

Valence News

Special Days

Dear Parents and Carers

Friday 1 March is St. David's Day so warmest wishes to anyone who has Welsh roots or connections. Friday is also International Wheelchair Day.

International Wheelchair Day is always 1 March and is an annual day of events and activities which take place around the World when wheelchair users celebrate the positive impact a wheelchair has on their lives.

Since it was first launched in 2008, celebrations have taken place in Australia, Nepal, Senegal, South Africa, Bangladesh, Pakistan, United Kingdom and United States of America.

The Aims of International Wheelchair Day

To enable wheelchair users to celebrate the positive impact a wheelchair has in their lives.

To celebrate the great work of the many millions of people who provide wheelchairs, who provide support and care for wheelchair users and who make the World a better and more accessible place for people with mobility issues.

To acknowledge and react constructively to the fact there are many tens of millions of people in the World who need a wheelchair, but are unable to acquire one.

Wheelchairs transform the lives of people who for whatever reason cannot walk or have limited mobility. Over the years I have personally seen how wheelchairs have developed and changed and what a positive difference they make to the students at Valence. Being able to be independently mobile must be considered to be a fundamental human right. Sadly, as the point above makes clear, for so many people that right is denied them.

When I came to Valence (*you might have to endure a bit of this before I retire!*) there were manual chairs and every child who needed a wheelchair had one provided by the NHS. For those children and young people who could not self-propel the NHS would, after assessment consider issuing a powered chairs (all the same type) for indoor use only. They had small wheels and weren't really appropriate for outdoor use but of course students used them both outside at school and at home - exercising their fundamental right to move around independently if they could, choosing where they wished to go. Over time this led to policy changes and powered wheelchairs became available from the NHS for use in all settings which is what we see today. Of course, there are also privately funded and charity funded wheelchairs and there are options for people to have a wheelchair costing as much as a car if they can afford it!

At Valence we don't focus on wheelchairs, however important they are, but on the people who use them! International Wheelchair Day must celebrate how wheelchairs enhance and positively change the lives of people who have disabilities!

We also have another special day coming up - World Book Day - see page 2.

Have a lovely weekend!

Roland Gooding



Word Book Day 2024



It's that exciting time of year again, World Book Day 2024! Book tokens will be handed out Friday 9th February so please check bags as they can be spent from half-term onwards. It lands on Thursday 7th March and we have a range of thrilling activities to celebrate the day. Here are some of the ways we will be celebrating at Valence.



Costumes...

Dress up as a book character of your choice, there is no theme, but creativity is encouraged! There will be certificates for the best dressed students and staff



Book cover display...

Tutor groups will be set the challenge of turning a part of their classroom (door, wall, window) into a book cover of their choice. This will be a school wide competition taking place from 19th February. Start thinking and sharing ideas with your class and Tutor!



'Baby picture pair-up' and 'don't judge a book'

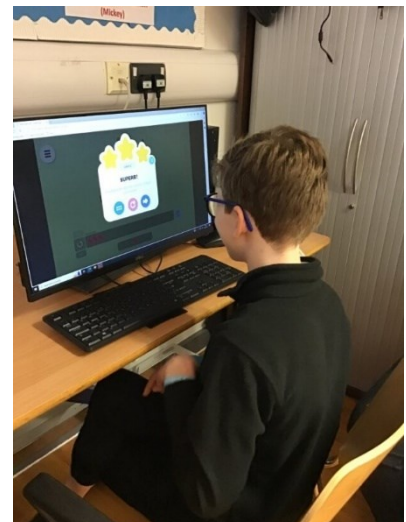
At the start of each lesson your teacher will read an extract from their favourite book (childhood or currently), you will then have to guess which book it's from out of an option of three book covers! At lunch time the teachers will share their baby photo and you have to match their photo with their associated book cover.

Finally, not forgetting, certificates, book tokens and lots more...

News from Computing

On 6th February was **'Safer Internet Day'**. In preparation for the day students in Simmonds 5 and Hawking 4 made posters to go up around the school informing everyone. The theme this year was: **'Inspiring change? Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online'**. During the students Computing lessons they explored this theme and looked at how technology has changed over time. Students also thought about who they would talk to at school and at home if they saw something online that upset them. 'Safer Internet Day' also reminds the students to think about how they should behave online and offline.

Computer Science



In Terms 3 & 4 Simmonds 1& 2 and Hawkings 1,2 & 3 have been learning about Computer Science. They have explored how a computer works and their input and output devices. The most enjoyable activities have been learning how to input algorithms and coding. It has been great to see their enthusiasm and creativity shine!

A few students have just started the iDEA award during their Computing lessons. The Inspiring Digital Enterprise Award is an international award winning programme that helps to develop and demonstrate digital, enterprise and employability skills. This is an exciting opportunity for the students who have been keen to start!

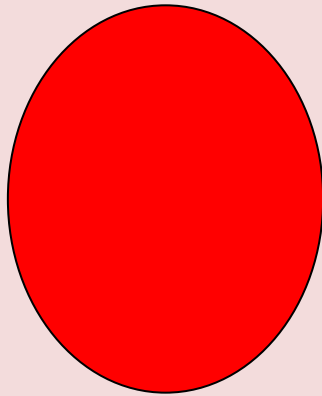


iDEA

COMING SOON

SCIENCE WEEK

11th-15th March



The Red Nose Race Day

Each class will create a race car from a door wedge to take part in a design and race competition.



'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 1st 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	01/03/24	09:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	Open Weekend Roland Gooding
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	

Monday	04/03/24	07:30 To midday	Matt Strange	Lisa Kavanagh
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
Tuesday	05/03/24	09:00 To midday	Lisa Kavanagh	Roland Gooding
		Midday to 4pm	Roland Gooding	
Wednesday	06/03/24	09:00 To midday	Roland Gooding	Matt Strange
		Midday to 4pm	Matt Strange	
Thursday	07/03/24	09:00 To midday	Matt Strange	Jo Chivers
		Midday to 4pm	Jo Chivers	
Friday	08/03/24	09:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	Closed Weekend
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	

