

Apps a Guide for Families



At Valewood we access a number of online applications to support communication and learning. The following guide is designed to give you a flavour of what each application is and how we use it at Valewood.

What is Arbor and how does it work?

Arbor's MIS (Management Information System) is the hassle-free way for schools to get work done. Arbor brings all your daily administrative activities onto one system and makes daily admin more powerful and effective.

At Valewood Arbor is used by families to...

- Pay for school meals, clubs and trips
- Sign up for Out of School Club (OoSC) and extra-curricular clubs
- Update personal and contact details

At Valewood Arbor is used by the school to...

- Take daily attendance
- Monitor attendance
- Track pupil data



Arbor

What is ClassDojo and how does it work?

ClassDojo is an online classroom management platform and app where teachers can record and acknowledge student behaviour, facilitate classroom activities, curate student portfolios, and engage in school-to-home communication.



ClassDojo

At Valewood we use Class Dojo to communicate with families through both the messaging and class story options. We post whole school, class and individual messages and information. Class Dojo is also used to celebrate the children's achievements through the use of dojo points. The portfolio aspect is used to share the children's work from home.

What is Seesaw and how is it used?

Seesaw is a digital platform for teachers to assign work, engage with students, and provide feedback, among other classroom activities. It's also a standout choice for incorporating teacher, parent, and student feedback.

At Valewood we use Seesaw in Reception to share the children's learning journey and in the Infants and Juniors it is used to collate examples of best practice in subjects such as PE, Spanish and performance poetry.



What is TTRS and how does it work?

Times Tables Rock Stars (TTRS) is an online maths programme that takes away all the worry out of learning times tables and has a proven track record of boosting children's fluency and recall in multiplication and division.

At Valewood TTRS is used both in school during lessons and as an extra homework challenge. From time to time "TTRS Battles" are set up so children can compete for their class.



What is Maths Shed and how does it work?

MathShed is a free maths game for classrooms and homes! Designed by a team of teachers, MathShed helps students build speed and accuracy with math fact fluency.



At Valewood we have a subscription to Maths Shed that the children can use at home to consolidate their learning. The children's spelling shed logins allow them access to this app.

What is Maths.co.uk and how does it work?

Maths.co.uk provides online maths assessments/tasks including termly KS1 & KS2. standardised maths tests, end-of-unit tasks, arithmetic and reasoning activities.

At Valewood we use maths.co.uk to set homework. In some classes, an assignment is set weekly or once a fortnight for the children to complete at home.



What is Spelling Shed and how does it work?

Spelling Shed is an online spelling programme. The Spelling Shed approach to spelling involves the relationship between sounds and written symbols as well as using morphology to help spell through meaning. The games and teaching resources build on the Science of Reading and phonics to improve each students' spelling, vocabulary and language structure knowledge.



At Valewood Spelling Shed is used to practise the spellings that the children have been working on in school. It is set for spelling practice each week in all classes.

What is Nessy and how does it work?

Nessy is an award winning, global educational company that specialises in early literacy. The company is led by reading and dyslexia specialists and follows the Science of Reading.

At Valewood, a small group of children are assigned a Nessy login as an intervention to support their spelling skills.

