

# Valence News



We begin this edition of our newsletter with some sad news. We will be saying goodbye to Karen, our much-loved school receptionist. Unfortunately, Karen has not been at work recently and has taken the very difficult decision not to return. She is currently unwell, and although her official last working day will not be until the end of Term 4, we will not be seeing her back in school.

We are deeply saddened by this news. Karen has been a truly integral part of our school community for the past 12 years. As the welcoming face at reception, she has supported countless families, students, and staff with warmth, kindness, and unwavering dedication. Her absence has already left a noticeable hole in our daily life, and she will be missed incredibly by us all.

We are organising a collection for a leaving gift to show our appreciation for everything Karen has given to the school over the years. Parents are very welcome to contribute by sending donations into reception in an envelope clearly marked "Gift for Karen." If you would also like to include a card or personal message, we would be delighted to pass these on to her.

On a more positive note, we are absolutely thrilled to share the outcome of our recent social care inspection, which took place at the start of term. Once again, we have been judged as Outstanding in all areas—an incredible achievement and one that marks the fourth consecutive year we have received this highest grading. This recognition is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our entire school community. The full report was sent to all parents earlier this week and is also available to view on our school website.

Finally, we would like to draw your attention to the advert in this edition for our Annual Golf Day, taking place on Wednesday 20th May. There are a few places remaining, so if you are an avid golfer, we would love for you to get involved. It promises to be a fantastic event, with close to 100 golfers taking part and a range of excellent prizes generously donated by members of our local community.

We are also currently seeking hole sponsors for the event. If you know of any local businesses that may be interested in this opportunity, please do encourage them to get in touch. Further details, including the contact email, can be found on the flyer.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

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

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## Science Week

Science week kicked off with the Nitrogen Show at Sevenoaks School, where we were treated to an amazing show that Simmonds 4 watched how Nitrogen can make Blu- Tac and a banana hard enough to hang a picture on the wall. Stefan said the show was 'Wow'.

On Tuesday Hawking 5 also joined other schools at Sevenoaks School to watch the Energy Show at Sevenoaks School, where we were treated to a range of energy related experiments. Matthew said that 'the Finale was very loud'.

In School we celebrated Science week by completing a whole school challenge. Following the National curiosity theme of 'Space and the Lunar Landing'. Every class built self-propelled lunar Buggy throughout the week in class and in science lessons. The they all landed on 'Planet Valence' last Friday where their Buggies were put through a series of lunar themed challenges for our Buggies to overcome.

They had to see how far they could get along 'Asteroid Alley', could they push past the asteroids to get the end.



## Science Week

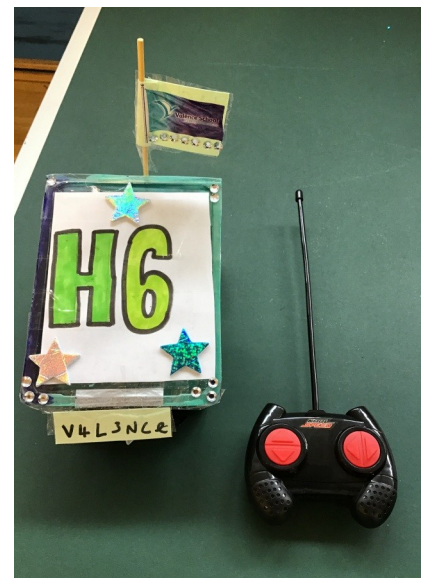
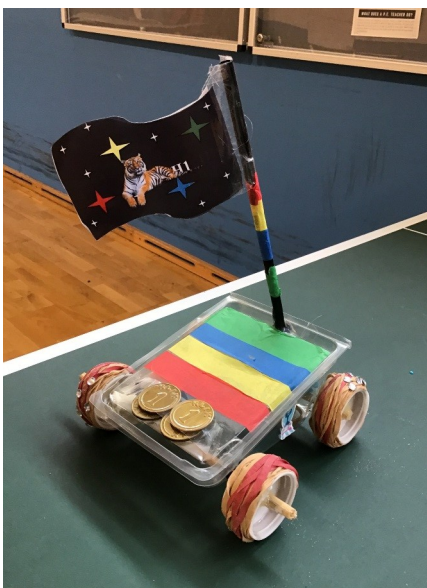
Buggies had to navigate over the 'Moondust', this required lots of classes to use their 'Crater Cash' to buy materials to modify their Buggy, so it had enough friction or needed to add more weight.

'Space Station Docking' required to students to park their Buggy in the space station docking, they again could use their 'Crater Cash' to buy ramps or change their wheels.

Lunar Loads tested their Buggies ability to carry additional weight and travel a meter whilst fully loaded.

'Crater Chaos' required Buggies to climb the sandy sides of our lunar crater, which proved to be one of the most difficult challenges. Where not all Buggies could make it up the slope to the top!

We saw some excellent designs, some awesome decorated Buggies. However, there can only be one winner so well done to H3 who made the winning Lunar Buggy.





## 'News from the Cooking room'

This term BTEC assessments are taking place, Level 1 are now complete, and Level 2 are being conducted this week.

Below are a few examples of some of the delicious dishes cooked by students so far...

Meatballs



Spaghetti Pomodoro



Chicken curry...

... with salad



Lentil curry, mixed salad with mint dressing



Chicken with Rosemary and Greek salad



A surprise visitor joined us for a taste !



Other classes have been working towards an AQA Award

Cooking Food from around the World

England



Root Veggie Stew and dumplings



Ireland



Soda Bread



Scotland



Oat cakes



We also celebrated World Book Week in the cooking room by making some Harry Potter themed Pumpkin Pasties with some classes.



Limited places so  
book early!



**bbl**



**BENNING BROTHERS**

VALENCE SCHOOL GOLF DAY

**20<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2026**

A fun filled day of golf to raise  
funds for Valence School

WESTERHAM GC

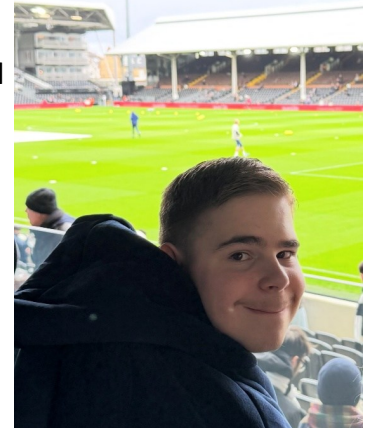
**£95** PER PLAYER

Coffee & Bacon Roll on Arrival  
Putting Competition  
18 Holes Stableford Competition  
Live 'on course' Scoring  
Quality Prizes (Team & Individual)  
Nearest the Pin - Longest Drive  
Two Course Presentation Meal  
Games

To register:  
[friends@valence.kent.sch.uk](mailto:friends@valence.kent.sch.uk)

## Fulham Trip

On Sunday 1st March, a group of Valence students attended an exciting school trip to Craven Cottage to watch Fulham F.C. take on Tottenham Hotspur F.C. The group were fortunate enough to sit in the brand new Riverside Stand, which offered fantastic views of both the pitch and the River Thames. The atmosphere inside the stadium was brilliant from the moment we arrived, with students enjoying the experience of seeing a live Premier League match in such an iconic venue.



One of the most exciting parts of the day was being seated close to the Tottenham supporters, which added even more energy and noise to the occasion. The match itself was highly entertaining, with plenty of action and chances for both teams. In the end, Fulham came away with a memorable 2–1 victory, much to the delight of the home fans. The trip was a fantastic opportunity for students to experience top-level football live, enjoy the atmosphere of a professional stadium, and share a memorable sporting experience together. A huge thank you to Fulham FC for their support in organising this opportunity!



## Simmonds 3's reward day

Last term, Simmonds 3 were the merit leaders and earned the chance to choose their reward day. After discussing ideas as a group, the class decided on an activity day packed with fun and creativity.

The morning began with a lively game of Catchphrase led by their Pathway Lead, Tim Longthorne, followed by a relaxed chat about their weekends. After break, students enjoyed a friendly game of indoor bowling, a firm favourite and a popular contender for a future class trip.

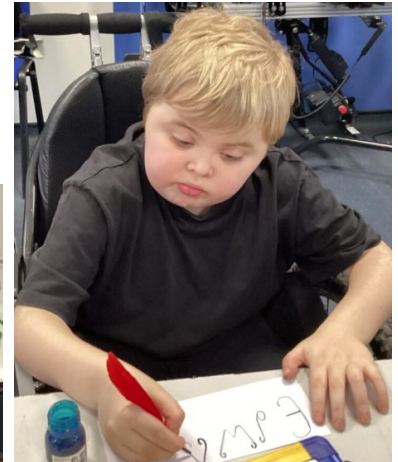


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In the afternoon, students made their own Valentine's Day cards, showcasing fantastic imagination and creativity.

Well done to Simmonds 3 for being last term's merit leaders and for showing such enthusiasm, teamwork, and positivity throughout your reward day!

This term, Deer Class has been exploring the fascinating world of the Tudors through a range of fun and engaging activities. We learned all about King Henry VIII and his six wives, and brought history to life by creating beautiful Tudor roses using tissue paper. The children also designed and printed their own Tudor shields using polystyrene and paint, showing great creativity. As part of our learning, we explored what life was like for both rich and poor Tudors, including what they ate and drank. To consolidate our topic, we held a fantastic Tudor-themed day. Both students and staff dressed up, and we were delighted to see a variety of characters, including Anne Boleyn, Catherine of Aragon, a scullery maid, an executioner, and even Henry VIII himself!



With Tudor music playing in the background, the children took part in a range of hands-on activities. These included sewing their initials onto binca fabric, writing their names with a quill and ink, and dressing peg dolls in Tudor costumes. They also used their imaginations to think about what rules they would create if they were king or queen for a day. A special highlight was when Mrs Guerry brought in a selection of herbs for the children to smell and identify, learning which ones were commonly used in Tudor kitchens. It has been a truly enjoyable and memorable term of learning for Deer Class!



Scan the QR code or search

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



FRIENDS OF VALENCE

# EASTER RAFFLE

**DRAW MONDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2026**

**TICKETS £1 EACH  
PRIZES INCLUDE EXTRA LARGE EASTER EGG,  
BOTTLES OF ALCOHOL, EASTER BASKET AND MORE!**

**[HTTPS://WWW.PEOPLESFUNDRAISING.COM/RAFFLE/FOV-EASTER-RAFFLE-2026](https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/raffle/fov-easter-raffle-2026)**

## Senior Staff On-call Rota from 20th March 2026

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

Date	Day	Time	DSL	DSL
20/03/2026	Friday	09:00 To midday	Lisa Kavanagh	Closed
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
23/03/2026	Monday	07:30 To midday	Matt Strange	Lisa Kavanagh
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
24/03/2026	Tuesday	09:00 To midday	Lisa Kavanagh	Jo Chivers
		Midday to 4pm	Jo Chivers	
25/03/2026	Wednesday	09:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	Matt Strange
		Midday to 4pm	Matt Strange	
26/03/2026	Thursday	09:00 To midday	Matt Strange	Jo Chivers
		Midday to 4pm	Jo Chivers	
27/03/2026	Friday	09:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	Closed
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	

### Reminder

#### Wear Green Day on 25th March 2026

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: 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.

Thank you for your continued support.

Valence School Nursing Team