

Valence News

Communities

Dear Parents and Carers

One of the greatest pleasures I have is to visit the Valence shop in Westerham. Besides raising funds for our Friends charity it has put Valence on the map so to speak in the local community of Westerham. Although the school has been here for over 70 years there are still people living in Westerham who don't know anything about it and even some who have no idea we are here! Of course, tucked away in an area of large parkland it is very easy for people not to know about us. The Golf Club has helped as anyone visiting there will see the school in all its magnificence. The club has from its outset been a great financial contributor to the Friends and with each new captain Valence is chosen as their charity.

In a sense, when you don't live in a town or village you have to make your own community. There are scattered houses around Valence as well as the Golf Club but it is very hard to feel that we are part of a community. That is why our own school community is so important and that we are outward facing so that we build communities and this of course is why the shop is so important. In the Special Schools Review a lot has been said about local communities and children going to schools within their communities but this is a simplistic idea and Valence certainly does not fit into such a concept. Whilst long travel times can be problematic for many students getting the right support, right education and right opportunities is vital to the life chances of our children and young people.

I hope that you all have a good week.

Kind regards.

Roland Gooding

Principal



If you are visiting Valence keep an eye out for our resident white squirrel - an unusual sight! If you do see him/her please take a photo if you can - our primary students would like to receive it!

Dates Reminder

Term 3 ends on Friday 9 February

Term 4 commences on Monday 19 February

Term 4 ends on Thursday 28 March

Term 5 commences on Tuesday 16 April

There is a Staff Development day on Friday 3 May and a bank holiday on Monday 6 May so the school will be closed on both days.

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

Keller 2 News Term 3 2024

Despite having only three weeks of Term 3, we have covered a lot of ground. Our topic this term is 'Waste Not Want Not', so we started by using Christmas wrapping paper to make the title for our class display board.

In the second week of term, we made recycled card from some more Christmas wrapping paper; when the card was dry, we cut out a shape and used it to print with onto some delivery parcel bags; this kind of activity helps the students to work on different targets, while having fun.

Our ASDAN students are developing a call and response play called 'The Singing Bone', which is about four farmyard animals who escape from their farm and go on a journey during which they scare some robbers by making themselves into a fearsome creature; after this they realise the robbers have left all of their money behind, so the animals use it to build a refuge; the next part of the story involves a travelling musician who finds an old bone, and when he polishes it up it becomes magical, playing the guitar with amazing results at the party to celebrate the centenary of the animals. It is fun and the younger students are also enjoying taking part; it also involves lots of music by the Beatles!

We are hoping to plant some spider plant 'babies' so that they can grow into new independent plants, and not be wasted.

We have also done some amazing cooking, using up vegetables and fruit, making banana muffins [and also](#) some fajitas and vegetable wraps



Blood Brothers trip- H5

On Wednesday 17th January, H5 went to watch 'Blood Brothers' at the New Victoria Theatre in Woking. This is one of the plays they are studying for their English Literature GCSE. It was a fantastic experience- particularly the gun shot which made us all jump! Or as Cameron said "I thought I was the one being shot!" The lighting, set, music and acting was phenomenal and the pupils enjoyed themselves and particularly the cinema snacks!





Some of you may have heard of Whizz Kidz before! It is a charity providing manual wheelchairs and powerchairs to young people.



This well-known charity doesn't stop there and also offers skill sessions to become more independent in the community: driving sessions and independent travel training just to name a few.....



How is this linked to school I hear you ask!

Valence school are currently arranging a visit to support our students in a variety of sessions: how to navigate curbs, driving my power chair, tips to use my manual chair etc....

All their interventions are based on evidence-based techniques and include social and fun activities also available for individuals and families in the community!

[Whizz Kidz | Children's Wheelchair Charity | Whizz Kidz \(whizz-kidz.org.uk\)](http://Whizz Kidz | Children's Wheelchair Charity | Whizz Kidz (whizz-kidz.org.uk))

Senior Staff On-call Rota from 19th January 2024

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	26/01/24	09:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	Open Weekend Matt Strange
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
Saturday Sunday	27/01/24 28/01/24	Open Weekend Matt Strange		
Monday	29/01/24	07:30 To midday	Matt Strange	Lisa Kavanagh
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
Tuesday	30/01/24	09:00 To midday	Lisa Kavanagh	Roland Gooding
		Midday to 4pm	Roland Gooding	
Wednesday	31/01/24	08:00 To midday	Roland Gooding	Matt Strange
		Midday to 4pm	Matt Strange	
Thursday	01/02/24	09:00 To midday	Matt Strange	Jo Chivers
		Midday to 4pm	Jo Chivers	
Friday	02/02/24	09:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	Closed Weekend
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	

