

Valence News

Winter Challenges!

Dear Parents and Carers

This weekend is predicted to be very warm with lovely summer days that we didn't have in the summer holidays! That, of course may lull us into thinking that winter isn't just around the corner but we are already in October and the respiratory infections that come with the autumn and winter are already upon us. It wasn't long ago that our lives were dominated by Covid and that we were taking extraordinary measures to prevent it spreading. But, we are all now much more relaxed about it and the threat it poses. However, together with influenza and other infections it has not gone away. The cases of Covid in the school has been rising and many students and staff have been infected. To avoid the virus having a detrimental impact on the ability of the school to function or indeed to be a threat to those most susceptible to severe illness we are promoting the following precautionary measures:

1. Any child or member of staff who is unwell with a respiratory infection should not come to school. If a student tests for Covid they should remain off school for three days from the onset of infection. Staff have to remain off for 5 days. For all infections people should only attend school when they are well;
2. Students and staff are encouraged to be vaccinated against both Covid and Influenza. Students were offered and received the influenza vaccine at school. If your child has not received their flu jab please contact your GP. Covid vaccinations are available through a national booking system but for vulnerable children it is best to contact your GP for advice.
3. Handwashing and other hygiene measures are important at all times and more so during the periods when infectious diseases are more prevalent. We have introduced further measures in school and will continue to be vigilant as we try to reduce the transmission of Covid and other infectious illnesses.

Above all else we must remember that many of our students will be particularly vulnerable to any infection - we all have to work together to protect them!

Despite all of this I hope that the sunshine will brighten your weekend!

With best wishes.

Roland Gooding

Please see the notice on page 4 about The Friends of Valence Annual General Meeting. We are keen to increase the number of people who are involved in Friends and to widen its support. This is particularly important as we launch our shop project and I would urge you to attend the meeting next Wednesday evening. Thank you.

Roland Gooding (President of the Friends)

Westenhelm, Kent TN16 1QN t 01959 562156 f 01959 565046 e valence@valence.kent.sch.uk www.valenceschool.com

FOOD FOR LIFE

As usual it has been a very busy year in the programme.

The polytunnel is now nearly 9 years old and the cover had deteriorated so this was replaced in July. We also had 2 new raised growing areas built outside the polytunnel in June again increasing our overall growing area.



We have had some amazing crops this year which Students have harvested and taken to the kitchen to be cooked and served usually the following day.

We currently have crops being taken down to the kitchen weekly, all the crops are grown from seed by the students, they look after them and then harvest when ready and deliver to the kitchen themselves.



This summer students harvested, carrots, leeks, beetroot, spring onions, spinach, melons, strawberries, blackcurrants (5kg) and gooseberries (4kg). We had a bumper crop of courgettes an amazing 25kg some of which were used fresh, and the remainder have been frozen for future use in casseroles and sauces and 10kg of onions were harvested some of which and these are still being used.

Since our return in September a large crop of Kale was harvested and served with roast dinner on the first week of this term and since then enough cabbage has been harvested for 2 lunchtime servings. The spinach is harvested weekly and delivered to the kitchen, as are the chillis. We harvested 30 sweetcorn cobs and are now waiting to harvest the butternut squash, sweet potato and pumpkins.



I would like to thank Westerham Heights Garden Centre for their continued support in our growing programme supplying us with plants, seeds, soil, organic fertilizer, gardening sundries and the wood for the new raised gardens. Also, a very big thank you to Dave Carabache for all plants (and seeds) he donates to the school each year to be grown on for Friends of Valence to sell.

Fred the Frog Reading Mascot

Students in Star, Comet, Simmonds 1, Hawking 1, Keller 1 and Simmonds 2 classes will be bringing home a reading folder with a book to share at home.

Books will be changed weekly on a Thursday.

One student will be awarded our reading mascot 'Fred the Frog' for their efforts in literacy and will get to take Fred home for the weekend! 😊



Students will be encouraged to share their book with Fred the Frog before returning him to school on Monday.

Thanks for your continued support, if you have any questions please email cwarren@valence.kent.sch.uk

Claire Warren, Phonics Lead

This year we have a lot going on in DT. Hawking pathway students are working hard on projects building knowledge and skills towards GCSE.

Younger students have been introduced to CAD/CAM (Computer-Aided Design/ Manufacture) in the form of the keyring project. Students use computers to design key ring fobs and then cut them out on our laser cutter.



Older students are building on these skills with more advanced CAD-based projects such as a 3D Animal, Salad Fork or Bottle Opener. We work largely with CAD/CAM for Hawking students because it offers independence and an accuracy that helps students create products of a very high quality.

Simmonds classes who are doing DT will be working on a Christmas tree project for the first 2 terms.

The plan is for students to create 2 slotted Christmas trees, one that they will take home and the other to be sold in the school shop.



FRIENDS OF VALENCE AGM



Come along to find out how you can
become involved in supporting our charity

Wednesday 11th October

PLC, Valence school, Westerham

7pm start

Please RSVP to friends@valence.kent.sch.uk

ACTIVE PHOTOGRAPHIC

Get your smiles ready

We are on our way to photograph
your schools photos on

Monday
9th October 2023

To help us take the best photos possible, please
make sure everyone has the correct uniform,
and hair is how you want it.



Your child will come home with an
order form which has a choice of 3
different images linked on their
gallery.

All orders are delivered directly to
your door.

www.activephotographic.co.uk

Senior Staff On-call Rota from 6th October 2023

Contact details:

Jo Chivers 07896 905095
 Roland Gooding 07896 905605
 Lisa Kavanagh 07912 124724
 Matt Strange 07894 483673

Day	Date	Time	On-call	Overnight
Friday	06/10/23	07:30 To midday	Matt Strange	Open Weekend Jo Chivers
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
Saturday to Sunday	07/10/23 08/10/23	Closed Weekend Jo Chivers		
Monday	09/10/23	07.30 To midday	Matt Strange	Lisa Kavanagh
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
Tuesday	10/10/23	08:00 To midday	Lisa Kavanagh	Roland Gooding
		Midday to 5pm	Matt Strange	
Wednesday	11/06/23	08:00 To midday	Roland Gooding	Matt Strange
		Midday to 4pm	Matt Strange	
Thursday	12/10/23	09:00 To midday	Matt Strange	Lisa Kavanagh
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
Friday	13/10/23	09:00 To midday	Lisa Kavanagh	Closed Weekend
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
Saturday Sunday	14/10/23 15/10/23	Closed Weekend		

