



Summer 1 Week 1

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2020

**Summer Term Begins - Letter for Families**

**Please check Whole School & Class Story at Class Dojo for any updates over the coming weeks.**

**Shares- pictures/ videos will be posted on Twitter at @ValewoodPrimary.**

Dear Families,

**Welcome Back to Summer Term 1**

Hello everyone. Welcome back to Summer Term- albeit it, not as we have previously know it. I sincerely hope that you all managed to have a bit of a rest over the Easter/ Bank Holiday weekend and that you were all able, at some point, to enjoy the Spring sunshine that we were blessed with over the two week break. I hope that you are all keeping well- staying home and taking on board the government's current advice. I know many of you are also working and we all hope that you are keeping yourselves safe too.

**Weekly Home-Learning Planners & Class Teachers' Weekly Videos**

I have received lovely feedback from parents/ carers and children to say how grateful and happy they felt to see and hear their teachers in the weekly videos which we started before the Easter holiday. I knew the videos would cause great delight and cheer everyone up! I wasn't wrong. Going forward then, class teachers will share the weekly, home-learning planners, in advance, on a Friday afternoon, for the week ahead (to allow those of you who wish to/ can, to be prepared). Again, please be reassured that we all appreciate each family has different considerations to make and everyone's circumstances are different. On a Monday morning, teachers will continue to share their weekly videos with the children to help keep the children inspired in their work and their play.

**Class Dojo Messages & Posts**

Teachers and I love receiving your photos and comments via messages on Class Dojo. We do acknowledge, however, that re-sharing many of these photographs can also make others' hearts sink, as they may be working (some, full-time) and they are unable to do as much at home as they would, perhaps, like to. So, after our on-line, weekly staff meeting, this week, it has been agreed that photo shares from families to teachers will not be re-shared on Class Dojo pages. However, that does not mean we want you to stop sharing with us! Please, do keep the photos coming in- we love to see them and we love to hear from you. This keeps us going! Teachers will continue to send me a selection of photos each week, so that I can share them on our School Twitter feed for families to see, if they so wish.

**Whole School Dojo Posts**

I will continue to use Whole School Story as the platform to communicate with you all. Class teachers/ subject leaders will also post things here which may be of interest to everyone. This way, we hope we are as streamlined as possible, to enable you to access the information you seek as efficiently as possible. Some of our families have more than one or two children at School and I know (as I keep my eye on all seven classes' Dojos) that the challenge is real! We always endeavour to be as systematic as possible- to make life easier for everyone because we have so much more to contend with, especially now.

**Summer Term Transition Plans**

Summer Term is always a busy term for everyone at School. Taking on board how School closed on 20<sup>th</sup> March (so abruptly) and having evaluated all pros and cons regarding transitioning up to the next year group, the following decisions have been made regarding our classes for September 2020...

Team 3 will move up to Team 4- with Mrs Salzano.

Team 4 will move up to Team 5- with Mr Burns.

Team 5 will move up to Team 6- with Miss Clark.

Team 2 will move into the Juniors with Miss Eglin.

Team 1 will move up to Mrs Parr's Team 2.

Team Reception will move up to Mrs O'Brien's Team 1.

Mrs Mills will continue to teach planned lessons for Teams 3-6 during teachers' planning and assessment times.

**Current Team 6**

Please know that all the secondary schools have been in contact with me, Miss Eglin and also with Miss Clark (our SENDCo) to ensure that they have all the necessary information for their new pupils. There is a lot of communication between Miss Eglin/ Miss Clark and all the secondary schools, so please do not worry if you have a child in Team 6 currently. We are doing all we can to ensure transition can be as informed as possible, given these extenuating circumstances.

### **New to Reception, September 2020**

I can now tell you that we received 175 applications for a Reception place at our School. I believe, pro rata, we are the most over-subscribed primary school in Sefton. With 20 siblings (yes, 20- even we were surprised!) that leaves, unfortunately, only 10 spaces for new families to join our thriving community. We currently have 54 children on our waiting list for a Reception place. With 20 siblings, we are fortunate that we only have 10 new families to get to know and to help transition into our *Valewood Way* before September. As our families will all be aware, we pride ourselves on the high quality care and consideration we put into our transition arrangements. At this moment in time, arrangements for transition into Reception are unclear. We did have a Meet & Greet planned for May; Nursery and home visits to plan for and transition days already in our School diary. We will keep our Reception 2020 cohort families informed, as and when we make decisions regarding transition.

What I am able to tell you is that Miss Metcalfe will be on maternity leave from the end of July, as she is expecting her second baby in August. We all congratulate Miss Metcalfe on this great news and wish her and the family well. Please know that the governing body had already shortlisted candidates before the lockdown. Following our (on-line) full governing body meeting last night, we are now in the process of finalising our interview process; with interviews booked in, so that a new teacher can join Team Valewood for September. More news to follow soon.

### **Mid-Year Reports to Parents & Carers**

The Department for Education (DFE) confirmed, on Monday, that they will not be requiring schools to provide any data for pupils for this academic year. Children's 'good level of development' (GLD) in Reception; Y1 & Y2 Phonics Screen; Statutory Teacher Assessments for Y2; Y4 Times Tables' Check and Y6 SATs have therefore all been cancelled.

Teachers have already submitted to me their teacher assessments up until the end of Spring Term. We have decided that we will be completing mid-year reports, up to the point School was forced to close. These will replace the end of year reports that you would have ordinarily received in July. We will share these with you when we return to School.

### **Vulnerable Children**

The DFE has also, this week, refined the definition of 'vulnerable children'. Please know that our Parent Support Advisor, Ms Linda Evans, is available for telephone consultations each Wednesday morning. She has been checking-in with a number of our families (each week) and if you would also like a chat with her, please contact the School Office between 10am and 1pm (on week days) to book an appointment.

### **Five Ways to Wellbeing Focus #Take Notice**

This week's focus in our 'Staff Meet Zoom' was #TakeNotice. I asked all the teachers to give me the first word they thought of when I said 'Valewood'. I will share these with you all on Twitter. One of our Valewood children kindly took notice of Mrs Deegan this week, by leaving her a lovely message on her driveway- this brought her great joy when she got home from School. Sometimes it's the simplest things that bring the most happiness. Whatever you all dealing with this coming week, try to make time to take notice- even if you just give yourself 5 minutes to listen to and regulate your own breathing!

Whatever you are doing, take care and stay safe. We are missing you all AND we are equally proud of how you are all coping, during these challenging times. As someone once said, *'Be kind and have courage.'* Be kind to yourselves and to each other.

With every good wish,

**Helen Tantouri**

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### **PLEASE TAKE NOTE OF THE LATEST GOVERNMENT ADVICE:**

#### **Coronavirus (COVID-19) What you need to do:**

1. Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (but only if you cannot work from home).
2. Stay at least 2 metres (6ft) away from other people.
3. Wash your hands as soon as you get home.

**N.B. You can spread the virus even if you don't have symptoms.**