

Valence News

A Special Visitor

Dear Parents and Carers

On Tuesday of this week I was delighted to welcome Roger Gough, Leader of Kent County Council. When I decided to retire I wrote to him and he suggested it would be a good idea if he visited Valence as he had not done so for a very long time. I have known him since he was the KCC Cabinet member for Education and subsequently in his position as Leader of the Council. Brian Davies, Chair of Governors joined the visit along with Wendy Fallon, Governor who knows Roger Gough well.

The visit started with a meeting over a cup of coffee discussing budget challenges which both the school and KCC face. The enormity of the budget deficit in the high needs funding block which funds special schools is eye watering and clearly the current special schools review is, in part about addressing how that budget deficit can be reduced. In the meeting we discussed the future of Valence as part of the special schools' review and how the school might develop and change. What was clear was his commitment to the school and its work although inevitably we will have to consider how the school might need to adapt and change in the future.



We then went on a 75 minute tour of classrooms covering all pathways. Roger engaged with students and staff and expressed real enjoyment at seeing the children and young people engaged in a wide range of learning activities. He was able to witness different approaches in delivering the curriculum to our children and young people who have a very wide range of needs. One particular point of enjoyment for him was to visit an English lesson where students were doing GCSE work. He was able to recognise the texts being studied as these had been done by his own son last year. This proved to be an interesting issue to discuss, given that so often it is assumed that young people who can access GCSEs can automatically be educated in mainstream settings. I was able to point out to him and he witnessed it for himself that across the pathways, whilst there is a wide ability range, students have very complex physical and medical needs in all pathways.

Roger Gough witnessed Valence at its best and he saw a very rich range of opportunities across the school with every age group being visited. It was a pleasure to welcome him and to show him around — he was very impressed with the students and staff that he spoke to and very complimentary about the school. I would just like to thank everyone who he saw on his visit for their positivity, welcome and confidence!

We now await the outcome of the special schools' review which should be known by April/May. However, the implications for individual schools may take longer to emerge. I think, following Roger Gough's visit we can be reasonably optimistic about Valence and its future!

With best wishes for the weekend.

Roland Gooding

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A WEEKEND FULL OF CULTURE



At the African Drumming workshop, we sang ,danced and learnt to play a traditional song on the djembe drum. We heard about the culture of Ghana, and how drums can be used to send messages, just like the first ever iPhone 15!

Abass told us we must smile when we sing like people do in Africa, we learned to try new things and to practice until we achieve, most of all, we had so much fun!



A WEEKEND FULL OF CULTURE

Sunday afternoon, students researched the flags on the world. They researched the colours and the meanings behind them. The students used this information to create their own! Please see the flag of the country 'Will's World'

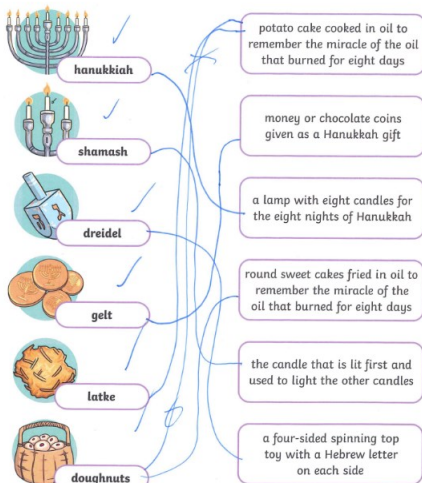


The students spent time reflecting on National Holocaust Memorial Day, finding ways to reflect and respect those impacted by it. Using worksheets and research to investigate the Jewish culture, its celebrations and the symbols used and their meanings.



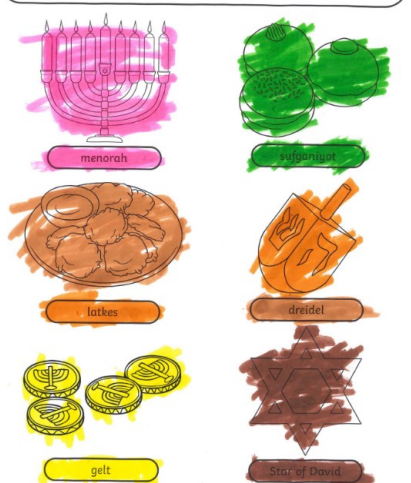
Hanukkah Symbols Matching

Match each Hanukkah word to its meaning.



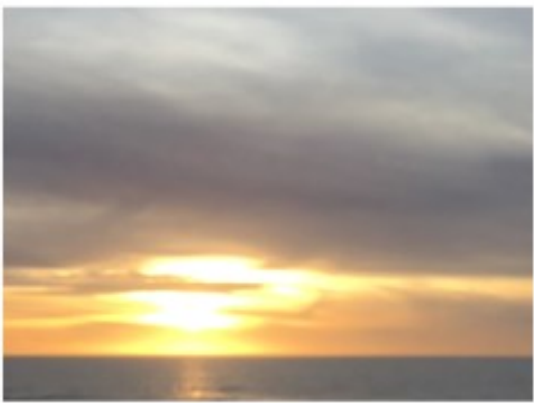
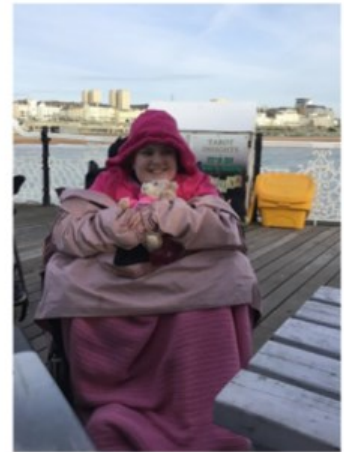
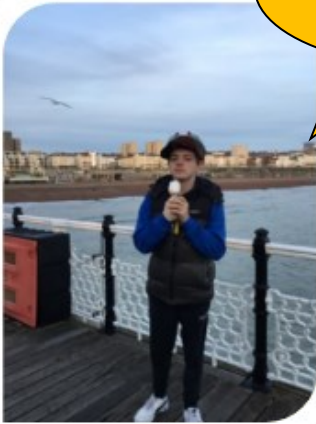
A poem was shared with the students about the Holocaust. They then shared what they thought and felt about the Holocaust. Reflecting on the importance of understanding and respecting different religious and cultural beliefs to their own.

Hanukkah



A WEEKEND FULL OF CULTURE

Keep ya beak off
my ice-cream



Ahhh.. That'
lovely that is!

A day of comparing cultures.

Experiencing British Culture at its finest in Brighton, eating fish & chips on the pier.

Comparing our British Culture to the Culture of the Royal Pavilion and its amazing history!

Fun Fact: The Pavilion is the only council owned palace in the United Kingdom sold to Brighton by Queen Victoria herself!

The students made time to for pamper sessions including a foot spa, hair, and face masks, taking a moment to relax!



Students requested 'Italian' culture for their meals over the weekend. Including homemade pizzas and pastas. The students have requested they have traditional 'Polish' meals next open weekend to immerse themselves in yet another culture they don't always get to experience.

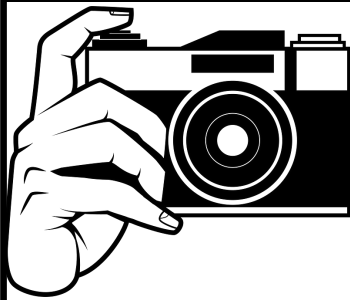


Photo Competition

Our school is in a beautiful estate with stunning views and wildlife.

I am putting together an album of photos in the Valence grounds through the seasons



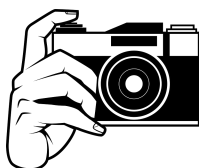
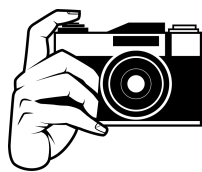
Liza Kavanagh has started off with this photo.

Any student sending me a photos will get 5 merits.

Some of the photos will also feature in the newsletters

Please email your photos to dbeaney@valence.sch.uk

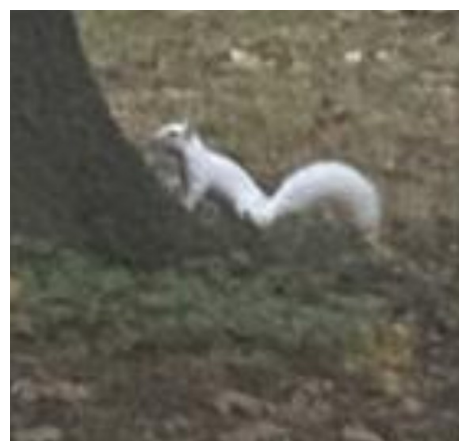
Debbie Beaney



Have you seen our resident white squirrel?

In Primary the children are looking out for the famous white squirrel that lives here at Valence in the woods.

If you see him/her please take a photo





Safer Internet Day

Tuesday 6 February 2024

Safer Internet Day is the UK's biggest celebration of online safety.

On **Tuesday 6th February** we will be joining schools and youth organisations across the UK with celebrations and learning based around the theme '**Inspiring change? Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online**'

Using the internet safely and positively is a key message that we promote at Valence School. To celebrate **Safer Internet Day**, students will taking part in various activities throughout the school day.

Safer Internet Day is a great opportunity to focus on online safety with your child, whatever their age. We would be delighted if you could join us in celebrating the day by continuing the conversation at home.

Having regular and open conversations with your children and young people about their use of technology and the internet is the best way to stay up to date, not only with changes in the online world, but also with what they are doing and seeing online, as well as any concerns and worries they may have.

Remember, parents and carers can visit:

saferinternet.org.uk/SID-parents for free activities and information, including top tips, quizzes and films to use at home with your children and young people.

We recently sent leaflets home, please check school bags for 'Digital safety at a glance'.

The leaflets are also available to view online:

[Guidance for parents of 5-7 year olds](#)

[Guidance for parents of 8-10 year olds](#)

[Guidance for parents of 11-13 year olds](#)

**Safer
Internet
Day 2024** | **Tuesday
6 February**

Coordinated by the UK Safer Internet Centre

saferinternetday.org.uk

Senior Staff On-call Rota from 2nd February 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	02/02/24	09:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	Closed Weekend
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
Monday	05/02/24	07:30 To midday	Matt Strange	Lisa Kavanagh
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
Tuesday	06/02/24	09:00 To midday	Lisa Kavanagh	Roland Gooding
		Midday to 4pm	Roland Gooding	
Wednesday	07/02/24	08:00 To midday	Roland Gooding	Matt Strange
		Midday to 4pm	Matt Strange	
Thursday	08/02/24	09:00 To midday	Matt Strange	Jo Chivers
		Midday to 4pm	Jo Chivers	
Friday	09/02/24	09:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	Closed Weekend
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	

