

# Valence News

Dear Parents, Carers and School Community,

This week has been filled with many wonderful Christmas activities across the school. It has been a pleasure to see our students engaging with such enthusiasm, creativity, and festive spirit as we come to the end of the year.



As we reach the Christmas break, we would like to wish all our families a very happy and peaceful Christmas. Thank you, as always, for your continued support and partnership with the school — it is truly valued and makes a significant difference to our community.

Looking back on 2025, there have been many fantastic highlights to celebrate, alongside some very sad and challenging times. Through it all, our school community has shown great strength. We are proud to be a community rooted in positivity, resilience, and care for one another, and it is this shared ethos that continues to support our students and families.

We hope the holiday period provides time for rest, reflection, and special moments with loved ones. School will reopen for students on Tuesday 6th January, and we look forward to welcoming everyone back as we begin what we hope will be a successful and rewarding 2026 together.

Wishing you all a safe, happy, and restful holiday.

Matthew Strange, Principal

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Leading Parent Partnership Award

2024-2027

## Deer Class



Deer Class has had a fantastic Term 2! We have been busy working hard across all subjects. In Maths, the children have been exploring number bonds systematically using double-sided counters and tens frames. In English, they have been enjoying Frank Einstein and the Antimatter Motor by Jon Scieszka, producing amazing writing inspired by the story and confidently using fronted adverbials. In Science, we carried out experiments to investigate which materials keep heat in most effectively and the children loved making predictions and testing their ideas. We also had an exciting Mexican-themed day, where the children immersed themselves in a range of activities including learning Spanish phrases, trying the Mexican hat dance, cooking chimichangas, and creating vibrant arts and crafts. It has been wonderful to see the children building positive relationships and engaging in meaningful, friendly play at break times

## Rabbit class overview term 1 & 2

Across the first two terms , Rabbit class have been completing many different activities. The students always look forward to their time in the sensory room where they get to explore the sequin wall, the cause-and-effect games as well as the coloured voice recognition and bubble walls. In physical management.

We have been trying new activities which involve encouraging the students to work on their fine motor skills by having to reach through tape to grab some balls through the gaps, or to pull items off their trays which have been stuck down.

For letter of the day, the students have been exploring different sensory textures such as jelly. As always our students love their cooking lessons where we have been making a variety of things from cheese straws to banana muffins.



# Hawking Pathway News

## *Hawking 1*

In **Art** H1 have finished designing, making and glazing their traditional style clay piece. They had the opportunity to choose between making a coil bowl or a coil plate. Even though the design shapes are simplistic, the students were adventurous with building a design based around symmetry. They did a fantastic job, and we cannot wait to see them glazed fired



## *Hawking 2*



Luka from H2 went to Tottenham Hotspurs this week. This is what he said "I won tickets to Tottenham; I sat in the spurs wishes suit. I met with Mohammed Kudus and we won 3/0. Best day of my life!"

## *Hawking 3*

In **English** H3 have been making their own 'twisted tales' a gothic twist on classic stories.

Some students from the class this term have been visiting Sevenoaks school each week to take part in a **Tennis program.**



## *Hawking 4*



Completing their Homework in **Math's** –equaled a treat in the form of a pizza party!

Well done H5!

## *Hawking 5*

Teamwork was needed in **Computing** with a Girls vs Boys competition..... can you guess who won?!



## *Hawking 6.*

H6 have been working hard and revising ready for their **Mock exams in January!**

They have also been coming up with ideas for their **enterprise** work, so we are very excited to see what gets produced and sold



Have a wonderful Christmas from the  
Hawking Pathway!

# Simmonds Independence

This term, students in Simmonds 3 and 4 have been developing their financial independence skills. This is the third year that students have had the opportunity to visit Bluewater, building on skills developed in previous years. This spiralled approach allows students to revisit and consolidate key skills, supporting deeper confidence and understanding over time.



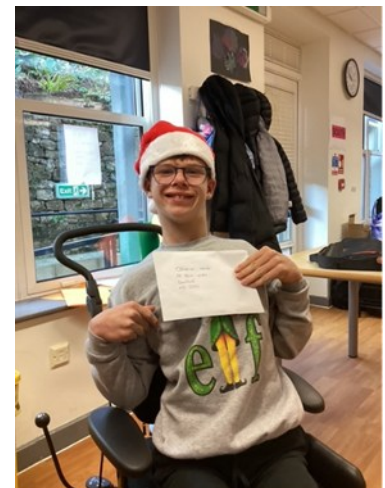
During the visit, students were challenged to decide on items they needed for school and REP within a set budget. They planned a shopping list, selected which shops to visit, considered how to store their money safely, and allocated roles such as navigating, timekeeping and money management. Students did a fantastic job, working collaboratively and demonstrating excellent communication and independence skills throughout.

## Simmonds Communication

This term, students in Simmonds 2 have been developing their remote communication skills. They began by identifying different forms of remote communication and reflecting on which ones they use in everyday life. Students first focused on sending emails, practising how to write messages to staff and checking for replies. They then designed and sent



postcards from exotic destinations of their choice. The class also practised using the telephone, calling different areas of the school to decode a secret message, and used Microsoft Teams to play a “Guess the Staff Member” game. To conclude the unit, students chose a celebrity they admire and wrote a letter using a structured template. Once completed, they addressed envelopes and visited reception to ask Karen to post their letters. We’re now looking forward to



seeing whether any replies arrive in the new year.



# KM CAT Community Newsletter November 2025

## Welcome to the very first edition of the KM CAT Newsletter!

This monthly newsletter will be your go-to source for all things AAC. Each issue will feature updates on upcoming events and training opportunities, practical tips for implementing AAC, and inspiring stories and "wow" moments shared by our amazing AAC users.

We hope this newsletter becomes a valuable resource and a source of inspiration as you continue your AAC journey.



## WOW Moment

Our first wow moment comes from a child who began his AAC journey with us this year. While at his local rugby club, he spotted a poster advertising a Halloween party. He took his mum to the poster, then used his VOCA to select the words 'fancy dress,' 'Halloween,' 'party,' and 'rugby' from different pages—clearly showing that he wanted to go to the event!



One of the KM CAT therapists, Steph, supporting young people during our AAC in the Community event at the Ashford Outlet .

## Community Events/Training

Several Christmas events in Kent, cater specifically to SEN (Special Educational Needs) audiences, including a SEN Day at Kent Life, an SEN-friendly night at the Port Lympne Illuminated trail with adjusted noise and lights, and an SEN Santa Safari at the Fenn Bell Conservation Project. Other events include a SEN grotto at The Rockits Sensory Room and specific SEN trains on the Kent & East Sussex Railway.

### KM CAT also have upcoming events including:

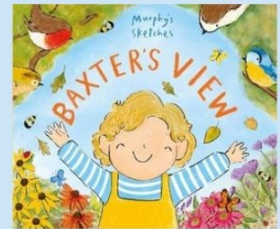
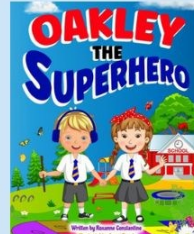
GridTraining - 23rd January  
Proquo2Go - 28th January

Shared Voices - Wednesdays in January beginning on the 10th

Please contact [kentchft.cat-training@nhs.net](mailto:kentchft.cat-training@nhs.net) to find out more or book a place.



## Book Suggestions



Books that have been recommended by members of the KM CAT team. Please use discretion when selecting books for your children and young people.

To find out more about our service or contact us, scan the QR code below:



East Kent Hospitals University   
NHS Foundation Trust

Kent Community Health   
NHS Foundation Trust



# Senior Staff On-call Rota from 19th December 2025



**Matt Strange**      **07894 483673**  
**Lisa Kavanagh**    **07912 124724**  
**Jo Chivers**        **07896 905095**

Date	Day	Time	DSL	DSL
19/12/25	Friday	09:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	



05/01/26	Monday	07:30 To midday	Inset Day	
		Midday to 4pm		
06/01/2026	Tuesday	07.30 To midday	Lisa Kavanagh	Jo Chivers
		Midday to 4pm	Jo Chivers	
07/01/2026	Wednesday	09:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	Lisa Kavanagh
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
08/01/2026	Thursday	09:00 To midday	Lisa Kavanagh	Jo Chivers
		Midday to 4pm	Jo Chivers	
09/01/26	Friday	09:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	Closed
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	