

Valence News

Leading Parent Partnership Award

We are delighted to announce that Valence School has once again been awarded the Leading Parent Partnership Award (LPPA). What is LPPA?

The LPPA is a nationally recognised accreditation supporting schools to plan and deliver effective parental engagement. The assessment is made by an external assessor and for Valence, this took place last week after a team of staff led by Zena Belton provided evidence of our commitment to work proactively with parents.

The assessor spent a day with us reviewing documentation, touring the school, and meeting with staff and parent representatives before commenting that at Valence “There is a real sense of **working together** as a team in a **personalised** way to solve the challenges and barriers faced by each child and parents feel an active part of this both valued as experts in their child and supported as valued members of the school community.”

During the visit the assessor noted that some of the school’s strengths are:

- ⇒ Our openness and relationships with parents in particular within overarching vision “Enabling Independence” to which the whole staff team buy in.
- ⇒ Transition into the school is carefully managed to ensure parents feel supported and know what to expect. Parents (and pupils) are also actively guided and supported through the process of transition beyond the school in line with the overarching aim of “Enabling Independence”.
- ⇒ Support and guidance for parents comes from a wide range of school staff and can be easily accessed.

What became clear in his visit was the impact this makes:

- ⇒ That the regular programme of coffee mornings with a training element provide parents with support and sense of community this brings.
- ⇒ That we have embraced the opportunities of remote meetings to promote parental engagement in their child’s life and provide better engagement from other professionals
- ⇒ That we have set up a community shop to raise the profile of the school in the wider community and provide a hub for parents.
- ⇒ That the school provided a high level of support to families during the COVID pandemic, working together in the most challenging circumstances.

Further details and the full report will be added to our website once we have it and we plan to continue to improve the working relationship we have with all our parents

Matt Strange - Vice Principal

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Leading Parent
Partnership Award

International Wheelchair Day 1st March

This is a day of events and activities which take place around the world when wheelchair users celebrate the positive impact a wheelchair has on their lives. We



certainly did that at Valence last Friday the students had a crammed packed day celebrating all things about wheelchairs. There was a carousel of workshops covering a variety of topics

Stretch - how to complete stretches whilst in your chair, lead by Aurelie and the therapy assistants

Drive—wheelchair driving practice run by therapy team in the sports hall

Maintain – was a 15min drop in session where the class talked about looking after their wheelchair

WOW my wheelchair – this was an opportunity to decorate one wheel chair in the class

No wheelchairs were to be harmed during this activity!!!

Hawking 7 were sent out as reporters

On National Wheelchair day our morning started in the sports hall where we learnt about how to drive safely in powerchairs in public. This covered things such as looking both ways when crossing a road and being aware of your surroundings when driving in public.

After our morning session I went to the main hall to watch H1, S1 and S2 learn all about stretches in their chairs. They learnt that pain can come from sitting in their chairs for a long amount of time. They completed a range of exercises from leaning forward to twisting with their arms crossed.

Then with Mary Green we learnt about the history of wheelchairs. We looked at early designs and discussed the differences between what they were like then and now, as well as what was similar. Overall, the day was really good and I found it really interesting

Alan

In the sports hall, Hawking 5-7 were the first students to have the group activity, presentation and driving skills.

S2 were after Hawking doing an activity and presentation on how to drive wheelchairs safely out in the street. One student said they enjoyed the bubble wrap with their chair going 'pop pop pop'

In Cedars 2, S4 are working in groups doing a word search about wheelchair awareness. They seemed to enjoy doing this.

Another group were doing stretches in the dining room with a presentation on how all the muscles work.

Fred F and Louis

In the class time students could complete a range of suggested activities

Looking at BBC Newsround International Wheelchair Day: What does your wheelchair mean to you? - Whizzkids—Why our wheelchairs mean the world to us on International Wheelchair Day (whizz-kidz.org.uk)

We challenged the students to think about People on the TV with a disability for example



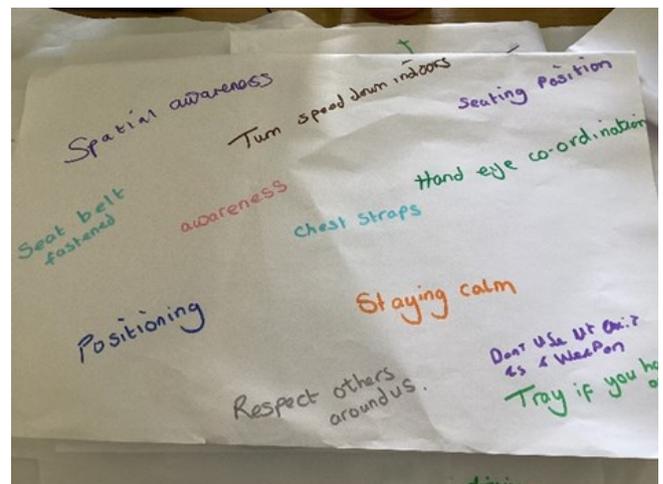
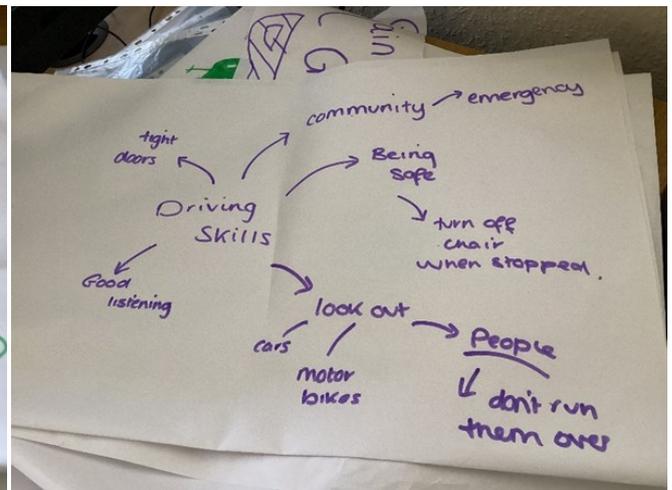
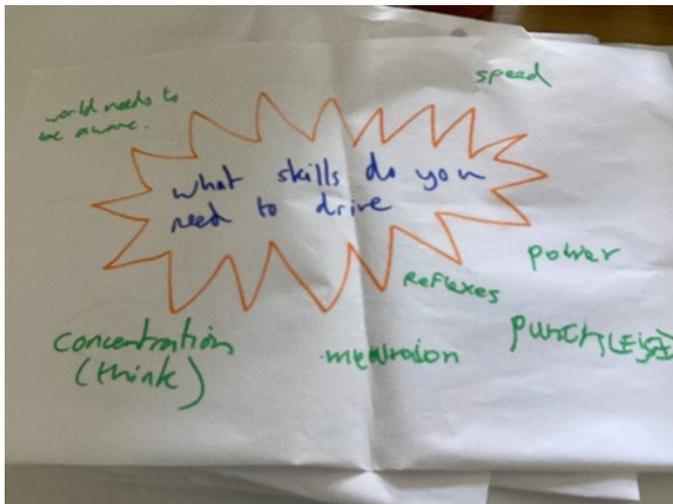
The TARDIS has a ramp!

Why Ruth Madeley is an accessible Doctor Who means the universe to us.

For the older students they were encouraged to look at The A-Z of Going to University, written for young wheelchair users by young wheelchair users.

Some students really became involved in the discussions about accessibility and what needs to change in the community, whilst others wrote an article for this newsletter about International Wheelchair day, or created a story where the character is a wheelchair users. I have included some examples of a piece of writing /poem about wheelchairs or life as a wheelchair users. Other classes redesigned their wheelchair and some reviewed story books to see how many characters have a disability.

The day could not have happened without the support of the Therapy team in particular Aurelie Reaud, Kim Reece, Jen Church and Chelsea Brown, with additional support from the therapy assistance Hannah.



Our super-duper wheelchair

By Clemence and Zara

I love my wheelchair
because it keeps mobile,
And my independence rocks,
Our chairs can be beautifully
crazy,
Just like Zaras socks,
Our chairs allow us to be
equal,
Watch us race on by,
Maybe in the future,
They will have wings and we
will fly.

BY: PAIGE

The girl who learned to her disability.

Once there was a young girl around 6 years old who was a little different from others, she had a disability and felt like people looked at her strange because of her disability but she didn't let that stop her from being the person she is.

Soon the young girl felt more confident having a disability and being in a wheelchair,

She didn't feel scared about being different because she learned that having a disability is like a superpower, its not something to be hidden.

You should never be scared to have a disability; you should embrace it. :)



Following on from the success of last year, we are excited to announce that the primary team will be holding an open afternoon this term. This will take place on Wednesday 27th March from 1:45-3pm.

Please email your child's class teacher if you wish to attend.

We hope to see you there!



Simmonds 2 News

Simmonds 2 had an exciting start to the new year... in January they had a few changes to their class structure to meet the needs of the maturing students; they moved into a bigger classroom, as well as moving over to a timetable where they are taught by different subject specialist teachers. They have really risen to the challenge, and this has enabled them to develop their independence, and with that, their communication skills. They have absolutely flourished and love the variety that the different teachers bring to their lessons. There have been many highlights... here are a few we wanted to share with you:

Gail has been working with Simmonds 2 this half term, teaching them more skills in their Outdoor Learning sessions. We have thoroughly enjoyed planting cherry tomatoes, lettuces, courgettes, and a selection of flowering plants. We are loving seeing these seedlings growing on the windowsills in our classroom, as well as our outings to the poly tunnel. This has linked into our discussions in PSHE about healthy lifestyle choices. The students have also had the opportunity to work on their gross and fine motor skills when handling the soil and seeds, as well as the sprayer to water the plants.

We have also loved all the WOW days recently. International Wheelchair Day was a great day for Simmonds 2! They all joined together to nominate Henry's chair to be WOW'd for the occasion and decided to turn his chair into Thomas the Tank Engine. They worked together as a group, deciding on the design and thoroughly enjoyed the collaborative project.

World Book Day was a fabulous event in Simmonds 2 as well. The class really love their stories and their reading, so it was a great opportunity to celebrate that passion, which we displayed with all our different costumes. We also had a lot of fun guessing the traditional tales in a class quiz.

As a class, their confidence and communication skills are really blossoming. The classroom move and the timetable restructure has led to the students exploring new friendships and having the opportunities to do some lovely group work together, where they have lots of opportunities to chat and communicate.



Simmonds 2

Valence Green Ambassadors



The student Green Ambassadors have had a few meetings this term to decide on some projects to get involved in. One thing we all need to do more of is recycle, but batteries are often forgotten about in this.

The Green Ambassadors have discovered that we throw away around 600 million batteries a year, that's as heavy as 4,000 elephants! It can take a battery over 100 years to decompose. The chemicals in the battery can pollute the soil and water, which animals and plants need to survive.

All the parts of a battery can be separated and used again to make new things.



The Green Ambassadors have decided to do their bit and join Duracell's big battery hunt. They have set up two collection points: one in reception and one in Cedars room 4. Please bring in any used batteries and we will recycle them for you. We have lots of stickers to hand out to those who take part!



Last Day of Term

Just to confirm that on Thursday 28th March, we will be **finishing school for students at 2:00pm and using Friday end of day routines/ departure.**



HAPPY WORLD BOOK DAY



Thursday 7th March was World Book Day, 2024. The students and staff made every effort to celebrate the day with their wonderful costumes and participation. Thank you for all your positivity, passion and creativity!



In the morning students spent their first lesson finishing their displays with their favourite book and characters.

Primary and Keller classes spent the day doing themed activities based on a book. Galaxy class choosing 'The Gruffalo', Simmonds



choosing 'Room on the Broom', Hawking 1 choosing 'Zog', Keller 1 choosing 'Monkey Puzzle' and Keller 2 choosing 'The Scarecrow's Wedding'. All other pupils started each lesson with the teachers reading an extract from their favourite book (childhood or currently), pupils then guessed which book it was from out of an option of three book covers!

During lunchtime the pupils had some book related activities to keep them entertained, we began with a story read by the English department, followed by an activity called 'Baby Picture Pair-up', this included the pupils having a sheet with their teachers baby picture and they used a front cover of a book as a clue. They all enjoyed this activity and were looking forward to the assembly where the answers were shared.





Finally we ended the day with a special assembly to congratulate and award certificates for: best decorated display, and best costumes for staff and students.



Here is a selection of some of the photographs taken on World Book Day:





Join Friends of Valence for a singalong afternoon of bingo... hear the tune, mark your card! Cash prizes to be won, raffle and refreshments available.

23RD MARCH 2024

2PM-5PM

Location: Valence School Hall

*Adult entry £5, child entry free. £1 per bingo card. To purchase tickets and arrange payment please email friends@valence.kent.sch.uk. Limited spaces so book early to avoid disappointment!
(Advance booking only)*



'Should you need to know what your child is studying each term please look at the curriculum overviews which are on the school website/students' black organiser.'

Senior Staff On-call Rota from 15th March 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	15/03/24	09:00 To midday	Matt Strange	Closed Weekend
		Midday to 4pm	Matt Strange	
Monday	18/03/24	07:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	Roland Gooding
		Midday to 4pm	Jo Chivers	
Tuesday	19/03/24	09:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	Roland Gooding
		Midday to 4pm	Jo Chivers	
Wednesday	20/03/24	09:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	Matt Strange
		Midday to 4pm	Matt Strange	
Thursday	21/03/24	09:00 To midday	Matt Strange	Lisa Kavanagh
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
Friday	22/03/24	09:00 To midday	Lisa Kavanagh	Closed Weekend
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	

