

Dear Families,

Spring 2 is well underway and it has been a privilege to get into all the classes over the last two weeks. It has been wonderful to see the high-quality teaching and learning taking place across the school and speaking to the children about their learning. Last Friday we had a visit from our CEO, Rachel Goodwin, who spent time in Years 1 – 4 getting to know the children and asking them all about their learning. The children spoke with confidence and demonstrated their love of learning.

Robinwood

Last week, Year 6 ventured off on their residential to Robinwood. The feedback from the staff at Robinwood was nothing but positive. The children undertook the activities with smiles on their faces, stepping outside their comfort zones and making memories that will stay with them forever. I would like to say a huge thank you to Mrs O'Hara, Miss Metcalfe and Miss Sullivan who supported and cared for the children on their residential.

Parking

Earlier this week we received a complaint from one of our neighbours who could not leave their house as someone had parked over their drive. Can I please remind everyone to park safely and respectfully. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

World Book Day

Yesterday was World Book Day and it was lovely to see the children sharing their love for reading and talking about their favourite characters. A big thank you to all the families who supported their children to create their wonderful costumes – the children (and staff) looked amazing!

MVLT Trust Council event

On Wednesday 4th March Mr Hutson and I took 12 pupils to the MVLT Trust Council event at Chesterfield High School. It was wonderful to get together with the children and colleagues from our trust schools to talk about pupil voice and how every child has a right to have their voices heard. Our pupil voice representatives behaved impeccably, spoke with confidence and demonstrated "The Valewood Way". Thank you, Freddy, George, Erin, Scarlett, Simon, Louis, Eoin, Tilley, Dougie, Constance, Frankie and Molly.

Spring/Easter Hat Parade

On Friday 27th March we will hold our annual Spring/Easter hat parade. The children can come to school on this day wearing their hat and our parade will take place at 2:30pm. I hope you will all be able to make it.

Best wishes,
Danielle Parr

Safeguarding – Keeping safe online

This week's focus is on Tips for creating family rules for using devices – check out the attached guide.



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

Vonnie's smoothies

Don't forget to sign up for Vonnie's Smoothies. Every Friday the children can enjoy a healthy milkshake and smoothie provided by Vonnie. Sign up online.

<https://bookwhen.com/vonniesmoothies>

Football

I wanted to say a big thank you to Mr Hutson who continues to drive football at Valewood. There have been lots of footballing opportunities over the last few weeks, so well done to our Year 5 team, our Girls' team and our School team. Keep up the good work!

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

	Attendance	No. of late marks
Reception	98%	4
Team 1	98.9%	2
Team 2	94.3%	5
Team 3	97.1%	2
Team 4	97.6%	4
Team 5	97.6%	1 (least lates)
Team 6	99.1%	1 (least lates)

Attendance Cup Goes to...

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

	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

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)

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
17 th March	Parents Evening 3.20pm – 6pm
19 th March	Parents Evening 2.20pm – 5.30pm
20 th March	Year 5 Trip to Martin Mere
20 th March	Year 1 Come Dine with Me
27 th March	Infant and Junior Awards Assembly 1.45pm
27 th March	Easter Bonnet Parade 2.30pm
27 th March	Finish for Easter Holidays 3.15pm
13 th April	Return for Summer 1
16 th April	Y4 Parent CHET Meeting 4pm
17 th April	Year 6 Come Dine with Me
24 th April	Year 5 Come Dine with Me
1 st May	Reception Come Dine with Me
4 th May	Bank Holiday – School Closed
7 th May	Class photographs and Y6 Aspirations
13 th May	Y4 residential trip to CHET
18 th May	Y3 Trip to Deva Roman Experience, Chester
21 st May	Spanish Day
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