6th November 2026 / Series 32/ Issue no 11

Valence School
making independence

Valence News

Back with a Bang!

Autumn has definitely arrived, and after a well-earned half term break we have returned to school with a real sparkle of excitement and energy! The colder weather has certainly made its presence felt, with hats, scarves and warm coats making a welcome appearance around the school site.

On Wednesday evening, our spectacular fireworks display lit up the night sky in style. The event was a tremendous success, attracting a large crowd of students, staff and families. Organised by the Friends of Valence, the evening was a real success. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Westerham Heights Garden Centre and The Shampan Restaurant for their generous support, which helped make the event possible. We are also incredibly grateful to the site team & volunteers who worked so hard behind the scenes to create such a memorable evening.

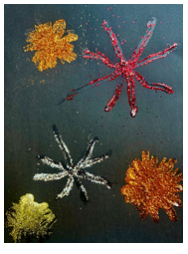
This week, students have been busy creating beautiful poppy wreaths in preparation for our Remembrance activities. Each class will lay a wreath during our Remembrance Assembly on Wednesday 11 November, joining schools and communities across the country in marking the national acts of remembrance and honouring those who have served and sacrificed.



Representatives from both our students and staff will also be attending the Westerham Remembers Parade on Sunday morning. The parade will begin outside the Co-op at approximately 10:30am, with community groups, including Valence, marching along Westerham High Street to the war memorial outside St Mary's Church, where a short ceremony will take place. We are especially proud that one of our students will lay a wreath on behalf of the school.



Our school shop will be open on the day, and many families enjoy meeting after the service for a hot drink and a chance to spend time together. With the temperatures continuing to fall, it is sure to be a chilly morning, but we would be delighted to see as many members of our school community there as possible.



We hope you have a wonderful weekend and look forward to another exciting week ahead.

Matt Strange
Principal

News from Hedgehog class

This term in Hedgehog class we are following the topic ‘Bright Sparks’ and we have been learning about why we celebrate Bonfire night and the story of Guy Fawkes and the gunpowder plot.







We have listened to a Bonfire night sounds story and played sounds bingo. In maths and phonics we have completed themed activities and the students have earned lots of merits for their independence and resilience, well done Hedgehog class!

We have a trip to the science lab this week to look forward to and more activities to develop our understanding of light, darkness and shadows.



Valence Fireworks 2026

Hawking 5's Fantastic Start to the Year!

Hawking 5 have made an excellent start to the year at Valence School, settling into their routines brilliantly and working together as a supportive and enthusiastic team. Everyone has embraced new challenges and opportunities, creating a positive atmosphere within the house. One of their most creative projects has been designing and making their own badges to sell to staff and through the *Valence on the Green* shop. The students showed fantastic imagination and entrepreneurial skills, producing a range of colourful and eye-catching designs that have been very popular.



The students also enjoyed taking part in the pumpkin-making competition, where their impressive Batman-inspired pumpkin was awarded the Hawking Prize. The creative design, complete with bats and Batman logos, stood out amongst the entries and was a well-deserved winner. As Remembrance Sunday approaches, Hawking 5 have been busy creating a beautiful poppy wreath to honour and remember those who have served and sacrificed. The finished wreath is a wonderful example of the care and effort the students put into their work.



Alongside their creative projects, Hawking 5 have also begun their new Leadership through E-Sports course. Students have been exploring the qualities that make an effective leader and learning how these skills can be applied when planning and delivering an event later in the school year. It has been fantastic to see their confidence and teamwork developing already. We have also welcomed several students for tea visits as they begin their boarding journey with us at Valence, which has been an exciting experience for everyone involved. Well done to all the students in Hawking 5 for such a fantastic start to the year. We are looking forward to seeing what the rest of the year brings!



Pumpkin Carving Fun in H1!



Students in H1 had a fantastic time taking part in the pumpkin carving activity. They enjoyed designing, carving and decorating their pumpkins, creating this wonderful spooky and creative design. The activity encouraged creativity, independence and fine motor skills, while providing plenty of seasonal fun for everyone involved.









Nursing Team Newsletter



ABusyStarttothe September Term

The new academic year has begun with a busy and exciting start for both students and staff. We were delighted to welcome our new students during transition days, helping them settle into their new environment and routines. The start of term has also included residential activities, providing valuable opportunities for students to build independence, confidence, and social connections.

A huge thank you to the nursing team for their flexibility, professionalism, and support throughout this particularly busy period. Their dedication has ensured that all students received safe, effective, and person-centred care during these important first weeks of term.

Nursing Update: NIV Care

The nursing team continues to strengthen and develop our approach to NIV care (non-invasive ventilation) ie. CPAP as we welcome more students into Residential requiring this overnight ensuring we provide high-quality, evidence-based support to meet the individual needs of our students.

Recent discussions and shared learning opportunities have focused on:

- Maintaining best practice standards.
- Promoting consistency across the team.
- Enhancing communication and documentation.
- Ensuring student-centred care remains at the heart of our practice.
- Training Residential staff in their use.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to developing and sharing knowledge within the team. A special thanks to the residential team for being so supportive with the students involved.

Infection Prevention and Control Focus

As we move into the winter months, when respiratory illnesses become more prevalent, the nursing team is renewing its focus on infection prevention and control.

Our current team target is to ensure the highest standards are maintained across all care suites. Staff presentations and refresher sessions will be taking place to reinforce good practice and highlight the importance of:

Effective hand hygiene

Appropriate use of personal protective equipment (PPE)

Environmental cleanliness and equipment decontamination

Prompt identification and reporting of symptoms

Following isolation and infection control procedures where required

These measures play a vital role in protecting our students, colleagues, and wider school community.



Sexual Health Promotion

The Nursing Team is pleased to announce that we now have a qualified Sexual Health Promotion Nurse available to support students with sexual health and wellbeing queries. The role provides confidential information, education, and guidance on a range of sexual health topics, helping students to make informed decisions about their health and wellbeing. While the Sexual Health Promotion Nurse cannot diagnose medical conditions or prescribe treatment, they can offer

advice, provide health promotion support, and signpost students to appropriate healthcare services and specialist agencies when further assessment or treatment is required.



Medications in school

Just a quick reminder that to ensurethesafe administration of medication within school, all medicines supplied must be providedintheir original pharmacy-dispensed packaging and be clearly labelled with the student's name,medication name, dosage, administration instructions, and expiry date. This requirement is inline with the school's Medication Management Policy and supports the professional standards setby the **Royal Pharmaceutical Society (RPS)** and national medicines management guidance. Original packaging and accurate labelling enable nursing and designated staff to verify the medication, minimise the risk of administration errors, ensure appropriate storage, and maintain a clear audit trail. Medication that is not correctly labelled or supplied outside of its original packaging may not be administered in school, as staff cannot safely verify its identity, dosage, or suitability for use.



News in Computing

Hawking 3 have been worked on their 'POP!' project this term. They have created mood boards to research drinks, bottles and designs and then designed their own healthy fizzy drink for sale in supermarkets.

They've been building on previously learnt PowerPoint and Word skills to create their own Logo, design packaging and produce promotional material for their design. There's been some great work being produced by all the students, some of which you can see on the bottom of this article. As well as increasing their knowledge of the software, they've been learning about product development, packaging, branding and marketing. We have seen great independence and creativity in all the students

Primary and some KS3 classes have spent this term working on their Personal Project, learning new Powerpoint and Word skills to create outstanding presentations and posters about their favourite topic. It's been great finding out what our students favourite subject are – from Brownies to F1and lots inbetween!





Congratulations to all the Hawking students who attained their OCR Cambridge Technicals and WJEC accreditation – great work!

Computer Science Education week takes place 5-11th December 2026, watch this video to discover one of the many careers in computer science: How to become a games designer: Rhianne's story - BBC Bitesize

It's been a great start to the school year! All students should be incredibly proud of the work they have completed so far. Well done everyone – keep up the great work!

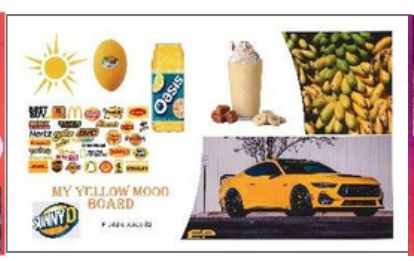


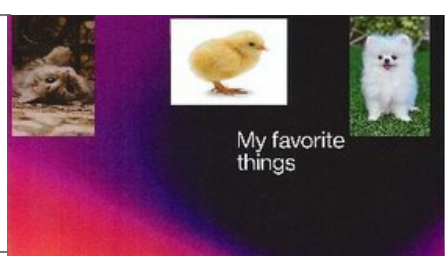






















Welcome to the new students 2026/27!

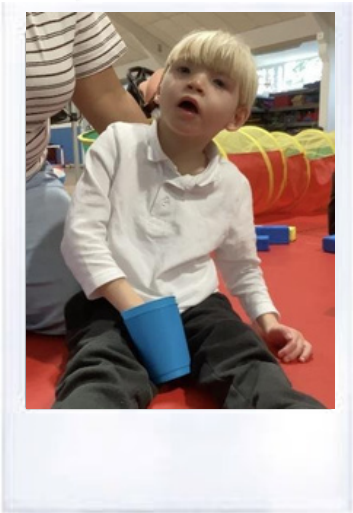


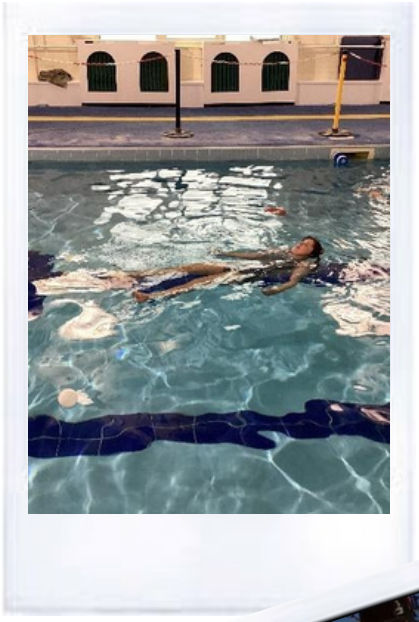


Here is a look at what they have been up to this term with the support of the Therapy Team.

We work with all students in their classrooms, P.E., the swimming pool and the school grounds. We aim to ensure every child can comfortably take part in, achieve and enjoy their school day and, above all, be as independent as possible!















We provide support with specialist equipment for all the students here at Valence, which includes walkers, standers, adapted bikes, Acheeva bed, Air Comfort chair, class chairs, eating and drinking equipment, toilet chairs, wheelchairs, slings and so on!

A big part of our role includes hydrotherapy, where members of the Therapy Team work closely with the students to help maintain their abilities and functions in everyday life and, therefore, their independence.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us at

stt@valence.kent.sch.uk or ext 1700

Friends of Valence
raising funds for the school

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff, and Volunteers,

The Friends of Valence AGM will be being held on Wednesday 11th November at 7pm in the school building. As parents, carers, staff and volunteers of Valence School you are automatically members of FoV and are entitled and welcome to attend. At the meeting we will discuss the achievements of the last year and the goals set going forwards, and also nominate and vote on the committee named roles where appropriate.

The named roles of Chair, Secretary and Treasurer are all held for a two-year term. At present there are two persons acting as co-chair and two persons acting as co-secretary.

At the last AGM one co-chair and one co-secretary were voted in, and the people holding those roles are happy to continue into the second year of their term. However, the people holding the other co-chair and co-secretary roles plus the person holding the role of treasurer were all voted in two years ago. This means that their terms have reached their conclusion and that these positions are available to stand for if anyone so wishes.

If you wish to stand as co-chair, co-secretary, or treasurer you must email friends@valence.kent.sch.uk no less than 7 days before the meeting.

We hope to see you there.

Kind regards,
FoV committee

www.valenceschool.com 01959 562156 friends@valence.kent.sch.uk

CHRISTMAS HAMPER DONATIONS IN EXCHANGE FOR NON SCHOOL UNIFORM DAYS





The Friends of Valence are starting to make up Hampers to sell at the Christmas Party on Sunday 6th December



Doonation Days





Monday 2nd November
Monday 9th November
Monday 16th November
Monday 25th November





Hand in your donations to Reception



Senior Staff On-call Rota from 9th November 2026

Matt Strange 07894 483673 **Lisa Kavanagh 07912 124724**

Kate Bayman 07827 961903 **Jo Chivers 07896 905095**

Date	Day	Time	DSL	DSL overnight
9/11/2026	Monday	09:00 To midday	Matt Strange	Lisa Kavanagh
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	
10/11/2026	Tuesday	09:00 To midday	Lisa Kavanagh	Matt Strange
		Midday to 4pm	Matt Strange	
11/11/2026	Wednesday	09:00 To midday	Matt Strange	Kate Bayman
		Midday to 4pm	Kate Bayman	
12/11/2026	Thursday	09:00 To midday	Kate Bayman	Jo Chivers
		Midday to 4pm	Jo Chivers	
13/11//26	Friday	09:00 To midday	Jo Chivers	**Closed**
		Midday to 4pm	Lisa Kavanagh	



Friends raising funds



Valence School

Valence School Christmas Party

hosted by Friends of Valence

Sunday 6th December

1.00pm – 4.00pm

£3 per person in advance | **£5 per person on the day**



1.30 – 3.00 Christmas entertainment for all the family, singing, dancing and interactive games and much more

3.00 – 3.45 **Signing Choir** – with an opportunity to join in and learn to sign along

3.45 **Raffle draw**







Christmas stalls including Christmas toys, hampers and Valence produce.



Face painting



Refreshments including hot dogs and mince pies and beer and wine.



£3 per child to see Father Christmas in a low sensory environment, so all our children can take part and receive a gift.



Bring all your friends and family

Come along this social event where you can meet other parents and their families and share the one thing you have in common

Valence school

To book in advance email
friends@valence.kent.sch.uk