takes place in schools over the course of a year.

We are working within two partnerships:

- SUPA (Southampton University Partnership Alliance) Salisbury. This includes a number of the Salisbury secondary schools
- Rural Schools Alliance (linked with University of Winchester). This includes Testbourne School, Applemore College and Swanmore College

HEADTEACHER • MISS L HISCOCK B.Ed (HONS)

Roman Road, Stockbridge, Hampshire SO20 6HA — Tel 01264 810555 — Fax 01264 810173

Email: office@testvalley.hants.sch.uk — Website: www.testvalley.hants.sch.uk

There will be vacancies to start training from September 2017 and you can find out more information on the SUPA Salisbury partnership from the link on our website. We will shortly be posting further information on the Rural Schools Alliance. If in the meantime you or someone thinking of training through this route would like to have an informal chat about this please do not hesitate to contact me.

The Test Valley Challenge Award:

We have launched a new opportunity to all Years 7,8, and 9 pupils this year called the Test Valley Challenge. This involves undertaking a number of challenges outside the classroom to be eligible for the award at the end of the school year. We hope it will encourage them to try new activities, become more involved in school life or possibly discover new talents.

All pupils have received full details on this award and have hopefully told you all about the challenges they need to complete. We look forward to celebrating their success in the Summer Term. Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact your child's tutor or Year Co-ordinator. We are very grateful to Evans and Partridge Estate Agents, Longstock Parish Council and Beccy's Greengrocers locally who have sponsored this exciting new initiative,

Free CAMHS event for parents on Wednesday November 30th:

CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) are running a number of free pilot events for parents called PACE. The first takes place at Winchester Guildhall on 30th November and details are given below for any parents interested in attending. Further details and bookings can be made on <http://www.fitfeshampshire.com/pace>.



Local Broadband service:

I have recently been contacted by a community group of local residents who are working hard to secure super-fast broadband across a large area of the Test Valley. As many local residents will

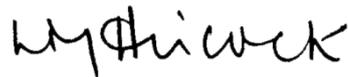
know the current broadband provision in the area and in many outlying villages is limited. Virgin Media have responded and are looking at a possible network for an area covering 12 villages totalling 4000 premises, but 1200 of the 4000 premises need to have registered an interest by Christmas. This is not a commitment but an expression of interest.

As many of our pupils and families may be affected by this I take the step of sharing with you this community led project. Further information can be found on www.facebook.com/tvneed4speed and interest can be registered on line at www.virginmedia.com/cablemystreet. Representatives from the community group will also be at the Christmas lights event in Stockbridge on December 3rd to answer any queries.

New Key Stage 3 target setting and assessment:

In September you received a letter from Mr Page (Deputy Headteacher) explaining in detail our new assessment scheme to replace Key Stage 3 levels for Years 7, 8 and 9 pupils. Full information on the new scheme can still be found on our school website. We will be monitoring and reviewing closely how this is working, including the reporting out to parents at the end of term. Mr Page has invited parents to send in to him any comments you wish to be considered as part of this review.

Yours sincerely



L Hiscock (Miss)
Headteacher