

# Valence News



## What a Fantastic Week!

It has been a truly fantastic week at school. Not only have we been celebrating Science Week, but yesterday also marked the culmination of weeks of hard work from students and staff in Simmonds 4, who performed at the Woodville Halls in Gravesend as part of the Shakespeare Schools Festival.

The Shakespeare Schools Festival is an annual event that takes place in theatres across the country, with schools performing their own interpretations of Shakespeare’s work for local audiences. This year, Simmonds 4 delivered a truly wonderful performance of Romeo and Juliet, and they did the school proud.

Lines were delivered with confidence and clarity, and there were some epic fight scenes, during which a few of the students may have got a little over-excited! There were also beautifully tender moments, with the audience literally gasping as the lead characters played out the final, tragic scene.

A huge thank you must go to Emily Wright, who led the project, as well as to all the staff who supported along the way. Productions like this do not just happen; they require a great deal of planning, commitment and encouragement behind the scenes.

It was a real privilege to be there and watch the performance. It demonstrated something we see time and time again — that despite the significant barriers many of our young people face, they are capable of brilliant things.

Science Week itself culminates today. At the time of writing, the sports hall is being prepared for the “Lunar Buggy” Challenge. Students have been designing and building their own moon vehicles throughout the week, and these will be put to the test today in what promises to be an equally inspiring finale. A full report on Science Week will follow in next week’s edition.



It is wonderful to see our school involved in so many different opportunities, from performing on a professional theatre stage to designing engineering projects for space exploration. Experiences like these are incredibly important, helping our students to build confidence, creativity and ambition.

Have a great weekend.

Matthew Strange

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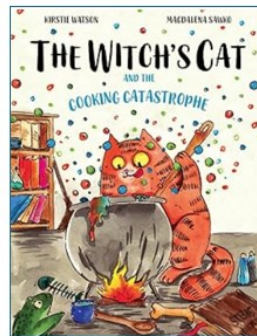


On 5th March, Deer Class had a fantastic World Book Day! All the children arrived dressed as their favourite book characters, bringing stories to life with their wonderful costumes. Throughout the day, the children took part in a variety of book-themed activities and celebrated the joy of reading by listening to stories read by teachers from

Deer Class students have been spotted reading their favourite books!



Inspired by our class book, we made some gruesome potions with some interesting ingredients like cat wee and insect poo. What a fantastic World Book Day we all had! Keep reading everyone...



**Red Nose Day 2026**  
**Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> March**



This annual event, organized by Comic Relief, combines humor and charity to raise funds for children and families facing poverty, hunger, and homelessness.

This year the campaign encourages people to "Take Yourself Funny for Money," using laughter and creativity to make a real difference.

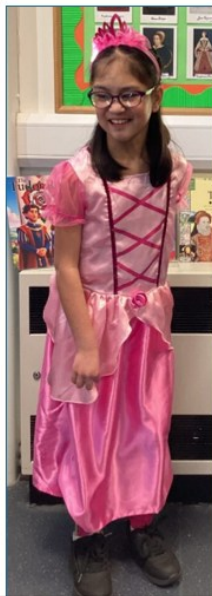
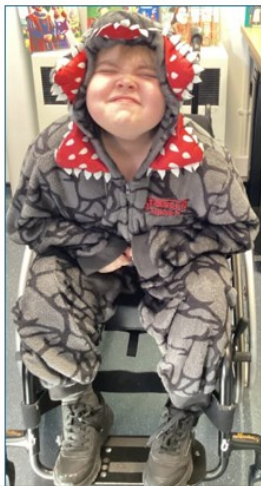
At Valence we are supporting Red Nose Day by asking students to wear red nose day t-shirts or their own designed comic relief nose or wear anything red.

As previously for these fund raising days we would ask you send any money directly to Comic relief

<https://www.comicrelief.com/getinvolved/fundraise/pay-in-your-money/rednoseday/>



We enjoyed dressing up as our favourite book character.



## Keller Class Weekly Newsletter

This week in school we have been celebrating Science Week. In Keller Class, we have been busy preparing for the big event on Friday: Space Races! The class designed and created their own lunar rovers. All pupils contributed ideas for the design and helped choose the materials, while the adults helped assemble the final models. We are looking forward to seeing them race!

In Topic, we have continued learning about growth. The class created beautiful blossom trees using a variety of sensory materials, exploring different textures as we worked.

In Numeracy, we explored the concepts of light and heavy through practical activities.

In Literacy, we focused on several letters:

- G – making gnomes
- H – creating hats
- K – practising goal scoring

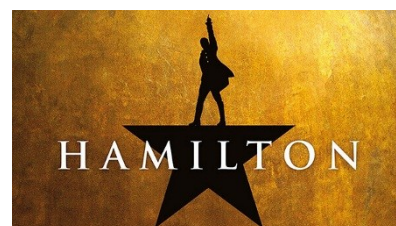
Keller Class have also enjoyed a range of activities this week including Music, Gardening, PE, Swimming, and Physical Management. We also spent some calming time in class listening to nature sounds, including birds singing, with the relaxing backdrop of a spring meadow.

It has been a busy and enjoyable week for everyone in Keller Class!



**GO  
LIVE  
THEATRE**

**RELAXED PERFORMANCE**



Victoria Palace Theatre, Victoria Street, London, SW1E 5EA

**Relaxed Performance: Wednesday 29 April 2026 6.30pm**

**Tickets: £25, £35, £55\***

**Date:** Wednesday 29 April 2026

**Show Begins:** 6.30pm

**Show Ends:** 9.15pm

**Running Time:** 2 hours & 45 minutes (inc. 15 minute interval)

**Age Recommendation:** 10+ Contains some strong language

If you are looking to book to a **wheelchair accessible ticket**, please contact the theatre's access department via [access@delfontmackintosh.co.uk](mailto:access@delfontmackintosh.co.uk) or call their access line on 0344 482 5137. Lines are open Monday to Saturday, 10am to 7.30pm.

## A welcome letter...

Last term, students in Simmonds 2 wrote letters to people who inspire them. They eagerly posted their letters, hopeful that they might receive a reply.

Jude chose to write to YouTube creator Mat Armstrong, who is followed by more than six million subscribers for his car-building and modification projects, a passion Jude shares. As you can see below, Mat's response was thoughtful and personal, answering many of Jude's questions and making the experience truly memorable.

Now, Jude's classmates are excitedly checking the post each day, hoping they might receive replies of their own!

To Jude,

Thank you for your letter! It has made the whole team happy to hear how much you enjoy watching the videos. Working with my dad is very special and I'm glad that you are close with yours too. It makes things more enjoyable working with the people you love.

It is so hard to choose a favourite car as they are all good in their own ways. If I had to pick a favourite it would probably be the Lamborghini Murcielago as it's a gated manual which you do not see very often, and it is quite a rare car itself. The McLaren would also be a top choice though!

I was in my early 20s when I started fixing cars on my driveway and it all grew from there.

My favourite F1 driver used to be Danny Ricardo, I do like Max Verstappen as well.

The fastest car I have ever owned is probably the Lamborghini Gallardo.

At the moment, I have over 20 cars that are fixed and that I still own. We are doing a car collection video very soon so you can have a reminder of all the cars we have and what's special about each one.

Wow! It sounds like you really enjoying fixing things up. It's a great skill to have so keep at it

😊

All the best,

Mat

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'M' and 'A' followed by a simple smiley face.

Scan the QR code or search

<https://peoplesfundraising.com/raffle/fov-easter-raffle-2026>

A vibrant purple poster for an Easter Raffle. At the top left is a QR code. To its right, the text 'FRIENDS OF VALENCE' is written in light blue. The center features three overlapping raffle tickets with the word 'TICKET' and stars. Below the tickets, the words 'EASTER RAFFLE' are written in large, bold, purple letters inside a white decorative frame. A light blue banner at the bottom of the frame says 'DRAW MONDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026'. Below the banner, it says 'TICKETS £1 EACH' and 'PRIZES INCLUDE EXTRA LARGE EASTER EGG, BOTTLES OF ALCOHOL, EASTER BASKET AND MORE!'. At the very bottom, the URL 'HTTPS://WWW.PEOPLESFUNDRAISING.COM/RAFFLE/FOV-EASTER-RAFFLE-2026' is displayed. The background is decorated with several colorful Easter eggs and a hand holding one.

Dear Parents, Carers & Transport Providers,

We would like to ask for your support with a small but important matter during drop-off and collection times.

We have noticed that a number of vehicles are left with their engines running while parked outside the school. While we completely understand that many families are waiting in their cars, we kindly ask that drivers switch off their engines when stationary.

Reducing engine idling helps to improve air quality around the school entrance and creates a healthier environment for our students, staff and families. Even small actions like this can make a meaningful difference, particularly at busy times of the day.

We would really appreciate your support with this and thank you in advance for helping us keep the area around the school as safe and healthy as possible for everyone.

## Senior Staff On-call Rota from 13th March 2026

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

Date	Day	Time	DSL	DSL
13/02/2026	Friday	09:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	Closed
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
16/03/2026	Monday	07:30 To midday	Jo Chivers	Lisa Kavanagh
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
17/03/2026	Tuesday	09:00 To midday	Lisa Kavanagh	Matt Strange
		Midday to 4pm	Matt Strange	
18/03/2026	Wednesday	09:00 To midday	Matt Strange	Lisa Kavanagh
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
19/03/2026	Thursday	09:00 To midday	Lisa Kavanagh	Jo Chivers
		Midday to 4pm	Jo Chivers	
20/03/2026	Friday	09:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	Closed
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	

**Buy a Ticket for the  
Easter Raffle.**



**You could win one of  
these prizes**

