



Spring 2 Week 5

Friday 27th March 2020

Information for our Families re: COVID-19

Please keep up-to-date by checking out Whole School & Class Story at Class Dojo.

Headlines will be posted on our website: www.valewood.co.uk and also via Twitter at @ValewoodPrimary.

Dear Families,

After Week 1 of School Closure

Thank You Families!

THANK YOU everyone for all that you are doing at this time of national emergency. Whether you are staying at home with the children; going to work and leaving loved ones at home/ at School or looking after poorly family/ friends, please know that we are all grateful for your efforts and endeavours during this difficult time. We know that everyone is doing all they can and we understand that each family is facing its own challenges. Please know that your sacrifices and positivity are much appreciated.

Childcare Provision for our Critical Workers' Families

Thank you to all our families who were able to reassess their personal circumstances and were able to make alternative childcare arrangements, thus ensuring we can prioritise and provide the best emergency childcare provision for the most critical workers' children.

N.B. An email has been sent to all our families who have accessed our childcare provision and who have requested a place (for the coming days) asking for additional information, to enable us to make an informed decision re: childcare provision during the Easter holidays. Please, if you have received this email, complete and return the proforma, giving us details of **both** parents' employment so that we may continue to prioritise childcare places.

To date, our updates include:

1. There will be no Breakfast Club from Monday 30th March 2020.
2. There will be childcare provision over the Easter holidays but School will be closed on Good Friday & Easter Monday.
3. School lunches will not be provided during the Easter holiday childcare provision. Children will need to bring their own packed lunches please.
4. We are almost there with setting up the supermarket vouchers' scheme for our families whose children are in receipt of a free school meal. Thank you for your patience.

School Office

The School Office staff will continue to be in School between 10am and 1pm to allow them to receive and respond to important phone calls. **Please DO NOT come to School for any queries.** Instead, please call and leave a message or alternatively, please message your child's class teacher via Class Dojo, if you have an urgent query.

Thank You to Team VPS

THANK YOU to ALL our wonderful staff and governors in and out of School this week- including our Breakfast Club staff, teachers and teaching assistants who have been amazing this week, as always, looking after the children each day. Thanks too, to our Kitchen staff who have been providing a hot meal, on most days, for all the children and all the staff. Thank you to our Office staff, too, for their efficiency in dealing with daily reporting requirements to the Department for Education and Sefton Local Authority and for keeping in touch with families. Finally, thank you to Mr Parr and our cleaners for keeping the School safe and clean each day.

Weekly Planners for Home Learning

Class teachers will continue to share their suggested home learning activities with families each Monday morning for the week ahead. N.B. There will be no weekly planners for the Easter holidays. More info via Class Dojo.

#Stay Home...Week 1 of Home Learning

I must congratulate and praise you all for all of your hard work this week and also for all the shares on Class Dojo and Twitter. The photos/ videos and messages showcasing what you have all been learning and getting up to, have been phenomenal! It really has kept all our spirits up whilst we have been dealing with statutory, daily duties. I have been so impressed with all your ingenuity and creativity. It was also super-exciting when our teachers, classes and children got a mention on social media: @janeconsidine, @ShonetteBason and @LearnatCZ (just to mention a few) this week, whilst they were taking part in online tutorials! Let's see if we get a mention from Body Coach #PEWithJoe next week! There are so many professionals sharing their expertise online, to help alleviate the pressure on families to keep children occupied/ on task/ active etc. We will continue to share these platforms/ resources with you via Class/ Whole School Dojo in the hope that they will be helpful.

Keep up the great work everyone and keep the shares coming! I am very proud of you all. 😊

Take Care & Stay Safe

Last night at 8pm, the nation came together to show appreciation to our amazing NHS workers with #ClapForOurCarers with millions of us also showing appreciation to all the other critical workers who are going above and beyond on a daily basis. All our thoughts are with those of you who are critical workers. I hope you all keep safe and well in the coming weeks and months. Take care and stay safe.

I will be keeping you all updated via Whole School Dojo. In next week's Newsletter I will be focusing on our #5WaysToWellbeing. Until then, please take care of yourselves and each other.

With every good wish,

Helen Tantouri

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 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.

Handwashing Advice: The most important thing individuals can do to protect themselves is to wash their hands more often, for at least 20 seconds, with soap and water. Public Health England recommends that in addition to handwashing before eating, and after coughing and sneezing, everyone should also wash hands after using toilets and whenever you return home.

The latest guidance and video on hand washing can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>