

Valence News



Christmas

Dear Parents and Carers

I have written 31 Christmas messages to parents since I took up my post in 1992 so this is the last one that I shall be writing as Principal. As I reflect on those years much has changed and there is more change to come. So it is always comforting to be able to hold on to things that do not change and the abiding message of Christmas is one of those.

There has been a great deal of Christmas fun at School with a Christmas grotto and Father Christmas, our Primary Nativity, staff pantomime, trips out, students' Christmas lunch, Christmas Jumper Day, a great Friends Christmas Party and various Home Living Area parties - you can see the Hawking boarders party on page 5! Students have had a great time but none of what we do happens without a great deal of hard work from staff. Many thanks to all of them who always go the extra mile to bring fun and joy into our students' lives at this time of year.

With every term we always say goodbye to some staff. Megan Miller, teacher has a new post from January and Sam Baker, HLA Manager is taking up a new challenge as well. We thank both of these colleagues for their hard work and commitment and wish them both well in the future. I would also like to thank our Governors for their great voluntary commitment to the school, our Friends Committee for its hard work and all our volunteers who work at the school or in the community shop.

So as we break up for the Christmas holiday I would like to thank all of you for your support and encouragement and to congratulate our students on all their achievements since September - they remain the inspiration for all of us involved with Valence!

So as I said at the beginning we can celebrate the eternal message of Christmas — peace on earth and goodwill to all people! With a terrible war in the Holy Land with Bethlehem largely shut down we must all hope and pray for peace! One thing is certain the Christmas message may be buffeted but it can never be vanquished. It is in that spirit that Esther and I send our very best wishes to all of you - may you enjoy this season and celebrate with family and friends!

Merry Christmas!

Roland Gooding
Principal

Next term commences for students on
Wednesday 3 January 2024



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News from Star Class

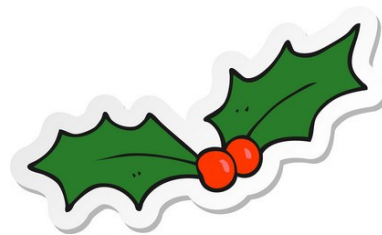
This term, students in Star class have enjoyed exploring the topic of 'Light and Dark', which has included comparing day and night and finding out about nocturnal animals. We have also been learning about Winter Festivals including Halloween, Bonfire Night, Diwali, and Christmas.



We investigated changes in states of matter through our cooking lessons, and also by making a bubbling magic potion for Halloween. We have all been working very hard on our individual targets and we have made impressive progress!



We have taken part in a variety of creative activities which have contributed to our festive class displays



We have had great fun learning the songs and Makaton signs for The Twinkly Nativity show, and then dressing up to take part in the performances.



Girl's Night Out

End of term girl's night out for the girls in Bungalow 2, the girls fancied a spontaneous trip to Creams, we bundled up in our coats and scarves before settling into a comfy booth and tucked into our sweet treats, celebrating the perfect end to a busy term!



Hawking Christmas Party



PANTO TIME



The Staff Pantomime this year was Panto Puzzle. And what a fantastic production. Below is the link if you would like to watch the recording at home

<https://youtu.be/hlsRTN2r1js>

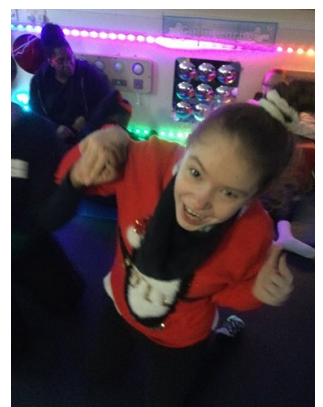
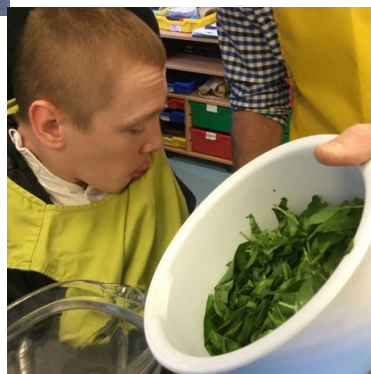
PANTO TIME

News from Keller 2

Keller 2 have had a busy term leading up to Christmas. They have been taking part in cooking lessons where one of the highlights was making scary green pancakes. Students have been engaging in their lively and exciting music lessons where they have had the opportunity to play instrument and use musical toys.

In PE lessons, Keller students have been using their walkers or going on the trikes for their physical management. In the classroom Keller 2 have had the experience of using VR which the students really enjoyed. All have been out on the mats during sensory and physical management time.

In the lead up to Christmas students have taken part in the inter house Christmas card competition and competed in Christmas games. They wanted to show off some pictures of what they have been doing.



News from the Simmonds Pathway



Semi-Formal
Simmonds Classes

Well done Simmonds on a great start to the year!! A lot has happened since September such as pumpkin carving, Independence shopping trips, making goods for Valence on the Green, European Languages Day, a Christmas Card competition and a Nativity! Just to name a few.

News from Computing

Simmonds 2 have been developing their IT skills exploring and creating documents in Microsoft Word, PowerPoint and Publisher. They have also researched information on the internet and copied and pasted items into their documents. In term two the students have also explored Google Earth and used the VR headsets.

Simmonds 4 have been working hard on their WJEC Computing coursework. They have completed great pieces of work on their different units like collages, posters and information sheets.

News from Maths

Simmonds classes have been working on recognising and handling money.



News from Drama

Simmonds 5 have been putting together their interpretation of 'A Christmas Carol', they have thoroughly enjoyed taking on the complex characters as well as filming in various parts of the school. Some of the final footage will be shared with the rest of the school in the Christmas assembly which they are thrilled about.

News from Simmonds 1

Simmonds 1 joined the rest of primary in Term 2 to rehearse this year Nativity. They were FANTASTIC!!! Well done Simmonds 1



Tim Longthorne
Simmonds Pathway Lead

News from Cooking

The photos below gives you an idea of what Simmonds classes have been up to in cooking lessons during Terms 1 and 2. Most recently S4, 5 and 6 have been working towards an AQA Award 'Taking part in a community project' and have been making items weekly to sell at the Valence Community shop



Tub2Pub scheme

Valence Green Ambassadors are supporting the Tub2Pub scheme to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support and encourage more people to recycle plastics

We're all guilty of indulging in chocolate, sweets and crackers over the festive period, and in the UK we are buying tens of millions of these plastic tubs every year!

The Green Ambassadors want to make sure your tubs don't go to waste.

They want to encourage you to take your clean, empty plastic confectionery and cracker tubs to any Greene King managed site from 1 January - 11 February 2024 to be recycled.

We have a Green King hotel in Westerham so the students will be collecting these tubs at school to help the students and staff recycle, if you don't have a Green King near you the students will be collecting the tubs in school throughout January.

Please see this website for further information [TUB2PUB](https://www.tub2pub.co.uk/)



Senior Staff On-call Rota from 15th December 2023

Contact details:

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

Day	Date	Time	On-call	Overnight
Friday	15/12/23	09:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	Closed For Christmas
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	



Tuesday	02/01/24	09:00 To midday	Lisa Kavanagh	INSET DAY
		Midday to 4pm	Roland Gooding	
Wednesday	03/01/24	08:00 To midday	Roland Gooding	Matt Strange
		Midday to 4pm	Matt Strange	
Thursday	04/01/24	09:00 To midday	Matt Strange	Jo Chivers
		Midday to 4pm	Jo Chivers	
Friday	05/01/24	09:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	Closed
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	