3rd November 2023 (Series 29/ Issue No 8

Valence School
enabling independence

Valence News

Winter weather and other challenges

Dear Parents and Carers

This week's weather has been a timely reminder of what we may face during the winter months. However, severe weather is only one of the challenges that winter brings - the other main relates to infectious diseases and staffing levels.

Severe weather

Whilst there was early warning that heavy rain and high winds were to be expected conditions varied greatly from place to place. We received guidance from KCC on Wednesday afternoon and alerted you as soon as possible. In the event at Valence our major challenge was heavy rain with the worst of the gales further south. A significant number of parents kept their sons and daughters off school on Thursday and those decisions can only be reasonably taken by yourselves. Thank you very much for the communications we received from you which was very helpful

Schools are expected to do all they can to remain open but ultimately any decision to close lies with the headteacher. Valence has a particularly challenging site which can soon be rendered unusable if we have to deal with snow and ice or fallen trees. We have contingencies in place but as we have students who board we have to ensure sufficient staffing to support them which may mean we have to close the school to day students on some occasions. We will use both emails and text messages to contact you so if there have been any changes to your contact detail please inform the school as soon as possible - Thank you. We will also post information on our website and the Kent school closures website *www.kentclosures.co.uk*

Infectious diseases

There are numerous infectious diseases which become more prevalent in the winter. They include Influenza, Covid an the Winter Vomiting bug. Good hygiene is essential in reducing the spread of infections but so is avoiding people who have infections or symptoms of them not mixing with other people, particularly those whose health is vulnerable, which, of course a large number of our children and young people.. Please do not send your son/daughter to school if they have a raised temperature, are feeling unwell or have symptoms that could indicate an infection such as coughing and sneezing.

Going back to this week's weather we are pleased that there were no significant issues at school although the lake is overflowing on to the cricket pitch so it is a good job that the season is over!

Finally the Friends shop - Valence on the Green - is now open (an official opening will follow) - do pop in and buy something and enjoy a coffee and cake whilst you do so! We value all patrons and the venture - something so much needed by our students has got off to a good start! We need volunteers though - please offer!

With kind regards and best wishes.

Roland Gooding

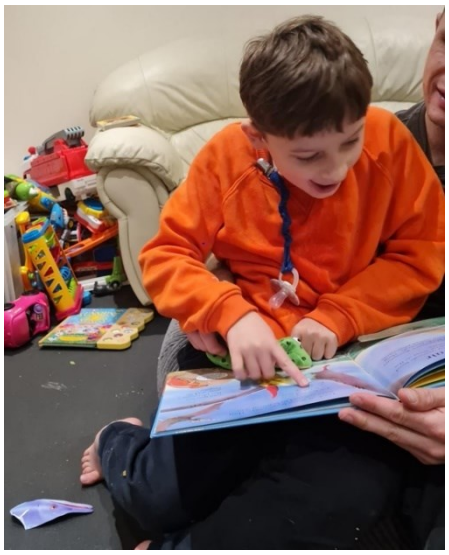
Principal

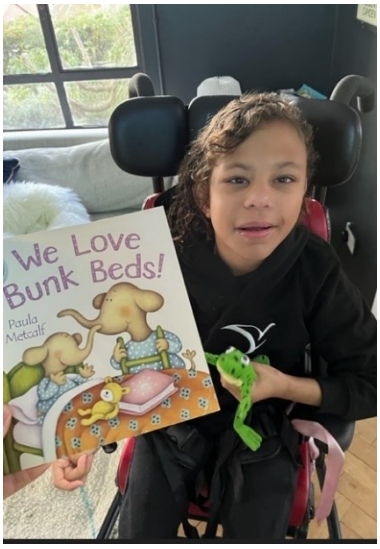
Westerham, Kent TN16 1QN t 01959 562156 f 01959 565046 e valence@valence.kent.sch.uk www.valenceschool.com

Fred's adventures so far…

'Fred the Frog' our reading mascot had a fantastic time visiting some of our student's houses last term, he enjoyed sharing lots of stories and even went out on some adventures as well!

He is looking forward to having more adventures this term, well done to those students who have taken Fred home for their effort in literacy lessons. I am so impressed when I hear from your teachers how hard you are working, keep it up!





Poppy and Oakley from Keller 1 sharing a story with Fred at home.

Harry, Ruby and Oskar from Simmonds 1 sharing more stories with Fred.

Margot and Frank from Comet class both enjoyed sharing stories with Fred too. Frank used his VOCA to spell out rhyming words from the story. Margot showed Fred how she uses her ABC flip book to spell words.

Saffron from Star Class read a story with Fred and introduced him to her toys, looks very cosy!

Well done you are all superstars!

Christmas Donations

Students can wear OWN CLOTHES on Mondays!!

If you can, please donate items of the following for our Christmas Hampers:

Chocolates and cakes

Crisps

(Pringle tubs, luxury flavours)

Bottles/cans of alcohol & non-alcohol drinks

ALCOHOL must come to school via transport who then hand to at reception / donation box.

No alcohol to be placed in students bags please.

Christmas foods

(Christmas puddings, cakes, jam, chutney, jars of olives)

Christmas themed items

(smellies, toys)

Please check expiry dates of products & ensure are past January 2024

Thank you for all your continued support

Either in the Shop or at School

NOV	28	11am - 1pm
VALENCE ON THE GREEN		

NOV	29	6.30-8.30pm
VALENCE SCHOOL - PLC		

PRE BOOKING REQUIRED. PLEASE EMAIL FRIENDS@VALENCE.KENT.SCH.UK TO BOOK A PLACE

Senior Staff On-call Rota from 3rd November 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	03/11/23	09:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	Closed
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
Saturday Sunday	04/11/23 05/11/23	Closed		
Monday	06/11/23	07.30 To midday	Matt Strange	Lisa Kavanagh
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
Tuesday	07/11/23	09:00 To midday	Lisa Kavanagh	Roland Gooding
		Midday to 4pm	Roland Gooding	
Wednesday	08/11/23	09:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	Matt Strange
		Midday to 4pm	Matt Strange	
Thursday	09/11/23	09:00 To midday	Matt Strange	Jo Chivers
		Midday to 4pm	Jo Chivers	
Friday	10/11/23	09:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	Closed
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	

Valence on the Green

Valence School in the Community

We are OPEN

Come and visit us