

# Valence News

## Welcome Back to Term 3

We hope everyone has had a restful break and is ready for what promises to be a busy and productive term ahead.

We are pleased to welcome a number of new staff who are joining us this term in a range of roles as follows:

- SSA's—O Sanyaolu , R Poor, A Needham
- Class Co-Ordinator D Leight
- Exam Invigilator (Bank) - S Powel , C Kemp & S Stringfield
- SSa 1:1 M Davis & E Ekicl
- Lunchtime Support Assistant C Kemp
- Community Charity Shop Manager S Brooker
- ICT Technician T Stevens

We extend a warm welcome to them and look forward to the valuable contribution they will make to our school community:

As we move into the time of year when bad weather can have an impact on school routines, we remind parents and carers of the importance of ensuring the school has up-to-date contact details. Many of our students have long and challenging journeys to and from school, and due to the significant risks involved, we take weather warnings very seriously. At times this may mean taking precautionary action that later proves to be unnecessary; however, it is always better to be safe. The health and safety of both students and staff is paramount.

If there is any change to normal school routines, we will always communicate via text message (Teachers2Parents) in the first instance, as this is the quickest way to reach families and transport teams. As text messages are limited in length, this will be followed up with more detailed information via email.

We began Term 3 with staff training day, during which staff prepared for the term ahead and the significant work that takes place at this point in the year. This is a key time as students continue to make progress towards the learning targets they are working on.



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Leading Parent Partnership Award

2024-2027

## Happy New Year from the Residential Team

As 2025 ended, our Residential students were buzzing with festive cheer and a packed schedule of exciting activities! Students embraced the Christmas build up with plenty of seasonal fun.

Before the winter break, students had the opportunity to choose from a variety of festive trips, each filled with Christmas magic:

A visit to Tunbridge Wells Panto, where the magic of live theatre delighted everyone.



A journey on the Polar Express, bringing the story to life with enchanting sights and sounds.



A trip to Wakehurst Light Show, where students enjoyed sparkling displays and the festive atmosphere.



Back at school, the creativity didn't stop! Students made Christmas cards with heartfelt messages, baked gingerbread houses, and decorated their own bungalows to celebrate the season in style. Each bungalow even enjoyed its own Christmas dinner, making the festive celebrations extra special.

The end of term was capped off with a highly competitive Christmas quiz, where students tested their knowledge and had fun in a friendly rivalry.



The spirit of performance was also alive as students staged their very own Panto: Cinderella, with Lacey taking the starring role as Cinderella! Those not performing joined the audience and thoroughly enjoyed the show, adding to the sense of fun.

And of course, there were plenty of other festive outings: some students went Christmas shopping at Bluewater, while others enjoyed a lively session of bowling, ensuring everyone had the chance to celebrate in their own way.

It was a wonderful term filled with joy, laughter, and festive spirit. We are so proud of all our students for embracing every activity with enthusiasm and making the most of the season!

Here's to a bright and happy New Year — we can't wait to see what 2026 has in store!





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As part of this process, you will have received a separate letter today outlining opportunities to meet with your child's teachers. These progress meetings will take place in a variety of ways, depending on your child's age and learning pathway, so please ensure you are aware of the relevant date/ booking process. Dates of progress meetings are: 27th January—Primary, Keller, 10th February—Hawking, 13th March—Simmonds.

We look forward to working in partnership with you and to a very productive Term 3 for all students. Have a good weekend.

Matthew Strange, B.Ed (Hons) NPQH | Principal

Phone: 01959 562156 | Mob: 07894 483673

## 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    |
|----------|--------|-----------------|---------------|--------|
| 09/01/26 | Friday | 09:00 To midday | Jo Chivers    | Closed |
|          |        | Midday to 4pm   | Lisa Kavanagh |        |

|            |                |                 |               |               |
|------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|
| 12/01/2026 | Monday         | 07:30 To midday | Matt Strange  | Lisa Kavanagh |
|            |                | Midday to 4pm   | Lisa Kavanagh |               |
| 13/01/2026 | Tuesday        | 09:00 To midday | Lisa Kavanagh | Jo Chivers    |
|            |                | Midday to 4pm   | Jo Chivers    |               |
| 14/01/2026 | Wednes-<br>day | 09:00 To midday | Jo Chivers    | Lisa Kavanagh |
|            |                | Midday to 4pm   | Lisa Kavanagh |               |
| 15/01/2026 | Thursday       | 09:00 To midday | Lisa Kavanagh | Matt Strange  |
|            |                | Midday to 4pm   | Matt Strange  |               |
| 16/01/2026 | Friday         | 09:00 To midday | Matt Strange  | Closed        |
|            |                | Midday to 4pm   | Lisa Kavanagh |               |

