

Valence News



As we approach the final week of term, we are getting ready for some important changes that will come into effect from September 2026 following the introduction of the Children's Wellbeing in Schools Act 2026. These changes are designed to support the health, wellbeing and safety of young people, while creating the best possible environment for learning.

Earlier this year, we shared information with families about our focus on mobile phone use in school following the Government's announcement that schools would be expected to address and prevent the use of mobile phones during the school day. Since then, the statutory expectations have been made explicitly clear and, as a school, we are duty bound to implement the required changes.

From September 2026, we will be introducing a new Mobile Phone Use Policy which prohibits the use of mobile phones on the school site during the school day. Students will still be permitted to bring mobile phones to school; however, each student will be issued with a secure storage pouch and will be expected to place their phone inside it for the duration of the school day.

We have written to all parents and carers today outlining these changes in more detail. Over the coming week, we will also be working with students during tutor time to ensure they understand the new arrangements and have the opportunity to ask questions. Further support and guidance will be provided when we return in September so that the transition is as smooth as possible.

We recognise that some students rely on medical monitoring devices as part of the management of existing health conditions. To ensure these devices remain fully accessible, we will be providing alternative pouches and arrangements that allow essential medical monitoring equipment to continue functioning throughout the school day. Whilst this is not a decision that schools have the option to decline, the Leadership Team fully supports and welcomes the Government's approach. We believe these changes will help create a distraction-free environment that is more conducive to learning, while also encouraging students to develop stronger communication, social and interpersonal skills. We know there are many wider benefits associated with reducing phone use in school, including improved concentration, greater engagement in lessons and more meaningful social interaction during break and lunchtime periods.

We would therefore encourage parents and carers to discuss these changes at home over the summer break and help us reinforce the positive reasons behind the new arrangements.

In addition to the mobile phone policy, we will also be implementing a number of other medication-related procedures and policies. As required by the new legislation, all staff will receive enhanced training in supporting students with conditions including asthma, anaphylaxis and epilepsy. We will share further information about these developments at the start of the new academic year.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all parents and carers for their continued support throughout the year. The partnership between home and school is incredibly important and greatly valued. As we reach the end of another successful academic year, I would also like to wish all students and staff who are moving on from Valence every success and happiness in their next chapter. We thank them for their contribution to our school community and send them our very best wishes for the future.

Have a wonderful summer break and we look forward to welcoming everyone back in September.

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

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DofE Expedition Success -Silver!

The final Silver group 'The Silver Wheels' completed their practice and qualifier over the past few weeks.

Tuesday 16th to Wednesday 17th June the students completed their practice expedition. Over the two days they explored Sevenoaks Nature Reserve and Westerham Town.

This was followed by the Qualifier Expedition from Wednesday 8th to Friday 10th July, visiting Shorne Woods Country Park, Bluewater Nature Trail and Knole Park.

Across the five days of expeditions, students covered over 6 miles and had to endure the recent heatwave. They worked extremely hard, showed excellent teamwork and were always looking out for each other. The group demonstrated real resilience in meeting the challenges of the award.

Congratulations to:

Evie, Libbie, Harvey, Mason, Jake



The Silver Wheels

A bit of outdoor theatre with the wooden dragon at Shorne Woods Country Park

Practice Expedition



Day 1: Westerham Town



Day 2: Sevenoaks Nature Reserve

Qualifier Expedition



Day 1: Shorne Woods Country Park



Day 2: Bluewater Nature Trail



Day 3: Knole Park

I would like to thank all the staff involved in making the expeditions happen; REP Managers, Jo Chivers, Kitchen Team, Health Team, Mandy Kent, Amy Corps, Tom Stevens and Caroline Nimmo.

Tim Longthorne - Duke of Edinburgh Leader

**Raise £600 for
Valence and we will**

'Splatt

the Matt'

at the

Summer Fair

*When interviewed Matt
Strange said*

*"No chance I will be slimed...one
of the safest bets of all time"*

**Payments in an envelope to Reception marked
Debbie Beaney Splatt the Matt**

**or transfer to Friends of Valence School
40-44-37 72325993 (ref - Splatt)**

A term of celebrations

Celebrating Our 2026 Leavers



As another school year comes to an end, we say a fond farewell to a wonderful group of students who are preparing to move on to the next stage of their journeys.

This year's Leavers' Weeks was particularly challenging due to unpredictable weather conditions, which meant that several trips had to be cancelled or rearranged. The students showed impressive resilience and adaptability, embracing changes to the schedule and continuing to engage positively with the activities provided.

A Festive Start to the Week

The celebrations were based together in Bungalow 4, which had been transformed for the occasion. The bungalow was beautifully decorated with graduation banners, congratulatory posters and colourful displays to mark the beginning of their special weeks.

The day started with a scavenger hunt around the school grounds, giving students the opportunity to work together while revisiting familiar places and memories from their time at school.



Following the scavenger hunt, the group gathered on Top Lawn to enjoy a traditional cream tea in the sunshine.

One of the highlights of the day was creating their personalised leavers' shirts. Students spent time designing and decorating their shirts before collecting signatures and messages from staff and fellow students. The shirts quickly became treasured keepsakes and a wonderful reminder of the friendships formed over the years.

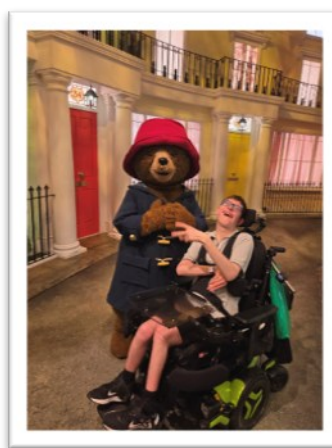
Adventures Beyond School

The students enjoyed a range of exciting trips and experiences. This year's visits included:

- A river cruise with cream tea
- Windsor Castles beautiful grounds
- Brighton
- The Paradox Museum, London
- Colchester

The Paddington™ Experience

These outings gave students the chance to explore new places, enjoy time with their friends and make even more special memories before leaving school.



As the week continued, students took part in a special activity in Bungalow 4 where they created a unique leaving gift to remember their time at Valence. As they made their way down to the Main Hall wearing their newly signed leavers' shirts to a surprise fanfare and party poppers. It was a fantastic moment that brought smiles to everyone's faces and highlighted the strong friendships and achievements of this year's leavers.



A James Bond Prom



One of the most anticipated events was the annual **Leavers' Prom**.

This year's theme was **James Bond**, and students arrived dressed for the occasion in stylish black-tie attire. The Main Hall was transformed for the celebration as students enjoyed a special lunch alongside invited guests. The Prom provided an opportunity to reflect on achievements, celebrate friendships and enjoy a truly memorable occasion together.

An Evening to Remember



Following the Prom meal students travelled to Westerham Brewery in decorated mini buses where they had the opportunity to pose for photographs before being joined by other students for an evening of music, celebration and fun.

There were plenty of smiles, laughter and unforgettable moments as everyone came together to celebrate the Class of 2026.



A Grease-Themed Farewell BBQ

To round off the celebrations, students will be gathered on Top Lawn for the traditional Leavers' BBQ on 20th July

This year, students chose a **Grease** theme. Staff will help with the entertainment and celebrations, creating a fantastic atmosphere filled with singing, dancing and laughter.

Good Luck, Class of 2026!

As these students prepare to take their next steps, we would like to thank them for the contributions they have made to our school community. We are incredibly proud of everything they have accomplished and have no doubt that they will continue to achieve great things in the future.

Phone-Free School Day from September

In line with national guidance, our school will become a phone-free zone for all students during the school day from September.

This initiative is designed to support learning, wellbeing and positive social interaction by reducing distractions and helping students stay fully engaged throughout the school day .

An email has been sent to all parents, carers and students outlining the new arrangements, together with a comprehensive Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document. To help families prepare for September, copies of both the Parent/Carer FAQ and Student FAQ are included in this newsletter

Thank you for your continued support as we work together to provide the best possible learning environment for all students





The Reading Agency's Summer Reading Challenge is returning to Kent Libraries from Saturday 4 July to Saturday 5 September. The Challenge invites children aged 4 to 11 to take part and enjoy reading for fun. And it's completely free.

This year's theme, Read to the Beat, celebrates the joy of music and the power it has to move, inspire, and connect us – all through the magic of reading.

How to join

Joining the Summer Reading Challenge: Read to the Beat is easy and free. Children can take part in a way that works for them. They do not need to join at the start of the Challenge. Children can sign up at any time from 4 July.

Join at your local library

Head to your local library or mobile library to sign up. Children must have a library card to participate.

Speak to a member of the local library team.

Borrow a library book.

Collect a sticker booklet and get started! Plus, this year, Children will also get a free copy of the Storytime Magazine.

You can also sign up online at this website <https://summerreadingchallenge.org.uk/>

VALENCE SUMMER FAIR 2026 DOG SHOW



**Saturday 18th July
2.30pm**

For more information contact
friends@valence.kent.sch.uk

REGISTER ON THE
DAY OF THE FAIR

CATEGORIES:

- Waggiest tail
- Best trick
- Fastest big dog (assault course)
- Fastest small dog (assault course)
- Best biscuit catcher
- Politest dog (best paw shake)
- Best recall
- Dog judges most want to take home

ENTRY FEE:

£3 one category

£5 two categories

£7 three categories



FRIENDS OF VALENCE PRESENTS

SUMMER FAIR RAFFLE

SATURDAY 18 JULY 3.30PM



£1 PER TICKET, DRAW AT SUMMER FAIR

[HTTPS://WWW.PEOPLESFUNDRAISING.COM
/RAFFLE/VALENCE-SUMMER-FAIR-RAFFLE-
2026](https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/raffle/valence-summer-fair-raffle-2026)





**Valence
School**

Summer Fair Timetable

Saturday 18th July 2026
12pm - 4pm

free entry



12 noon: Opening
12.30pm-1.15pm: Children's Entertainer
1.30pm-2.15pm: Mr Bubbles
2.30pm-3.15pm: Dog Show
3.30pm Splat Matt!!
3.45pm: Raffle Draw
4pm: Closing

Senior Staff On-call Rota from 17th July 2026

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

Date	Day	Time	DSL	DSL
20/07/26	Monday	09:00 To midday	Matt Strange	Lisa Kavanagh
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
21/07/26	Tuesday	09:00 To midday	Lisa Kavanagh	Matt Strange
		Midday to 4pm	Matt Strange	
22/07/26	Wednesday	09:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	Kate Bayman
		Midday to 4pm	Kate Bayman	

Message from the Nursing Team

Medical Consent Forms will be coming home with students in a brown envelope. Please complete and return to school in the first week of term

Free Kellogg's breakfasts in all Morrisons Cafes

We have received the following from Morrison's Cafes which we would like to bring to your attention and ask that you share with parents/carers.

Between 29th June and 6th September 2026, families can access free Kellogg's breakfasts in all Morrisons Cafes. This is available to both children and adults , who can choose from much-loved favourites Corn Flakes or Rice Krispies, topped with their choice of dairy or non-dairy milk and a free apple or banana.

In addition to the Kellogg's Breakfast offer, Morrisons 'Kids Eat Free' offer will continue to run in all its Cafés, allowing families to enjoy a free meal and drink for one child aged 16 or under when they purchase an adult main meal costing over £5 from The Breakfasts and The Classics menu.

