



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 3

I hope that my letter finds you all well. I cannot believe we are moving into Week 4 from Monday. For those families who have been at home since lockdown, I hope that you are all finding a Summer 2 rhythm, now you have all been informed that not all year groups can return to School before the end of this academic year.

Team 6 Back to School

Today, I have written to our Team 6 families to inform them that we are able to invite Team 6 children back to School from Monday 6th July. I kindly ask that our Team 6 parents and carers read over the Back to School Plan and sign acknowledgement of our Plan, confirming that they would like to accept a place for their child by Friday 26th June. Thank you.

Class Catch-Up Fridays

The feedback I have received, following last week's Class Catch-Ups was very positive. I know there are Zooms on the go all day, today too, from Team Reception to Team 6. Teachers have set a little challenge, in some cases, and I am looking forward to seeing and hearing how the children have stepped up to those class learning challenges- from learning to sign 0-10 in sign language to sharing key facts about foxes, it will be lovely to know how everyone has got on this week with their home-learning and their Class Catch-Up challenges.

Extending VPS Class Dojo Digital Learning Platform

This week, we conducted an audit across all classes to see how many families have been regularly accessing/ using their weekly home-learning planners and resources and we have also audited who has been actively sharing work with the class teacher. I am pleased to say that the % are high across all classes. Please kindly 'like' the teacher's submission of the weekly planner on Dojo, to indicate that you have seen the work. Many thanks for your anticipated support.

As we plan for September, Mrs O'Brien will be trialling the Portfolios section on our Class Dojo, where teachers can upload dated assignments and where families and children can upload their outcomes. This will enable teachers to consider better informed assessment, if children are not all back to School full-time from September. Watch this space.

School Uniform

Currently and up until the end of the School year, children are not required to wear uniform. This is because we expect children to be wearing a clean set of clothes each day, to minimise cross contamination of potential virus sharing at this critical time. Many of you have been contacting Mrs Kearney to ask if children will be expected to wear uniform from September. I am particularly thinking of our new to Reception children whose parents and carers look forward to special pictures of their little ones' first day at 'big school'. I would like to say yes to school uniform and I will confirm this in the next couple of weeks. Stock has recently arrived at School and Mrs Kearney is already taking orders and some have already been collected. If you have any uniform requests, please contact the School Office. We can only accept SIMS Pay payments at present. Again, if you have any queries, please contact School.

End of Year Reports for the Children

Teachers have finalised their reports and they have commented on children's attitudes to learning and attainment up until 20th March when our face-to-face, on-site curriculum for the whole School came to an end. I am in the process of reading each report and these will be ready by the end of this term. They will not be the full reports that you have been accustomed to, at the end of each School year, and I know you will understand why this is the case.

Five Ways to Wellbeing Focus

After my last newsletter went out, asking you all to share any new hobbies, I had a lovely message and photographs from the Hedley family. They have taken to baking bread at home and I am very impressed with their results. There is nothing like the smell of fresh bread baking (and coffee brewing too) to help awaken the senses, first thing in the morning. It's got me thinking about lockdown recipes. My daughters have been brilliant chefs, during lockdown, especially when it is past tea time and I am still working! They have cooked up scrumptious Greek dishes and even impressed their grandma who is the master chef in our family! What have you all been cooking up/ baking during lockdown? Please share!

Father's Day on Sunday

We started lockdown on Mothering Sunday weekend and, as we get to the end of Week 13, we have already reached Father's Day. I hope that all our dads and carers have a special weekend, this weekend, and all our single parent families (who also deserve a mention) also have a great day on Sunday. Remember children...mums and dads are super-special and remember... the best cards are handmade and it's the small acts of kindness that bring the most smiles- not 'things'.

Take care of each other and stay safe. We are only a message away if you need us.
I am sending you all my best wishes.

Thinking of you all,

Helen Tantouri

Headteacher

Guidance for parents and carers:

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

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