



HARVEST DONATIONS MONDAY 20TH OCTOBER

Autumn Term 1, Week 6 News

Friday 10th October 2025

www.valewood.co.uk

@ValewoodPrimary – Instagram

Dear Families,

What a wonderful week!

Monday saw the launch of our “Diversity Week” and what a week we have had! It all started with PJ day on Monday in aid of Alder Hey. The children looked fabulous in their pyjamas and we even had a visit from Ollie the Elephant who passed a little treat to all the children. He even ventured down to see Year 2 in the forest! Your contributions raised a grand total of £248.17. Thank you everyone.

Black History Month

October is Black History month where the children will be finding out about the importance of honouring the contributions made to society by people of Black heritage and their communities, Black History Month is a time to educate and enrich the world with the importance of Black history. Year 2 have been finding out about Mary Seacole, Year 3 have studied Martin Luther King, Year 6 have been reading about Barack Obama and next week Year 5 will be investigating the life and work of Nigerian Space Scientist Maggie Aderin-Pocock.

Hello Yellow – World Mental Health Day

The week ended with our annual Hello Yellow Day - a day to raise awareness of the importance of having positive mental health. The children and staff donned an item of yellow to show their commitment to this important cause. The junior choir performed two thought-provoking songs to start our assembly and the whole school joined forces and sang “Golden” to bring an end to our special assembly.

Communication

We are always looking for ways to improve our communication at school and we have had lots of positive feedback about the systems we currently have in place. The Class Dojo messaging system is perfect for contacting teachers about minor queries, however, if you have anything that you feel needs discussing in more detail, please contact your child’s class teacher via their school email which were shared in the Meet the Teacher booklets in September. Please be aware that messages in the evenings and at weekends will not be routinely monitored and please be reminded that all urgent queries in the school day should go through the office.

Parents’ Evening

Our Autumn Parents’ Evenings will take place on Wednesday 22nd and Thursday 23rd October. This term we are trialling a new system that we hope will reduce the waiting time for our families. Appointments will be available from 2:15pm – 5:30pm and all appointments will take place in the school hall. Appointments will go live on Arbor at 7pm on Monday 13th October.

Best wishes,
Danielle Parr

SAFEGUARDING

At Valewood, Article 19 of the UNCRC underpins our work around Safeguarding, as “Every child has a right to be free from harm.”

Every member of staff undertakes annual safeguarding training but we are fortunate that at VPS we have 6 members of staff who have undertaken additional training as DSLs (Designated Safeguarding Leads).

DSL – Mrs Parr

Deputy DSLs – Ms Tantouri, Mrs O’Hara, Miss Metcalfe, Miss Chapman & Miss Stevenson

Phonics Workshop

On 8th October Miss Metcalfe hosted our annual phonics workshop for families. 21 families attended! Phonics are the foundations of all reading and writing so a big thank you to all the families who came to widen their knowledge of this important aspect of learning. A big thank you to Miss Metcalfe too for leading the session.

PTA

Our PTA conducted their Annual General Meeting last Friday and have already put plans in place for an exciting year ahead. Thank you to all our PTA members for their continued support, time and effort.

STAY AND PLAY

On Thursday 9th October Forefield Infants hosted our community Stay and Play.

The next session is on Friday 21st November at Valewood.

BIG HOG FRIENDLY CHALLENGE



The RRSAs and Eco Champions met this week to launch a whole school project.

The Big Hog Friendly Challenge involves collecting as much rubbish as possible from our local community in order to make our environment a cleaner place and help to protect our local hedgehogs who are a threatened species. Simply collect as much rubbish as possible and send a photograph (as evidence) to Mrs Parr via dojo or email

dparr.vps@schools.sefton.gov.uk

Attendance Data: Whole School Target 97%

Last Week- School: 96.9%

	Attendance	No. of late marks
Reception	99%	4
Team 1	99.2%	1 (least lates)
Team 2	94.3%	5
Team 3	94.6%	5
Team 4	95.9%	5
Team 5	98%	4
Team 6	97.3%	1 (least lates)

Attendance Cup Goes to...

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

Attendance & Punctuality – WE CANNOT TEACH AN EMPTY SEAT!

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

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

SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS 2025 – 2026

INSET Days: Monday 1st September 2025
 Tuesday 2nd September 2025
 Monday 1st June 2026
 Tuesday 2nd June 2026
 Friday 17th July 2026
 Monday 20th July 2026

Important Dates (*subject to change)

13 th October	Outstanding Awards Assembly 9am
17 th October	School Tour for Prospective Families 9am
17 th October	Y4 Forest School
17 th October	PTA Autumn Disco – 5.30pm – 7pm
22 nd October	Parents Evening – 2.00pm – 5.30pm
23 rd October	Parents Evening – 2.00pm – 5.30pm
24 th October	Infant Awards Assembly 9am
24 th October	Junior Awards Assembly 2.45pm
24 th October	Finish for Half Term 3.15pm
3 rd November	Return to School for Autumn Term 2
4 th November	School Tour for Prospective Families 9am
13 th November	School Tour for Prospective Families 9am
20 th November	School Tour for Prospective Families 9am
25 th November	School Tour for Prospective Families 9am
4 th December	School Tour for Prospective Families 9am
5 th December	Christmas Book & Brew (session 1) 9 - 10am
5 th December	Christmas Book & Brew (session 2) 10 - 11am
5 th December	PTA Christmas Fair 5pm – 7pm
11 th December	Reception Nativity – 9am
12 th December	Christmas Jumper Day/ Santa Dash/ Christmas Dinner
12 th December	Carols by Candlelight
17 th December	Whole School Panto Trip
19 th December	Finish for Christmas Holidays – 1.30pm
5 th January 2026	Children return to School for Spring Term 1