



The Vale Primary School

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Friday 25th February 2021

Inspiring All

It has been a busy week back and I'm sure for many of you half term feels like a while ago now. We do hope you got some time with the family to have fun. It was lovely to hear news of some of the activities the children got up to.



As soon as we were back, we received the welcome news on Monday from the Prime Minister that we could begin **planning for the return of all pupils on the 8th March**. We are so pleased that we are going to be able to have everyone back and have spent time this week reviewing and updating risk assessments and reviewing plans to ensure we are following and complying with Government, DfE and GLF guidance. As ever, the safety of all in our school community is of utmost importance. We will be sending out our 'Vale Parent March Re-Opening Guidance' on Wednesday next week, once our Risk Assessments and plans have been agreed by the GLF Trust Board Members. Much of our guidance is very similar to the Autumn Term with the same staggered drop off, pick-ups, playtimes and lunchtimes; teaching in class bubbles; staff wearing masks and parents when coming to the school site; and coming into school in PE kit on class PE days. More detail about times and days will be in the guidance.

Next week we are going to be using as a transition week. **The class teachers who have been delivering live lessons from home will be coming into school and will be delivering the same live lessons but from the classrooms – please bear with us if there are any teething technology issues from the new environments.** The four 'bubbles' that we have had in school (of children eligible to be on site during partial closure) will be moving into the seven year group bubbles with their class teachers. A few other children have been invited to join these bubbles for parts of the day or week to support them in transition back to school where class teachers have identified that this extra support is needed. This might be for a variety of reasons that have been part of an ongoing dialogue with parents throughout 'Lockdown'.



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We are busy working with teachers now to plan our curriculum for the weeks between now and the Easter break. We believe it is vital in that time that our focus is on re-engagement and the social, communication, collaborative and interaction skills as well as physical activity that have been most impacted during this last half term. We will use the time to address well-being and review core skills so that we have a robust gap analysis and plan in place to address these. As always, we value your support as we do this and look forward to discussion with you at our Teacher/Parent meetings as part of this transition back into school. Each week to Easter will have a different theme that the whole school will use as a framework for their cross-curricular learning ('Coming Together', 'New Beginnings', 'Good To Be Me' and 'Being Thankful'). It will be wonderful to have a chance to do many of the hands-on practical activities and learning that don't lend themselves as well to Remote provision. We also look forward to our end of term assembly which we will hold as an 'Open Zoom Assembly' that we would love parents to join us for on **Thursday 1st April at 9.15am**. We will send the zoom link nearer the time.

PARKING

For those parents who are coming to school site next week please do bear in mind that there will be very limited parking due to our building works that are happening at the moment and we have more staff returning to school. If you can drop and go with the adults outside as quickly as possible, walk or 'park and stride', it will make it safer for all. Thank you in advance.

SCREEN FREE DAY

We will be having another **non-screen day on Friday 5th March**. This was such a successful day of practical activities and learning last time. Like before, we ask that children log on to Google Classroom to register in the morning, so that we have a record of their attendance, and then switch the devices off. I have attached with the newsletter this week a selection of activities that members of staff from the school have suggested. It would be great to see some photos like before of learning in action. I would like to write an article and use some of these photos for our new website launch so as many as possible please.

FAMILY FORUM

Thank you to all of you who came to our zoom family forum meeting this week – we really do value and appreciate all your ideas and opinions. During the session we discussed general feeling of parents and children about the return to school on the 8th March; our new website to be launched and how it can be most effective as a tool for parents; what positives can we use from remote learning in the future e.g. a platform for homework; and how we can make the best use of family forum sessions for an opportunity for parent voice. There will be another forum session to be planned in for after the Easter break.

WORLD BOOK DAY

World book day this year is officially 4th March. We have taken the decision this year that we would like to wait to celebrate this day really well when we are back in school and are proposing that we will plan to do this in the Summer Term. I attached the voucher for World Book Day with the Newsletter that came out before half term but please do ask at the school office if you did not get one as I know they have printed ones available.

Although we will wait until we are in school to have a whole school day of celebration in the Summer Term, we have still included a series of 'World Book Day' Hour Activities on our non-screen day planning sheet. In addition to this there are a host of amazing activities and free audio books etc. on



the World Book Day Hub that can be found here: <https://www.worldbookday.com/2020/03/book-ideas-hub-brilliant-stay-at-home-ideas-free-resources/>



PARENT & TEACHER MEETINGS

The booking slots for these are now available and we ask that everyone makes an appointment. We understand there was a technology issue with our parentmail provider for Year 5 but that has hopefully now been resolved. Please do let the school office know if you have not received the correct booking form and they will make the appointment for you. Please accept our apologies if this has caused anyone any inconvenience.

We will be holding meetings for parents of children in the week beginning the 8th March from 1.30pm – 3.30pm and 4pm – 6.30pm. These can either be conducted by a phone call or zoom meeting.

Tuesday 9th March – Year 3 and Year 5

Wednesday 10th March – Year R, Year 1 and Year 2

Thursday 11th March – Year 6 and Year 4

We are really pleased with the timings of these so that they bridge the return from home to face to face school learning and can be used to discuss the transition.



IMPORTANT NOTICE: PLEASE DO ENSURE YOUR CHILDREN REGISTER DAILY ON GOOGLE CLASSROOM AND ATTEND LIVE SESSIONS UNLESS ARRANGED OTHERWISE. WE HAVE A DUTY OF CARE AND WE WILL HAVE TO FOLLOW SAFEGUARDING PROCEDURES AND PHONE FAMILIES THAT DO NOT. CALLING ON THE FIRST DAY IS OUR NORMAL PROCEDURE IF THEY HAVE NOT REGISTERED OR WE HAVE NOT RECEIVED A MESSAGE.

DATES

(New dates highlighted in blue) PTA dates in green

Spring Term Dates		
8.3.21	Pupils return to School	
9.03.21	Year 3 and 5 Parent Meetings	1.30pm – 3.30pm 4-6.30pm
10.03.21	Year R, Year 1 and Year 2 Parent Meetings	1.30pm – 3.30pm 4-6.30pm
11.03.21	Year 4 and 6 Parent Meetings	1.30pm – 3.30pm 4-6.30pm
22.03.21	Living Eggs Chicks in School	
01.04.20	Term ends	
	Easter Holidays	
19.04.21	Term starts	
31.05.21 – 04.06.21	HALF TERM	
25.06.21	INSET	
16.07.21	Term ends	
19.07.21 – 21.07.21	INSET	



Inspiring All

Children's Code of Conduct for Remote Learning

Please:

- Follow our core values and learner qualities as this will help us work together:
 - Be Safe
 - Be Respectful
 - Be Ready
 - Be Caring
 - Be Resilient
 - Embrace Challenge
 - Be reflective
- Use your own device (laptop, Chromebook, tablet), school may be able to loan technology and data cards if this is an issue (contact school if so)
- Log on every day to Google Classroom, via your class Google Meet links - attendance is essential everyday Mon-Fri unless you are ill. Please let your teacher know if you won't be able to make it.
- Work in a well lit, well ventilated comfortable area.
- Switch off other devices to avoid distraction e.g. television
- Keep your camera on and click on mute unless asked to talk to the staff member
- The chat function on Google Meet may be used to ask or answer questions - these should be related to your learning
- Follow the class timetable, take full participation and upload learning when asked
- Think about the quality and presentation of the work you are completing
- Try to take good breaks from working on the screen when you can to have a healthy snack, complete a physical activity and have a brain break.

Remember - believe in yourself, you can do this, asking for help is a strength and we are all here doing this together.



Have a good weekend and stay safe.
Cathy Browne and Sarah Leyland
Co-Headteachers



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