

# Valence News



## Growth in Action

This week, the playground played host to a quieter kind of success story—one built steadily over the past two terms.

Since winter, students across Primary, Keller and the Simmonds Pathway have been working in classrooms and in the poly tunnel, planting, watering and looking after young plants as they took root. This week, that work began to pay off. Trays of healthy young dahlias, vegetable plants and seasonal flowers were ready for sale—well-established and just at the point where they're ready to thrive in their next home.

Students from the Simmonds Pathway led the afternoon sale to staff, organising the plants, speaking to customers and handling transactions. It provided a valuable opportunity to apply their learning in a real context and to build confidence through meaningful interaction.

This work sits within our wider programme of outdoor learning and food growing, which forms an important part of the semi-formal curriculum. It offers a highly contextualised approach to learning—one that is not only engaging, but also rooted in real-life skills. From understanding how plants grow to taking responsibility for their care, students develop practical knowledge that connects directly to everyday life.

The polytunnel at Valence also plays a key role beyond the classroom. It regularly provides fresh vegetables for the school kitchen, and there is a real sense of pride when students deliver trugs of produce over to Gaynor for use that week. These moments reinforce the value of their effort in a tangible and meaningful way.



While this week's plant sale was a highlight, it is not the end point. Later this term, plants will also be available to purchase in the school shop, giving students further opportunities to maintain and extend their work.

The plants may not yet be in full bloom, but that reflects the journey well—steady progress, care over time, and the confidence that comes from seeing something through from start to finish.

Well done to everyone involved.

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

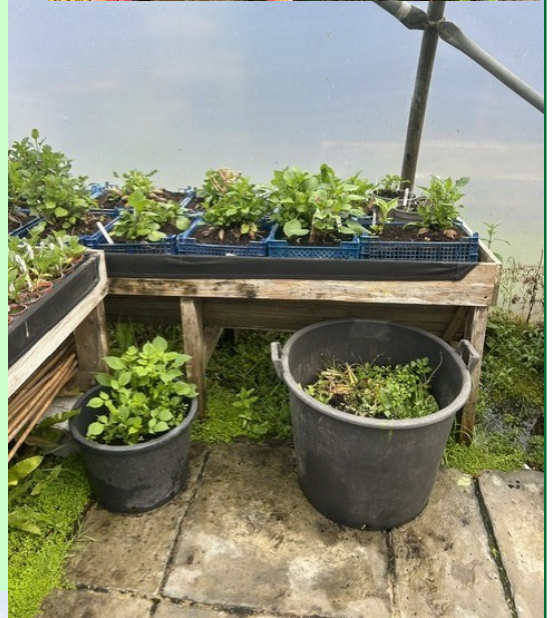
**Phone: 01959 562156 | Mob: 07894 483673**

## S2's Outdoor Learning





**Growing in**  
**the**  
**Polytunnel**



## News from Hedgehog Class

Hedgehog class have enjoyed the lovely weather, and been doing activities in gardening to work on their Growing topic.

They worked on measuring objects in the classroom, using non-standard units and also in centimeters using a ruler and measuring how much the plants have grown.

The students created some fantastic artwork based on the flowers that we have growing around Valence.

We have been to the woodland walk to explore signs of Spring happening within our beautiful grounds.



## Senior Staff On-call Rota from 8th May 2026

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

Date	Day	Time	DSL	DSL
08/05/26	Friday	09:00 To midday	Lisa Kavanagh	Closed
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
11/05/26	Monday	09:00 To midday	<b>Matt Strange</b>	Lisa Kavanagh
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
12/05/26	Tuesday	07:30 To midday	<b>Matt Strange</b>	Matt Strange
		Midday to 4pm	<b>Matt Strange</b>	
13/05/26	Wednesday	09:00 To midday	<b>Matt Strange</b>	Jo Chivers Kate Bayman
		Midday to 4pm	<b>Jo Chivers</b>	
14/05/26	Thursday	09:00 To midday	<b>Jo Chivers</b>	Lisa Kavanagh
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
15/05/26	Friday	09:00 To midday	Lisa Kavanagh	Closed
		Midday to 4pm	Matt Strange	

