

# Valence News

As we reach the midpoint of Term Three, life at Valence remains as busy and vibrant as ever. Final preparations are now well underway for next week's much-anticipated Hawking Arts Day, centred around the theme The Greatest Showman. Students have already been enjoying sections of the film in advance and are gearing up for a day filled with creativity, performance, collaboration and a real sense of spectacle.

On Friday 30th January, we will also be holding one of our Whole School Phonics Development Days. On this day, we welcome external trainers into school to observe our phonics groupings and the wide range of activities taking place across lessons. These visits are a vital part of ensuring we continue to develop and strengthen our practice in this important area. With 2026 being the Year of Reading, our phonics programme remains a key strand of the comprehensive literacy support we offer to all students.

Parents will also have received a letter during the week with information regarding a change in the Chair of Governors, following the resignation of Brian Davies. The Governing Body met and appointed a new Chair earlier this week, and we are delighted to confirm that Mark Roberts has been appointed to this role. We would like to thank him for taking on this important responsibility and look forward to working closely with him moving forward.

A reminder as well that student progress meetings begin next week. You should already have received information about how to attend these, but please do not hesitate to contact the school if you are unsure or need any support. Finally, with the weather still unsettled this weekend, please do take care. After mentioning last week that the daffodils on the drive were looking like they were coming on well, I was surprised to see the first one actually come into bloom on Wednesday, which is a week earlier than last year!

Have a good weekend.

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

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Leading Parent Partnership Award

2024-2027



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](mailto:shaigh@valence.kent.sch.uk).

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

**Valence School Nursing Team**



## An Art Exhibition with a difference!

If you are looking for a rich activity, experience for your children, a fantastic opportunity has opened at the Victoria and Albert Museum, showcasing Disability and creativity!

*Design and Disability* showcase the radical contributions of Disabled, Deaf, and neurodivergent people and communities to design history and contemporary culture, from the 1940s to now. The exhibition is running until 15<sup>th</sup> February 2026. The address is shown below.

V&A South Kensington

*Cromwell Road  
London, SW7 2RL*

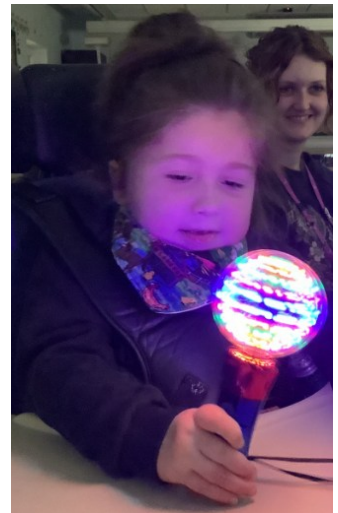
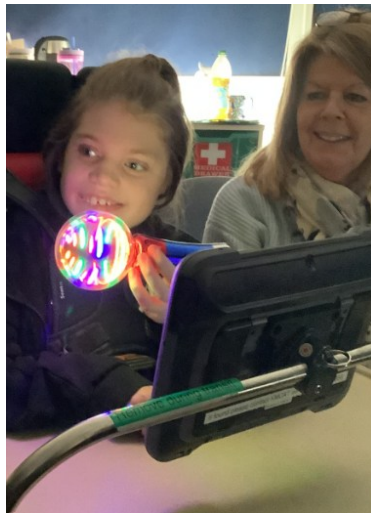
This is a fantastic opportunity to show the talents and capabilities of anyone who has a disability.

[Design and Disability - Exhibition at V&A South Kensington · V&A](#)



# Owl Class

In Owl class, we have enjoyed our 'Fun time' (communication) lessons. This light is their favourite!



We have loved doing Messy Maths too!



# News in Computing January 2026

In Term 2, students were building on the PowerPoint & presentation the skills learnt in Term

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They've used their Internet search techniques to research logos and create their own Restaurant promotional material in the "Bread & Batter" task. For the task they created Logo's, menu's, adverts & Business cards. There's been some great work being produced by all the students, some of which you can see on the bottom of this newsletter

As well as obtaining valuable research skills, they've been learning how to find reliable & valid information on the web, ensuring that everyone is tech savvy & tech safe.

This term Key Stage 2 & Key Stage 3 have started their Computer Science strand of the curriculum, learning about the different aspects of a computer & Shrek has been helping us learn about Sequencing & Algorithms!

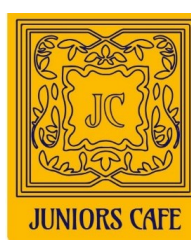


Key Stage 4 & Key Stage 5 students are diligently working towards ASDAN, WJEC accreditation & OCR Cambridge Technicals, with Mock GSCE's currently taking place in school

Safer Internet Day will take place on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2026, and the theme this year is 'Smart tech, safe choices – Exploring the safe and responsible use of AI'



All students should be incredibly proud of the work they have done so far. Well done everyone – keep up the great work!





*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 8<sup>TH</sup> 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](mailto:friends@valence.kent.sch.uk).*

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

## Senior Staff On-call Rota from 23rd January 2026

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

Date	Day	Time	DSL	DSL
23/01/2026	Friday	09:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	Closed
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
26/01/2026	Monday	07:30 To midday	Lisa Kavanagh	Lisa Kavanagh
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
27/01/2026	Tuesday	09:00 To midday	Lisa Kavanagh	Matt Strange
		Midday to 4pm	Matt Strange	
28/01/2026	Wednesday	09:00 To midday	Matt Strange	Lisa Kavanagh
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
29/01/2026	Thursday	09:00 To midday	Lisa Kavanagh	Jo Chivers
		Midday to 4pm	Jo Chivers	
30/01/2026	Friday	09:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	Closed
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	

### **Reminder for Parents/Carers: Free School Meals – please apply!**

Just a quick reminder to apply for **Free School Meals**, if you think you might be eligible. Even if your child already gets a meal at school, registering really helps. It means:

- your child can get **free, nutritious meals**
- the school receives **additional funding**, which helps pay for resources, staff, and enrichment activities that benefit all pupils

Applying is **quick and confidential**. If you're unsure whether you qualify, it's still worth checking – many families are eligible and don't know it. Thank you for your support – it really does make a difference to our school community . If you need help applying, please speak to Reception.