

Dear Families,
Happy New Year!

We are already a third of the way through spring term 1 and the children have made a fantastic start to 2026. Reception have been expanding their phonics knowledge; Y1 have been finding out the United Kingdom; Y2 have started rehearsing for their own pantomime; Y3 have been challenging their spelling knowledge; Y4 are perfecting their times tables; Y5 are discovering all about the Vikings and Y6 are immersed in their class novel Skellig! The spring term already has lots of exciting activities planned so check out the important dates for your diary below.

National Year of Reading 2026

2026 is the National Year of reading and over the year we will be undertaking lots of activities linked to the love of reading. Our first event will be our spring term Book and a Brew which takes place on Friday 13th February. Booking goes live on 26.01.26 at 7:00pm. Please do not sign up if you attended our Christmas themed session so that all families have the opportunity to attend. Check out <https://goallin.org.uk/> to see how you can get involved as a family in the year of reading.

Attendance

Good attendance is essential if pupils are going to get the most from their school experience, including their attainment, wellbeing and wider life chances. All children have a right to an education and as duty bearers it is our responsibility to ensure children attend school.

As per our school policy, over the next few weeks families may receive attendance emails. These emails will be sent as a result of your child's attendance percentage hitting one of our attendance thresholds. 90% in a test is good but 90% for school attendance is classed as "Persistently Absent" and families may be invited into school to discuss their child's attendance.

At Valewood we also acknowledge when attendance is "Pre-persistently absent" – this is when attendance falls below 95%. We understand and acknowledge why this may be the case but over a school year 95% attendance equates to nearly two full weeks of absence.

If you have any questions or queries about your child's attendance or would like support please contact Miss Chapman our attendance lead.

**Best wishes,
Danielle Parr**

Safeguarding

Keeping children safe online is an important part of our work and teaching the children about how to stay safe online is the foundation of our computing curriculum. At Valewood, Mr Burns is our computing lead and Mrs O'Hara is responsible for online safeguarding.

Each newsletter we will be sharing the latest guidance from the National College linked to online gaming and social media. This week's focus is on Roblox.

You can find this parent advice leaflet, all about Roblox, attached with this newsletter.



UNCRC Article 17: Every child has the right to reliable information.

"Come Dine With Me!"

Our popular "Come Dine With Me" dates will commence on Friday 6th February 2026 when Year 6 families are invited to have lunch with their child. As in previous years due to numbers we can only cater for one family member per child. Please sign up and pay in cash at the office if you would like to attend. Adult lunches cost £3.80.

Walk in White

On Wednesday 4th February to acknowledge World Cancer Day the whole school will be taking part in a "Walk in White" challenge. More information will be shared with families via dojo next week.

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

	Attendance	No. of late marks
Reception	99.3	4
Team 1	94.6	0 (least lates)
Team 2	91.3	6
Team 3	98.7	2
Team 4	95	4
Team 5	97.7	3
Team 6	98	2

Attendance Cup Goes to...

Spring Term 1, Week 1: Team 2
 Spring Term 1, Week 2: Team R
 Spring Term 1, Week 3: Team ?
 Spring Term 1, Week 4: Team ?
 Spring Term 1, Week 5: Team ?
 Spring Term 1, Week 6: Team ?

Attendance & Punctuality – WE CANNOT TEACH AN EMPTY SEAT!

There may be times when your child cannot attend school as they are too unwell but there may also be times when they are a little under the weather and you maybe unsure. In 2024, DFE launched a nation-wide campaign called, “Moments Matter ...Attendance Counts.” So, if you are unsure if your child is, “Too ill for school” check out the NHS advice at <https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/is-my-child-too-ill-for-school/>

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’.

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

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

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

Important Dates (*subject to change)

5 th January	Children return to School for Spring Term 1
20 th January	Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 trip to Chester Zoo
27 th January	Stay and Play at Waterloo Primary School
4 th February	Walk in White for World Cancer Day
6 th February	Year 6 Come Dine with Me
9 th February	Infant Awards Assembly 9am
12 th February	Junior awards Assembly 9am
13 th February	Valentine's Book & Brew (session 1) 9 - 10am
13 th February	Valentine's Book & Brew (session 2) 10 - 11am
13 th February	Finish for Half Term 3.15pm
23 rd February	Return for Spring 2
25 th February	Y6 residential trip to Robinwood
26 th February	Y6 residential trip to Robinwood
27 th February	Y6 residential trip to Robinwood
27 th February	Year 4 Come Dine with Me
6 th March	Year 3 Come Dine with Me
13 th March	Year 2 Come Dine with Me
16 th March	Big Walk & Wheel – 2 weeks
20 th March	Year 1 Come Dine with Me
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
17 th April	Reception Come Dine with Me
24 th April	Year 5 Come Dine with Me
4 th May	Bank Holiday – School Closed
13 th May	Y4 residential trip to CHET
18 th May	Y3 Trip to Deva Roman Experience, Chester
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
12 th June	Forest School Book & Brew 9 - 10am
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

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