

Valence News

As we move through the season, the weather has certainly reminded us of its ability to change quickly. Only last week we were dealing with cold, icy mornings, and now we find ourselves facing days that are wet and windy. All indications suggest that this unsettled weather may be with us for some time yet, so following on from last week's request, we would be grateful if families could ensure that any changes to contact details have been shared with the school. Having up-to-date information allows us to communicate with you quickly and effectively when it matters most.

This week we began our programme of mock examinations. This is an important period for us as a school and, in particular, for those students who will be sitting public examinations later in the year. Inevitably, this time brings additional pressure for both students and staff. In response, our staff training over the past couple of weeks has focused on how best to support student wellbeing during assessment periods. We would like to congratulate all students who have taken exams this week, including those who have already completed a public examination in Computing, on their effort and resilience.

A reminder as well that during Terms 3 and 4 all student progress meetings will be taking place. Please make sure you are aware of the relevant dates and understand how to arrange meetings with staff, as these conversations are an important part of supporting student progress.

Finally, despite the inclement weather, there are welcome signs of spring beginning to appear. The daffodils along the driveway, along with those planted in the autumn by our primary students in the primary playground, are all pushing through quickly. It will not be long before they burst into colour and brighten our days.

Have a good weekend.

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

Phone: 01959 562156 | Mob: 07894 483673



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Dear Parents and Carers,

As part of our Health Awareness programme, we are planning to support **National Cerebral Palsy Awareness Day 2026**.

On this day, we will be holding a range of activities to help raise awareness and promote understanding among our students:

- **A morning assembly** with age-appropriate discussion and education for all students
- **A lunchtime information stand**, where leaflets will be available and questions can be answered by our Valence Nursing Team

Wear Green” Day on 25th March 2026

Students and staff are invited to wear green in exchange for a voluntary donation to **The Cerebral Palsy Trust**, with all funds raised going directly to the charity

As always, we carefully consider the impact of awareness days on our students and families. If you have any questions or concerns, feel your child may need additional support, or would rather this event didn't take place, please contact **Sophie Haigh, Nurse Manager**, at shaigh@valence.kent.sch.uk.

Thank you for your continued support.

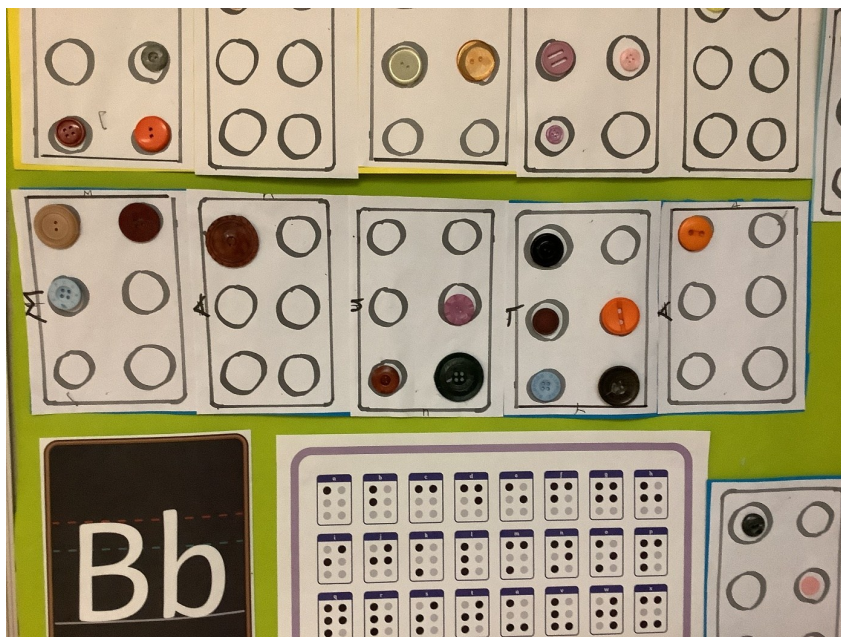
Kind regards,

Valence School Nursing Team

Keller Class News

This term in Keller Class, we've been learning all about different **heroes**. These include emergency service workers as well as everyday heroes in our community who help us, such as family members, friends, and relatives who support us.

Our sensory story this term is *The Tiger Who Came to Tea*, which has been translated into **Makaton**. The students have loved getting involved by making props to help bring the story to life and encourage everyone to join in.



We've also been busy celebrating some special days. For **World Braille Day**, students made their names using buttons to explore tactile learning. We also marked **Make Your Dreams Come True Day** by thinking about our futures and creating a sensory dream catcher.

It's been a fun and busy term so far in Keller Class!





*Friends of
Valence presents
Musical
Bingo!*

Join Friends of Valence for an afternoon of musical bingo, fun for all ages! Fully inclusive fun for all the family, prizes to be won, refreshments available. Get ready to sing along if the mood takes you!

SUNDAY 8TH FEBRUARY 2026

1PM-4PM

Location: Valence School Hall

Adult entry £8, child entry £2, bingo cards £1 each on the day. To purchase entry tickets and arrange payment please email friends@valence.kent.sch.uk.

Limited spaces so book early to avoid disappointment! (Advance booking only)

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
16/01/26	Friday	09:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	Closed
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	

17/01/2026	Monday	07:30 To midday	Matt Strange	Jo Chivers
		Midday to 4pm	Jo Chivers	
18/01/2026	Tuesday	09:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	Lisa Kavanagh
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
19/01/2026	Wednesday	09:00 To midday	Lisa Kavanagh	Jo Chivers
		Midday to 4pm	Jo Chivers	
20/01/2026	Thursday	09:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	Lisa Kavanagh
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
21/01/26	Friday	09:00 To midday	Lisa Kavanagh	Closed
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	

Please see below a reminder of the process for reporting absences:

Unplanned Absence: If your child cannot attend school, please notify the school of the reason for the absence on the first day of an unplanned absence by 8:45am or as soon as practically possible by calling the school administrative staff on [01959 562156](tel:01959562156) or by emailing valence@valence.kent.sch.uk. This information will be shared with the student's Multi-Disciplinary Team. Absences due to ill health will be authorised however the school may seek additional information from parents, if the pattern or frequency of absences raises a concern.

Planned Absence: Attending a medical or dental appointment will be counted as authorised, as long as the pupil's parent/carer notifies the school in advance of the appointment and can provide evidence of the appointment. If your child is a **day student**, please email reception and copy in the **class coordinator and form tutor** as soon as possible with details of the appointment. If your child is a **boarder**, please email reception and copy in the **key worker and form tutor** as soon as possible with details of the appointment.

If you are planning a return to school and your child presents a change in health needs or a change in their physical presentation, please contact the Assistant Principal for attendance, Katie Gibson at kgibson@valence.kent.sch.uk, who will share this information with the Multi-Disciplinary Team.