



# PTA Macmillan Coffee Morning – Friday at 8.45am

Autumn Term 1, Week 4 News

[www.valewood.co.uk](http://www.valewood.co.uk)

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2025  
@ValewoodPrimary – Instagram

Dear Families,

### A Busy Start to Autumn Term 1

We have all enjoyed a very positive and productive start to our new school year. Thank you to all of our parents and carers who were able to attend our Meet the Teacher sessions in Week 2. We hope you found the information useful.

### Extra-Curricular Clubs

Acting on your feedback, we changed the time of registration for our extra-curricular clubs to an evening time. Hopefully this has been better for families. All of our extra-curricular clubs are now up and running and we have a wait list for some activities. Given we only have one Hall and sometimes four/five clubs running on one evening, it is impossible to accommodate everyone, all of the time. Please note, anyone on a waitlist this term will be given priority next term.

### Changes to our VPS Outstanding Achievement Awards

From this term, we will be announcing awards, linked to our VPS *Five Ways to Wellbeing*. Rather than the historical, curriculum awards, we will be acknowledging children under the following headings: Taking Notice Award; Connecting Award; Giving Award; Keep Learning Award & Staying Active Award. Our VPS Yellow Star and Rights Respecting Citizen Awards will still be there, each half term alongside these new awards, giving all the children the opportunity to be recognised for their personal strengths and hard work.

### Book and a Brew Sessions

Given that *Book and a Brew* sessions are so popular, we have added an additional session to maximise everyone’s attendance – as much as is physically possible. We will be hosting two sessions on our designated days (see Important Dates). There will be a 9am-10am option and also a 10am-11am option. These sessions take a long time to organise and can be disruptive to our Hall timetable, hence only hosting them periodically throughout the year. Our next one is on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December with the booking details to be announced in Autumn Term 2.

### Clare Garnett Photography – New School Website

Thank you to families for updating their permissions last week. Ahead of our new website launch, we were pleased to invite Clare into school, yesterday. She was able to capture the children at work and play, inside and outside of the classrooms. We cannot wait to update our slide show on our new website. More details to follow, regarding our website migration.

### Harvest Donations for Sefton Community Pantry

During the week beginning 20<sup>th</sup> October, we will be asking families to pop a store cupboard donation into our VPS trolley. Donations will be shared with our friends at Sefton’s Community Pantry.

Wishing you all a great week ahead.

Best wishes,  
Helen Tantouri

### PTA to host Macmillan Coffee Morning Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September from drop-off, 8.45am

You are all invited to stay, after drop-off on Friday and enjoy a cuppa and a slice of cake with donations going to Macmillan Cancer Support. Everyone is welcome and it will be a lovely opportunity for our new Valewood families to meet our PTA volunteers and existing families. If anyone would like to donate some home bakes, this will be much appreciated. Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Hope to see you there! ☺

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### Parent Governor Ballot – Outcome

Thank you to the parents who put themselves forward for ballot. I am pleased to inform you that Craig Thompson has been voted in as our new parent governor. Craig brings a wealth of experience to our Local Governing Board and we welcome him to our team of committed governors.

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### PTA AGM on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October at 9am

Our PTA will be conducting their Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. New and existing volunteers are welcome. Hannah Duffy will be sharing our plans for 2025-2026 and will be sharing how much the PTA raised last year and what it has been spent on. If you have a free hour on Friday, please don’t be shy...please come along – it’s a great way to meet new people and a great way to get involved in sustaining the events and funds raised, for our children in school.

Refreshments will be available.

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### Uniform

Four weeks into school and we already have some ‘lost property’. Please ensure that all your child’s uniform is clearly labelled to avoid things going missing/going home with someone else.

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### Team 5 Bikeability

Well done to our Team 5 cyclists who braved the weather (last week) and were able to take part in their on-the -road training.

**N.B. Remember, all children should wear a bicycle helmet if they are riding or scooting to and from school.**

**Attendance Data: Whole School Target 97%**

Last Week- School: 96.8%

	Attendance	No. of late marks
Reception	98.3%	1(Least lates)
Team 1	96.0%	1(Least lates)
Team 2	96.0%	8
Team 3	95.6%	3
Team 4	95.8%	2
Team 5	98.5%	3
Team 6	96.6%	7

**Attendance Cup Goes to...**

Autumn Term 1, Week 1: Team Year 6  
 Autumn Term 1, Week 2: Team Year 3  
 Autumn Term 1, Week 3: Team Year 5  
 Autumn Term 1, Week 4: Team ?  
 Autumn Term 1, Week 5: Team ?  
 Autumn Term 1, Week 6: Team ?  
 Autumn Term 1, Week 7: Team ?  
 Autumn Term 1, Week 8: Team ?

**Attendance & Punctuality**

All staff will be monitoring attendance and punctuality very keenly, as always.

Miss Chapman, Mrs Parr and Mrs Harding meet regularly to monitor patterns of absence and they will be addressing any concerns directly with families. Last year, we minimised the number of lates, considerably – long may that continue!

**N.B. School gates open at 8.35am; children are expected in class at 8.40am and gates are locked at 8.45am.**

**Please follow the one-way system.**

**Holidays in Term Time**

Please be aware that school staff can conduct a home visit if school is not able to contact parents/carers on a day when your child is absent from school/school has had no notification as to a child's absence.

N.B. If staff suspect a holiday in term time is the reason for absence (and especially, when an international ring tone is heard, when calling) the Headteacher has the authority to change the reason of absence to 'unauthorised'.

**TERM DATES for 2025-2026 are on our website and below...**

***Please be advised that holidays in term time will not be authorised.***

**OUR SCHOOL DAY IS FROM 8.40am to 3.15pm**

**Important Dates (\*subject to change)**

24 <sup>th</sup> September	PTA hosts our Macmillan Coffee Morning, 9am – all welcome
24 <sup>th</sup> September	Y4 Forest School
3 <sup>rd</sup> October	Y4 Forest School
6 <sup>th</sup> October	Valewood's Diversity Week – Pyjama Day! Donations for Alder Hey Hospital
8 <sup>th</sup> October	School Tour for Prospective Families, 9am
10 <sup>th</sup> October	Hello Yellow for Mental Health Awareness Day – wear a pop of yellow!
10 <sup>th</sup> October	Y4 Forest School
17 <sup>th</sup> October	School Tour for Prospective Families, 9am
17 <sup>th</sup> October	Y4 Forest School
20 <sup>th</sup> October	Valewood Harvest Donation Week
22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Initial Parents Evening 1: 2.00pm – 5.30pm in the School Hall
23 <sup>rd</sup> October	Initial Parents Evening 2: 2.00pm – 5.30pm in the School Hall
24 <sup>th</sup> October	Finish for Half Term Break, 3.15pm
3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Return to School for Autumn Term 2
21 <sup>st</sup> November	PTA Christmas Fair, 5pm – 7pm
5 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Book & Brew (Session 1) 9 - 10am
5 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Book & Brew (Session 2) 10 - 11am
11 <sup>th</sup> December	Reception Nativity, 9am
12 <sup>th</sup> December	Carols by Candlelight, 6pm

17<sup>th</sup> December

Whole School Panto Trip

19<sup>th</sup> December

Finish for Christmas Holidays – 1.30pm

### **SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS 2025 – 2026**

	<b>AUTUMN TERM 2025</b>	<b>SPRING TERM 2026</b>	<b>SUMMER TERM 2026</b>
<b><u>Term commences</u></b>	Wednesday 3 September	Monday 5 January	Monday 13 April
<b>Mid-Term Holiday</b>	Monday 27 October to Friday 31 October	Monday 16 February to Friday 20 February	Monday 25 May to Tuesday 2 June
<b><u>Term Ends</u></b>	Friday 19 December	Friday 27 March	Thursday 16 July

**INSET Days:** Monday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2025  
Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2025  
Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026  
Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2026  
Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2026  
Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2026