



Information for our Families re: COVID-19

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Headlines on our website & also via Twitter at @ValewoodPrimary

Dear Families,

COVID-19 Update: Key Workers & Vulnerable Children

As I am sure you are all aware, School will be closing tomorrow. It is with a heavy heart that I inform you that teaching and learning will be suspended at Valewood, from tomorrow, for the coming weeks and maybe months.

The Secretary of State for Education, in his address in the House of Commons yesterday, encouraged schools (wherever possible) to provide supervision for key workers' children, going forward from Monday 23rd March 2020, whilst all other children are encouraged to stay at home and begin a period of social distancing. Schools have also been encouraged to provide this service for the most vulnerable in their school community.

Thanks to the overwhelming response to the Survey Monkey (sent out late last night) my senior leaders and I were able to start making plans for Monday, with a clearer picture of which families needed most support. As this is a fast-paced, ever-changing situation, I have been grateful to our families for their timely and sensible responses. This has allowed us to be a step ahead of the government's directions and has given us time to speak directly with families today, ahead of any further announcements.

Our provision in School, from Monday, is vitally important for the families we will serve. It is care for the children whose parents are needed the most, by us all, in these most challenging of times. I extend my thanks to all the families with whom we have spoken today, who have prioritised the needs of others, to ensure we provide the best possible care (with the limited staff able to support) in this most important of endeavours. Thank you.

As I write this, late into the evening, we are still no clearer as to the government's definition of a key worker. It has been announced that 'the list' will be shared with us tomorrow now. Please know that we are almost there with our own list and we will be contacting you, in person, tomorrow, to confirm what we can offer from Monday, should you require it as a key worker.

Finally, thank you to all our wonderful families who have been so thoughtful and generous and who have extended offers of support to the most vulnerable in our local community. The staff and I have been overwhelmed with your generosity of spirit- again. The gift of yummy cakes and Spring daffodils (for each member of staff today) from our PTA, parents and carers really brightened up our day. That said, we ensured, even before the daffodils surprised us, that we came out of Morning Briefing with a song in the air and a spring in our step, to help the children settle into their last Thursday of this term.

We will continue to keep our spirits bright tomorrow, as we end the term as positively as we can, for all the children's sake.

With every good wish, as always,

Helen Tantouri
Headteacher

Please know that a new tab has been added under the Important Information header on our website to allow me to upload communications quickly. Here, you will find our daily updates regarding how School is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic.