



Letter for our Team 6 Families

Dear Parents, Carers & Children,

Hello from Ms Tantouri

I hope that my letter finds you all well. I want you to know that we are missing you all very much. Children, I know many of you are missing School and especially missing time with your friends. We all know how hard it has been, not being able to come back to School as a Class, and we want you to know that we have not forgotten about you. We are thinking of you all.

12 Weeks of Lockdown

It's been 12 weeks today, since we had to close the School and I know many of you were home already, self-isolating, so for you it will be longer than 12 weeks! I want you all to know that I am very proud of everything you have been doing at home since lockdown. Miss Eglin has been keeping me updated and many of you have been sharing your activities with me via Dojo messages too. Thank you for keeping in touch and sharing your home-learning adventures with us. Keep up the great work.

There will be lots of things you will remember about Y6 lockdown, I am sure. I loved seeing you all get stuck-into the 'Alternative SATs Week' activities that Miss Eglin planned for you. I am sure they will be more memorable than doing boring SATs!

Transition to High School

I have been having regular meetings with your new Headteachers. Although transition days will not be taking place as planned, the Headteachers have assured me that you will all be receiving information via post/ email regarding your start to high school.

The Government Guidance

The government guidance originally said that schools should bring back Team Reception and Team 1 before Team 6. However, the governors have had lots of meetings and we have decided, if we can, we will be asking Team 6 children next- to come back to School.

At the moment only the children (across all year groups) whose parents and carers are critical for the COVID-19 response are allowed to be in School. As soon as it is safe to do so, Team 6 children will be next on our list.

Our Hope for Potential Return of Team 6

Please know that it is our intention (staff capacity and space allowing) that Team 6 children will be invited to come back to School before we finish the School year on Friday 17th July. This is all reliant on many factors which are regularly being monitored. If/ when Team 6 children can return, the children will not be accommodated in one single class- as social distancing measures will not allow us to do this. When I can give you all more definite information, I will contact you to share these arrangements with you.

End of School Events & Celebrations for Team 6

I know that many of the events that we had planned, and which have become regular favourites with the children and our families, have been postponed for our Team 6 families this year. Events like: Y6 Residential*; Proms in the Playground; Sports Day; Y6 Grand Day Out; Summer Fair: Leavers' Assembly to mention a few. I know that the children will be sad and some parents and carers (especially those who have had Valewood leavers before) may be upset that these events cannot take place as usual. Believe me, we are all upset about that too. However, please know that some of these events have NOT BEEN CANCELLED. They have been postponed or will take place a little differently, this year.

*Mrs Castellain is working hard to finalise the insurance claim for the Team 6 residential payments. She will contact families when a refund can be made.

Class Video

I know Miss Eglin has asked you to share children's photographs for the Class Video we put together each year. I kindly ask that you only share photos of your child from their time in Reception/ when they started at Valewood. This video will be put together and shared electronically with all Team 6 families, as it will be impossible for all families to come together for a Leavers' Assembly in July, as planned. There was a suggestion about an outdoor event, but this would go against social distancing/ social gathering advice.

Suggestions for Events

What we are suggesting is an end of term Family Zoom Quiz/ Kahoot/ Class Catch-Up with special surprises from our staff and refreshments provided by our PTA volunteers. This would take place at the end of Summer term 2.

For the parents and carers: when we are able to safely come together, we will put on a Leavers' Assembly event when parents and carers can be safely invited into School. This will now probably take place in the Autumn term.

For the children (and the staff!): we will also host a 'sleep-over' event when all staff and children can have the School over a weekend. This too will only take place when it is safe to do so and hopefully will not be too late into the Autumn term, as I will be asking our friendly ice-cream man to drive onto the School field- especially for our Team 6 children!

We know that this is not the 'send-off' our fabulous Team 6 children and families were expecting but I hope that these suggestions can go some way to alleviating any upset and disappointment.

Friday Class Catch-Ups

Last week, I asked all the teachers to set up a Class Catch-Up on a weekly basis with each of their classes. Miss Eglin has just shared with me the photos taken during today's Team 6 Class Catch-Up. It's so lovely to see that so many of you took part. Remember, this Class Catch-Up will take place each Friday and so, if you did not join in this week, please try to next week- I will see you next week too.

Five Ways to Wellbeing Focus

During this week's staff meeting, I asked the staff to share a funny story with me about their time in their primary school. I know you will all have many memories of your time at Valewood, but do you have a funny/ fond one that you think you will still remember when you are as old as we are?! If so, share it with your family! Parents and carers may have their own fond/ funny memories too- if so, share them with the children too! Have them ready, as I will have a task for you to complete in the coming weeks.

Team 6 Music Playlist

I also kindly ask that you think about a song that is special to you. We will collate these and make a Team 6 Playlist for you all to enjoy at home.

Finally, remember, we are only ever a message away. Keep up the great work at home, everyone. I am sending you all my best wishes. Take care and stay safe. I will keep you updated, as always. Hope you all have a lovely weekend.

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