



# Autumn Term 1, Week 8 News

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October 2025

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

[@ValewoodPrimary – Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/ValewoodPrimary)

Dear Families,

## Harvest

On Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October, Year 3 led our Harvest Festival and what a performance it was! The children spoke with confidence and clarity and their message of kindness and community really shone through. As Article 24 of the UNCRC states - Every child has the right to nutritious food so a big thank you goes to all of you for all the contributions, they will really make a difference to families in need in our community. A huge "Thank you" also goes to Mrs Wright and all of Team 3 for their hard work in putting together such a wonderful, insightful Harvest Festival.

## REMINDER - Uniform, Jewellery and Nail Varnish

At the 'Meet the Teacher' sessions, at the beginning of the school year, every class shared their expectations regarding uniform, jewellery and nail varnish. Please refrain from sending your child into school with nail varnish and acrylic/false nails are not allowed as they are not safe for school. Jewellery is also not part of school uniform and an issue can arise when items come into school and subsequently get lost or broken. We love the children to express themselves and celebrate their individuality but every child has the right to be safe so please ensure your child comes to school in correct school uniform. Thank you in advance.

## Bike Sheds

It has been lovely to see so many children coming to school on their bikes and scooters, however, can you please ensure that they are left neatly in the bike shed next to the family gate. The shelter at the front of school is only for children attending Breakfast Club so please refrain from leaving bikes/scooters in this area. Thank you

## PTA – Fish Tank

After consultation with the children, who came up with some incredible ideas about the benefits of having a fish tank in school, the PTA have kindly offered to fund the installation of a fish tank full of tropical fish! The children were over the moon and are looking forward to its installation next half term.

## Parents' Evening

Our Autumn Parents' Evenings took place on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October. You will have noticed that we trialed a new system where the meetings took place in the hall. We have already received lots of positive feedback about this new system and have already made some adjustments for the spring term meetings. There will be a day with later appointments and the children's books will be available for you to look at. If you have any additional feedback please let class teachers or myself know.

I hope you all have a wonderful half term.

Best wishes,  
Danielle Parr

## Awards

On Monday 13<sup>th</sup> October we held our annual Special Achievement and Year 6 Awards presentation assembly. The staff selected children who had shown outstanding performance in our focus areas. Congratulations to all our award winners.  
The Valewood Award for Maths: Oliver Palmer  
The Valewood Award for The Arts: Zolah Opara  
The Valewood Award for English: Eva Thane  
The Valewood Performing Arts Award: Emmie Ward  
Sports Personality of the Year: Cian O'Farrell  
The Spirit of Valewood Award: Tilley Prout

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### Year 6 Awards

**Head Students:** George Bayliss, Erin Jones, Scarlett Parry, Simon Scholten  
**House Captains:** Connie Darlington, Louis Duffy, Earl Edward, Freddy Ward  
**Citizen of the Year:** Teddy Garnett

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On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October we held our first Awards Assemblies of the school year. It was wonderful to celebrate the children not only for their academic successes but to hear how the Five Ways to Wellbeing awards have been achieved this half term.

Congratulations go to...

Reception – Edith, Elijah, Sam, Oliver, Woody, Willow, Lauranne  
Year 1 – Beatrix, Robyn, Billie, James, Isaac, Isla, Layne  
Year 2 – Tilly, Theo, Arabella, Alex, Lachlan, Alice, Arlo  
Year 3 – Xander, Cassia, Emmie, Corey, Annie, Sadie, Bobbie  
Year 4 – Tilley, Eryka, Theo, Grace, Audrey, Noah, Trudi  
Year 5 – Eleanor, Sienna, Skylar, Maggie, Emmett, Ciara, Maili  
Year 6 – Hugo, Harrison, Finley, Joseph, Connie, Jaina, Scarlett

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## Admissions

If your child is in Year 6 do not forget to make your application to your chosen Secondary School by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025. Anyone with children due to start Reception in September 2026 need to make their application by 15<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

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## BIG HOG FRIENDLY CHALLENGE

Don't forget to send me your photographs of all the litter picking you have undertaken for The Big Hog Friendly Challenge.

[dparr.vps@schools.sefton.gov.uk](mailto:dparr.vps@schools.sefton.gov.uk)  
We have until 28<sup>th</sup> November, so get litter picking this half term!



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

Last Week- School: 96.3%

	Attendance	No. of late marks
Reception	96.7%	2(least lates)
Team 1	94.6%	4
Team 2	94.9%	8
Team 3	96%	5
Team 4	94.7%	2(least lates)
Team 5	99.3%	8
Team 6	98.5%	2(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 1  
 Autumn Term 1, Week 7: Team 3  
 Autumn Term 1, Week 8: Team 5

**Attendance & Punctuality – WE CANNOT TEACH AN EMPTY SEAT!**UNDERSTANDING ATTENDANCE

Attendance figures can be misleading at first glance. Over a school year, 95% attendance means your child has missed 10 full days of a school in a year – that's two full weeks of learning! 90% attendance means 19 days missed – nearly a whole month. Whole 90% might sound good, it actually puts a child in the persistent absence category, which can have a real impact on progress and confident. Every day really does count and all staff will continue to monitor attendance and punctuality, after all every child has a right to their education (Article 28 UNCRC)

**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...**

	AUTUMN TERM 2025	SPRING TERM 2026	SUMMER TERM 2026
<b>Term commences</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>Term Ends</b>	Friday 19 December	Friday 27 March	Thursday 16 July

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

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

**SCHOOL TERMS AND HOLIDAYS 2025 – 2026**

**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

## Important Dates (\*subject to change)

24 <sup>th</sup> October	Finish for Half Term 3.15pm
3 <sup>rd</sup> November	Return to School for Autumn Term 2
4 <sup>th</sup> November	School Tour for Prospective Families 9am
13 <sup>th</sup> November	School Tour for Prospective Families 9am
25 <sup>th</sup> November	School Tour for Prospective Families 9am
4 <sup>th</sup> December	School Tour for Prospective Families 9am
5 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Book & Brew (session 1) 9 - 10am
5 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Book & Brew (session 2) 10 - 11am
5 <sup>th</sup> December	PTA Christmas Fair 5pm – 7pm
11 <sup>th</sup> December	Reception Nativity – 9am
12 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day/ Santa Dash/ Christmas Dinner
12 <sup>th</sup> December	Carols by Candlelight
17 <sup>th</sup> December	Whole School Panto Trip
18 <sup>th</sup> December	Last After School Club session
19 <sup>th</sup> December	Finish for Christmas Holidays – 1.30pm
19 <sup>th</sup> December	After School Club is closed
5 <sup>th</sup> January 2026	Children return to School for Spring Term 1
13 <sup>th</sup> February	Finish for Half Term 3.15pm
23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Return for Spring 2
25 <sup>th</sup> February	Y6 residential trip to Robinwood
16 <sup>th</sup> March	Big Walk & Wheel – 2 weeks
26 <sup>th</sup> March	Last After School Club session
27 <sup>th</sup> March	Finish for Easter Holidays 1.30pm
27 <sup>th</sup> March	After School Club is closed
13 <sup>th</sup> April	Return for Summer 1
4 <sup>th</sup> May	Bank Holiday – School Closed
13 <sup>th</sup> February	Y4 residential trip to CHET
22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Finish for Half Term 3.15pm
1 <sup>st</sup> June	Inset Day
2 <sup>nd</sup> June	Inset Day
3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Return for Summer 2
15 <sup>th</sup> July	Last After School Club session
16 <sup>th</sup> July	Finish for Summer Holidays 1.30pm
16 <sup>th</sup> July	After School Club is closed
17 <sup>th</sup> July	INSET Day – Staff only to attend
20 <sup>th</sup> July	INSET Day – Staff only to attend