



Autumn Term 2, Week 4 News

Friday 28th November 2025

www.valewood.co.uk

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

Dear Families,

I would like to start this week’s newsletter by saying a heartfelt “Thank you” to all the staff, governors and families who do so much for our school. Your continuous support allows us to give the children such exciting and varied experiences and this makes Valewood such a special place.

Thank you, PTA!

The PTA have already funded a travelling theatre and our beautiful fish tank is now installed. Check out our Instagram to see it in full colour! Thank you, PTA!

On Monday our PTA are funding a day of children’s first aid for Years 5 and 6. Not only will this support children in their development of their social signature but will also provide them with the skills to help themselves and others.

Our Christmas Fair will take place on Friday 5th December at 5pm and our final own clothes day will take place on this day for a contribution of cakes. If anyone is available to support our wonderful PTA on Friday 5th December please contact the school office to volunteer.

Stay and Play!

Last Friday was Valewood’s first Stay and Play of the school year. A big thank you goes to Miss Metcalfe and Mrs O’Hara who gave their time after school to set up such a wonderful experience for our families. We had 20 families attend and lots of fun was had by all. Thank you too, to those families who stayed to tidy up afterwards, your help was greatly appreciated.

World Children’s Day!

On Friday 21st November, we celebrated World Children’s Day. On this day, every year, the children lead the learning and experience what it is like to teach a lesson. This is a day the children relish and is always a huge success. Highlights can be seen on our Instagram feed but the lesson of the day has to go to the Year 4s lesson on, “HOW TO WRESTLE FREE FROM AN ALLIGATOR!”☺ Mrs Salzano informed us that all of Year 4 now know how to get away from an alligator and a bear! Good knowledge to have I’m sure you’ll all agree! My final “Thank you” therefore goes to the children who are always so enthusiastic and put so much effort into projects such as this.

Let’s all strive for an attitude of gratitude just like “My Happy Mind” teaches the children – as saying thank you can really make a difference.

Best wishes,
Danielle Parr

Safeguarding

As part of our safeguarding procedures it is necessary that school have current addresses and telephone numbers for at least two adults with parental or family responsibilities so that in the case of an emergency or non-attendance at school contact can be made. Please ensure all personal details are up to date on Arbor.

Thank you

Communication and Feedback

We always appreciate your comments and try our best to improve when we are given feedback. However, we request that you please consider the best way to communicate with school staff. If you have an important matter to discuss please use email (all staff emails were shared at the meet the teacher sessions in September), speak with us in person, or see the advice below from Class Dojo to help you decide which is the most appropriate option.

Positive Communication and Conduct

- **Maintain Respectful Interactions:** All communication with staff must be polite, considerate, and professional, as it would be in a face-to-face situation.
- **Focus on Positivity:** The platform is intended to share positive moments and feedback. Avoid using it for negative, abusive, defamatory, or threatening comments.
- **Do Not Use for Urgent/Serious Concerns:** Serious issues, complaints, or urgent matters (e.g., student absence, sickness, or in-depth progress discussions) should be directed through formal channels like phone calls to the school office or scheduled meetings.
- **Respect Staff Hours:** Teachers have designated “quiet hours” or specific response times (e.g., 8 am-5 pm). Parents should not expect immediate replies outside these windows. 📧

Today is the final day for our Hog Friendly Challenge. Please don’t forget to send me your photographs – I’ve only had two so far!
dparr.vps@schools.sefton.gov.uk

Attendance Data: Whole School Target 97%**Last Week- School:**

	Attendance	No. of late marks
Reception	90.7%	1
Team 1	97.0%	1
Team 2	94.7%	8
Team 3	96.7%	3
Team 4	97.8%	5
Team 5	99.7%	0
Team 6	99.3%	5

Attendance Cup Goes to...

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

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

If your child misses 5 days of school this is 27.5 hours of learning time! 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.

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 so please ensure your contact details are up to date on Arbor.

Holidays in Term Time

Holidays in term time will not be authorised. If you are planning to take your child out of school during term time a 'Request for leave of absence' form must be completed (the orange form) and returned to school so attendance processes can be followed. 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'. Children love to tell us and their friends about what is going on and secret holidays are never a secret for long, so please be honest and let us know.

Child Led Fundraising – Social Signature in Action! Every Child has a right to be heard and taken seriously.

Our RRSAs will be leading on our Needs and Wants Campaign starting on Monday 1st December. Please help them to help others in our local community. (See Class Dojo for more details)

Starting next week 4 children from Year 6 will be selling homemade items in order to raise money for different charities, starting with the RSPCA. Keep a look out on Class Dojo to see how you can support their efforts.

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

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

	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

OUR SCHOOL DAY IS FROM 8.40am to 3.15pm

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)

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