



**Letter to our Valewood Families**

Please check **Whole School & Class Story** at **Class Dojo** for regular updates. Shares- pictures/ videos will be posted on Twitter at **@ValewoodPrimary**.

Dear Families,

**End of Summer 2 Week 5**

As we turn another page on our monthly calendar, this time (it’s hard to believe it) to JULY, I trust that this letter finds you all well and keeping safe.

**Team 6’s End to their Valewood Journey**

Thank you to our Team 6 families who all responded to our last communication. The staff are looking forward to welcoming you all back for the last two weeks of term. Team 6 have much to look forward to, despite having had to (unfortunately) miss out on many aspects of school life. I know Miss Eglin and Mrs Stoddart have lovely activities planned for the classmates who will be going to their respective high schools from September. Team 6 2020 hoodies are due to be delivered next week and I know the children cannot wait to wear them! Plans for further family events will be re-scheduled to a time when it is safe for everyone to come together. Thank you to our children and their parents and carers for their patience, as I know many are eager to come together for these special, end of Valewood days’ events.

**Sports Events & Achievements**

Last week we should have hosted our Sports Day events. I know these are much-anticipated events in our Valewood calendar and I, too, am sorry that Sports Day could not go ahead this year. I know many of the children and families are prioritising their exercise regimes at home and still doing all they can to keep fit, away from our school’s PE lessons, team sports and competitions. I congratulate you all on keeping fit at home. I also want to congratulate all our sport enthusiasts and participants in what has been another amazing year of sport at Valewood. As our PE Subject Lead, Mr Burns, reported in his end of year report, Valewood has enjoyed great success across many sports and athletic events this year. I have to give our Girls’ Football Team a special mention with the team coming top of the Bootle & District Girls’ League Division 2! This is fantastic- well done girls! Well done to all of our children; teachers; Mr Burns for organising inter-school competitions and thanks to you, our families, too, for all your support and unrelenting commitment to sport at Valewood. Thanks to our sponsors *MBTech Warrington* and *Purple Kitchens* for our new girls’ and boys’ football kits! Not only did our teams play well, they looked great too! Thank you.

**Mid-Year Reports for the Children**

We kindly ask one adult from each family (if you are still home-schooling) to call into school to collect end of year reports on the following days: (N.B. The school office is closed for staff training on Monday morning)

Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> July	Tues 7 <sup>th</sup> July	Weds 8 <sup>th</sup> July	Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup> July	Fri 10 <sup>th</sup> July
<b>TEAM 5</b>	<b>TEAM 2</b>	<b>TEAMS 3 &amp; TEAM 4</b>	<b>TEAM 1</b>	<b>TEAM RECEPTION &amp; TEAM 6</b>
12.30pm-3pm	9.30am-12 noon	9.30am-12 noon	9.30am-12 noon	9.30am-12 noon

Sibling’s reports will also be handed over. For the children who are in school, school reports will be handed over to parents and carers on the stated days above. There is a little surprise, in each envelope for each child! 😊

**Feedback & Comments & Technology Survey**

Inside your child’s report envelope, you will also find an end of year feedback sheet. As always, we welcome your comments. Also included is an access to technology survey which will inform our practice from September. You may want to complete the hard copy and return it to school/ pop it in the blue box outside the school office foyer. If you prefer to complete the form electronically, you can email it to your child’s class teacher. Thank you.

**Special Educational Needs & Disability Provision**

Our Special Educational Needs and Disability Co-ordinator (SENDCo) Miss Clark has been extremely busy since lockdown was actioned. She has continued to ensure that all our pupils who receive additional funding progress to acquiring an Education Health Care Plan. These plans identify the provision needed to enable children to meet their complex individual needs and meet their identified milestones and targets. This tremendous hard work involves a great amount of team work between Miss Clark, class teachers, Ms Evans, myself, families, our SEN governor, our secondary schools and external agencies. We are very proud of the team work we foster at Valewood and we are proud of our achievements over the last few months, especially given the circumstances. The inability to meet face-to-face to fight the cause of our most vulnerable children has not deterred our progress. After numerous online communications and meetings with all partners, we have been able to determine the future provision for our children. I want to thank all our staff, governors, families and external partners for their rigorous hard work and relentless commitment in ensuring we do the very best for all of our children at Valewood.

### **Class Catch-Up Fridays**

Oh, what a great day I had last Friday. Having not seen the children together for so long, I really enjoyed joining in with each class' Catch-Up. I have missed seeing you all each day and, I know that I speak on behalf of many of you- not being able to be together, at school, has been difficult on many levels. I am very thankful for all the families who have shown real solidarity in following the Government guidelines and who have persevered with advice even when it has been very hard to do so. I hope that you are all enjoying the Zoom Catch-Ups and we would love your feedback (as explained above). Our last Class Catch-Ups, for this academic year, will take place on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020.

### **Changes to Staffing**

Team Reception families were informed, earlier this week, that it will be Mrs Parr who takes Team 1 from September. Likewise, Team 1 families were informed that Mrs O'Brien will be moving up to Team 2 with her class. Wherever this has been possible, the class teacher will be moving up with their current class. Where this has not been the case, teachers have been given time to have handover meetings, including communication where enhanced transition may be required for children who require additional support.

### **School Closed during the Summer Holiday**

School will close on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July, when our academic year (for the children) ends. As has been announced by the Government, there is no requirement for school to be open during the summer holiday period. Therefore, there will be no provision for critical workers' children beyond Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July. I hope that all families will appreciate that, since March, we have faced many challenges and that school has only been closed during May half-term break for deep cleaning. I thank our Team Valewood staff for everything they have all done, for all of our families: for those who have been in school and for those who have been unable to return to school. Our team's good cheer, hard work and commitment is second to none and I feel privileged to work alongside such great professionals.

### **Back to School in September**

Yesterday, the Government announced the expectation that all pupils will return to school full-time from September. Over the summer holidays, we will have decisions to make and plans to secure, before all the children return. Our Governing Body are meeting again, next week, to agree a way forward from September. First day back to school in September for the children is Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2020 and children are expected to wear full school uniform when they return to school. N.B. Our uniform list can be found on our school website, under the 'Parents' tab. Please be advised that our PTA volunteers have very kindly washed and prepared a clothing rail of 'nearly new uniform' which can be found in the office foyer from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July- £1 per item whilst the stock lasts.

### **PTA Fundraising & Prize Bins!**

As always, our wonderful PTA volunteers have been working hard to make sure they give our children the very best. On behalf of the whole school, I thank all our volunteer families for all of their continued hard work this academic year. Their latest contribution is £800+ for new novels for the children (in each class) come September. Thanks to families' contributions and participation in our PTA events. Fundraising is having a positive impact on children's resources within the classroom, as well as on the playgrounds! Mrs Duffy has also informed me that she entered the school into a competition with The Playground Company and we won their top prize of new outside bins/ hand sanitising stations which we will be using from September. We have a different coloured station for each class. Thank you Mrs Duffy!

### **Thank You**

I can now confirm that there will be no more consideration of places beyond Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July as bubbles are now full. We have adhered to the Government guidance and followed Public Health England's advice, all along, from the announcement that schools needed to close. I wholeheartedly thank our governors and my staff team for going above and beyond, at every stage of the lockdown. More importantly, thank you to you- our families, for your patience; your understanding; your support; your hard work at home and your communication with us, whilst we have navigated our way through, what has certainly been, the most challenging time we have ever known at Valewood. Together, we are stronger. Thank you.

Thinking of you all and sending you all my very best wishes,

**Helen Tantouri**

**Headteacher**

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**PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE LATEST GOVERNMENT ADVICE re: COVID-19**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>