

Valence News



Friends of Valence: Making a Real Difference

The Friends of Valence (FOV) team continues to make a significant impact across the school community, with a series of events and initiatives that are raising both funds and awareness to support our students.

Planning is now in its final stages for this year's Festival of Motoring, with a dedicated group of volunteers working tirelessly behind the scenes. Meeting regularly, the committee has ensured that every detail is being carefully considered so the event can continue to grow and improve. This year promises to be bigger than ever, with an exciting autosolo event hosted by Sevenoaks Motor Club, alongside a fully booked display paddock showcasing an impressive range of vintage and performance vehicles. With a bar, food outlets, and a wide variety of family entertainment also planned, it is set to be a fantastic day for all. More info on page 6.



Alongside this, we would like to remind families about the upcoming English Channel relay swim, being undertaken by the Valence Buys in support of the school. Over the half term break, the team successfully completed their final qualifying swim in Dover Harbour and are now ready for the challenge ahead. The Valence Buys aim is to raise £20,000 to refurbish the school's swimming pool changing facilities. As you know, our students benefit enormously from access to the pool. It provides vital therapeutic benefits, supports physical development, and offers a sense of freedom that cannot easily be achieved elsewhere. Updating these facilities is an important step in ensuring this provision remains of the highest quality. The team will take on the Channel in relay, swimming one hour at a time and rotating continuously for up to 18 hours until they reach France — a remarkable challenge. Any support would be greatly appreciated, with all donations directly benefiting our students. Their story is on page 2 along with the QR code to sponsor them.



Recent fundraising has already seen great success. The FOV Golf Day, held at Westerham Golf Club and generously sponsored by Benning Brothers, raised just over £4,000. It was a fantastic event, with plenty of fun throughout the day, and it was especially wonderful to see students involved in selling raffle tickets and contributing to the occasion.

Looking ahead, preparations are also underway for the Summer Fair on 18th July, with plans coming together well. We encourage families to get involved and support what promises to be another enjoyable community event. For more information, check out the flyer on page 7. Donations will start soon, watch this space.

None of these activities would be possible without the continued dedication of the Friends of Valence Committee — a group made up of committed parents and staff who give their time generously to support the school. We are incredibly grateful for all that they do to make a real difference to the lives of our students.

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

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The Valence Buoys are ready for the channel!

After months of training in cold water, the Valence Buoys swim team successfully completed their final assessment in Dover Harbour over the half term break.

Swimming in water just over 13°C, each member of the team took on the demanding challenge of completing laps of the harbour for 1.5 hours, followed by a one-hour rest before returning to the water for a further hour. Affectionately known in the Dover swimming community as “double dipping”, this gruelling test requires not only physical endurance but significant mental strength.

All swimmers — including three Valence dads — successfully completed the assessment and have now been officially signed off by the Channel Swimming and Piloting Federation as ready to attempt the crossing to France. A fantastic achievement, and a testament to their resilience and dedication.

The team is now entering the final stages of preparation for the swim, with a provisional window of 13th–21st June. Further details on how to follow their progress will be shared soon.

Fundraising remains a key part of the challenge, and any support would be greatly appreciated as the team works towards its target. Their journey, which only a few months ago felt out of reach, is now becoming a reality — though the swim itself will be even more demanding in the open waters of the Channel.

Finally, there are still places available at the charity curry night in support of the swim at the Shampan restaurant on Thursday 11th June. For more information, please contact dbeaney@valence.kent.sch.uk

Thank you to everyone who has supported the team so far — your encouragement and contributions are making a real difference.



All photos by:
gemmajanephotography



I'm supporting

Valence Buoys Channel Swim



Scan the QR code to find out more

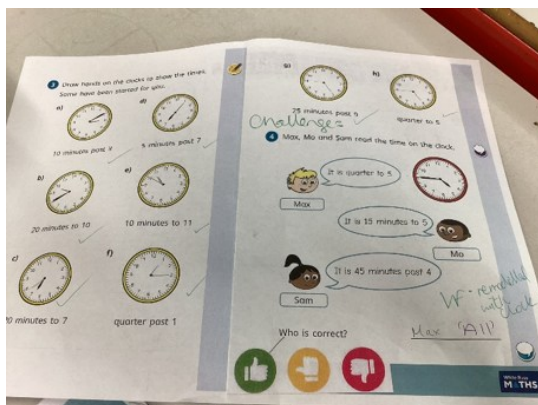
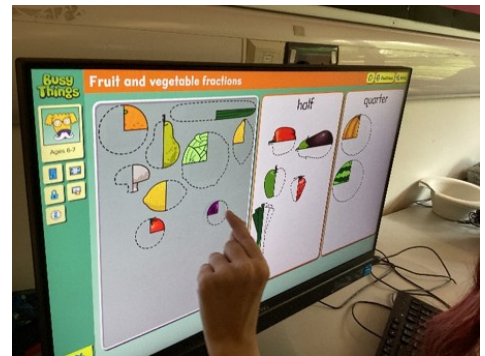
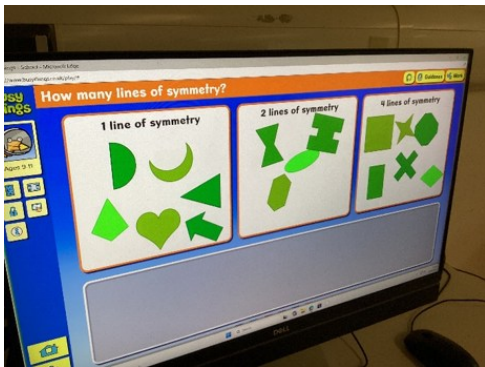
 Crowdfunder

S4 Newsletter

This term S4 has been working hard in Maths to learn all about time.

This includes 'o'clock, half past, quarter past and quarter to.

We also did some extra work on Fractions and Symmetry (from our previous terms) to make sure we don't forget our learning.



V A L E N C E S C H O O L

ART EXHIBITION



**PRIVATE VIEWING
FOR FAMILIES/ FRIENDS**

**15
JULY**

VALENCE SCHOOL
LARGE PLC

**FOR A PLACE ON THE
GUESTLIST**

**& TO FIND OUT MORE
INFO**

EMAIL:

SDARR@VALENCE.KENT.SCH.UK

FREE ENTRY

As we reach the final term of this academic year, please see below a message to all parents from Zena Belton, one of our Assistant Principals. Zena has been a highly valued member of the Valence community for many years. Her commitment and contribution to the school have been exceptional.

As you will read below, Zena will be retiring at the end of this term. This will undoubtedly be a significant and emotional moment for all of us, given the lasting impact she has made at Valence over such a long period of time. We will, of course, be taking time later in the term to recognise and celebrate her many achievements and everything she has given to the school.

Matt Strange

After more than 30 years of being part of the Valence education team, I would like to share with you that I will be leaving at the end of this academic year.

During my time here, I have had the pleasure of working with countless students, families and colleagues. Supporting young people as they grow, learn and succeed has been both a joy and an honour and has created some of my best memories.

I will be speaking to students when we return to school so that I can share this news with them personally. However, I wanted to ensure that parents and carers are also informed, and I am happy if you wish to talk to your child ahead of this.

I will continue to support Valence on the Green shop and will be working in their occasionally and I will also continue in my role as co-chair of the Friends of Valence committee.

While I am looking forward to the next chapter, I will truly miss being part of an amazing school. Thank you for your ongoing support and for allowing me to be part of your children's journeys over so many years.

I hope many of you will be able to attend the Valence Summer Fair on 18th July and pop by and say hello.

Zena

Friends of Valence



Valence Buoys Curry Night on 11th June

Festival of Motoring on 28th June

Summer Fair on 18th July

SUNDAY 28 JUNE 2026

10:00 - 16:00

VALENCE SCHOOL
WESTERHAM
TN16 1QN



AUTOSOLO - DISPLAY
PADDOCK - BAR
FOOD - ENTERTAINMENT
KIDS ACTIVITIES

FESTIVAL OF MOTORING

ADULT SPECTATOR £7.50

CHILD SPECTATOR (4-16) £5.00

**FAMILY (2 ADULTS AND UP
TO 4 CHILDREN) £20.00**



**MORE
INFO**

**SCAN
ME!** >>>



Do you have a vintage,
performance or unique car
that you wish to display in the
paddock?

book now via email below

£15 PER CAR

To include up to 5 people

Book early via email as places limited:
friends@valence.kent.sch.uk





**Valence
School**

Summer Fair

Saturday 18th July 2026

12pm - 4pm

free entry

Events include:

Dog show, entertainment, face painting, BBQ and refreshments, stalls, games and more!

For more information email:
friends@valence.kent.sch.uk

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.

Senior Staff On-call Rota from 5h June 2026

Matt Strange **07894 483673**
Lisa Kavanagh **07912 124724**
Jo Chivers **07896 905095**
Kate Bayman **07827 961903**

Date	Day	Time	DSL	DSL
05/06/26	Friday	09:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	Closed
		Midday to 4pm	Jo Chivers	
08/06/26	Monday	09:00 To midday	Matt Strange	Matt Strange
		Midday to 4pm	Matt Strange	
09/06/26	Tuesday	09:00 To midday	Matt Strange	Lisa Kavanagh
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
10/06/26	Wednesday	09:00 To midday	Lisa Kavanagh	Kate Bayman
		Midday to 4pm	Kate Bayman	
11/06/26	Thursday	09:00 To midday	Kate Bayman	Jo Chivers
		Midday to 4pm	Jo Chivers	
12/06/26	Friday	09:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	Closed
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	