

Valence News

Winter and Christmas

Dear Parents and Carers

Winter weather

As we are all aware winter weather has arrived and it has been particularly cold this week. Please ensure that you child has suitable outdoor clothing and also note that if we have severe weather we will use the text messaging service and emails to inform you of any closures or partial closures. No significant snow is currently forecast but we need to be alert as weather forecasts can change rapidly.

Christmas

There is information about Christmas activities on pages 4 and 5. I know a significant number of families have booked for the Friends Christmas Party on Sunday and I look forward to seeing you there.

Students have been engaged in various Christmas activities and it is good to see lots of decorations especially in the home-living areas where there is a competition with a prize of a special trip out for the students in the best decorated bungalow. Keller 1 trip to Polhill Garden Centre looked great fun - see pages 2 and 3!

Valence on the Green

If you haven't managed to visit the Friends shop in Westerham please do—it is a fantastic venture and puts the school right in the centre of our local community. There are lovely gifts to be purchased—just right for Christmas and high quality donated goods. Please note the shop closes for a break from Christmas Day through to New Year's Day. Re-opens on 2nd January.

Term Dates

School will close at the usual time (2 p.m.) on the last day of this term — Friday 15 December. School re-opens on Wednesday 3 January for students. *Staff have a development day on Tuesday 2 January.*

I hope that you all have a lovely weekend whatever you do.

With kind regards.

Roland Gooding

Principal

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Keller 1 visit Polhill Garden Centre

The students in Keller 1 visited Polhill Garden Centre last week for a fun festive day out! On arrival they enjoyed looking at all the Christmas decorations and the Christmas lights. Some students had some spending money with them so they made choices about what they would like to buy and they were encouraged to work on their independence and communication at the till to purchase their goods.



We then had time to explore the rest of the garden center, the students particularly liked looking at all the fish in the aquatic center. We finished off our trip with some lunch in the cafeteria, once the students had finished eating they sat



nicely doing some Christmas colouring before heading back to school for the afternoon.





Fred's Christmas Mission

Well done to the students for their hard work in literacy this term, Fred the Frog will not be going home with students this week as he will be in school completing a special Christmas mission! Students will still be awarded merits and praise postcards for their efforts in Literacy and Fred will go home again with students next term.

Please let me know if you have any questions
cwarren@valence.kent.sch.uk

Thanks for all your support, reading with your child at home

Mrs Warren- Phonics lead



Coffee morning Friday 8th December—Post 19 options

Come along on Friday 8th and Zena will talk through the options for Post 19 and the process to ensure a smooth transfer for our students into life after Valence.

Whilst you don't need to book and can just turn up we do of course need an indication of numbers for coffee and refreshments and any handouts that might need to be available.

If you could therefore let our receptionist Karen know that you are intending to attend a session

Friday session will start at 9.30 arrival for coffee, with the information session to start at 10.30

Zena Belton

Assistant Principal (Students)





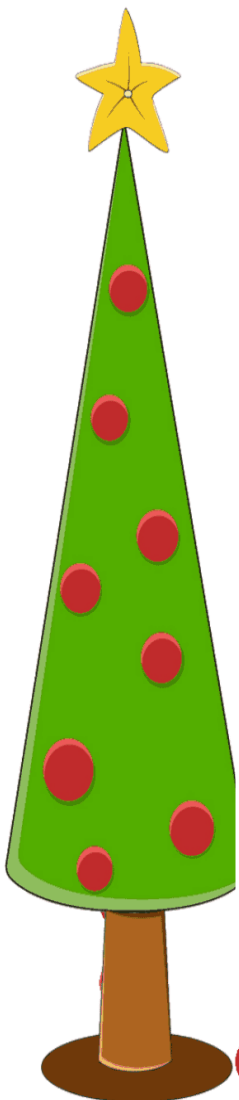
Christmas at Valence 2023

Christmas Cards – Throughout December We are always happy for students to send Christmas cards to other students and staff and the 'Christmas Post Box' will be in Reception

Primary Nativity – Tuesday 5th & Wednesday 6th December All students in the primary phase are currently preparing for this year's unique performance of the Nativity, which will take place in the main hall for Parents/Family to attend.

Christmas Jumper Day – Thursday 7th December Students and staff are encouraged to wear a Christmas jumper and donate £2. Please send money in an envelope marked Christmas Jumper Day.

Student Pantomime – Friday 8th December





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

Senior Staff On-call Rota from 1st December 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	01/12/23	09:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	Open Weekend Roland Gooding
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
Saturday Sunday	02/12/23 03/12/23	Open Weekend Roland Gooding		

Monday	04/11/23	07.30 To midday	Matt Strange	Roland Gooding
		Midday to 4pm	Matt Strange	
Tuesday	05/12/23	09:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	Roland Gooding
		Midday to 4pm	Roland Gooding	
Wednesday	06/12/23	08:00 To midday	Lisa Kavanagh	Matt Strange
		Midday to 4pm	Matt Strange	
Thursday	07/12/23	09:00 To midday	Matt Strange	Jo Chivers
		Midday to 4pm	Jo Chivers	
Friday	08/12/23	09:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	Closed Weekend
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	



Normal finish time on Friday 15th
December 2023

Inset Day Tues 2nd January 2024

Students return Wed 3rd January 2024