



The Vale Primary School

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Friday 5th March 2021

Inspiring All

As we come to the end of our 'lockdown' for schools and our time of remote provision, Mrs Leyland and I can only look back with pride at how far we have all come since January. It has been really lovely over the past couple of weeks to receive emails and phone calls from parents complimenting the provision the school has had in place.

"I have been so pleased and grateful for all the work you and the staff have put into the online learning. It really has been brilliant including the pastoral care and informal elements.....I have been singing your praises to everyone."

I know that all the staff have truly appreciated the support of all at home and the efforts families have gone to, to engage and participate in all the learning and activities. We also want to take this moment to publicly thank all the staff at The Vale whether it be teachers; associate staff who work in the office, classrooms, premises or in catering. As a team they have all worked together with commitment and dedication throughout this difficult time.

We are very excited for Monday and welcoming everyone back and do hope you all received the information this week to help prepare you for that. Everything from PE days and timings, to measures we are taking to keep everyone safe should be found in our parent guidance. We also hope that you found the social story helpful as a tool to use with your children about what they can expect school to be like on their return.

DROP OFF AND PICK UP

As it says in our guidance it will still be our policy from Monday, as it was at the end of the Autumn term, that **parents wear masks in the car park area and when visiting the school office**. In addition, due to the continuation of our building works project, we are afraid **there will be no parent parking available** (with the exception of our disabled bays for badge holders) for the next couple of weeks. We ask that families park away from the school site and walk – remembering to respect our local residents. We will have adults in the car park so that you can drive in and 'drop and go' and the children will wait with their bubble until their group (and siblings) are taken to their classrooms. We are hoping that with the staggered times for drop off and pick up that the pressure on the parking and 'drop and go' system will be alleviated if families keep to their times.



ASSYMPTOMATIC TESTING

Staff at the Vale as part of our measures are now completing 'Lateral Flow Device' (LFD) tests twice a week and this is a positive way forward to support staff confidence and the safety of all in school. You may have seen in the press that while primary school children are not being asked to take rapid Covid tests in school, the Government is now offering households and support bubbles of all school children access to rapid Covid home test kits for twice-a-week self-testing.

As about 1 in 3 people with Coronavirus do not have symptoms but can still pass it on, regular testing can help stop the virus spreading and help us ensure we can keep schools open for all students.

Testing is voluntary, but we encourage all families to take up this offer. Tests are simple to do and give a result within about half an hour which you can register with NHS Test and Trace. If anyone does test positive in your household, your household should of course follow the government advice on isolating at home and the NHS will provide further advice.

How to get rapid testing

Test kits for families are not available through the school but you can obtain these by one of the following methods:

- through your employer if they offer testing to employees – this may either be through testing at work or distribution of home kits by your employer
- at a local test site – you may be able to book a supervised self-test near where you live. You can find your nearest rapid test site here: <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>.
- by collecting a home test kit from a test site. Find your nearest collection point here: <https://find-covid-19-rapid-test-sites.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>
- by ordering a home test kit online – if you cannot get test kits any other way, you can order them for home delivery here: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

Full government information on rapid testing for households can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>

SCREEN FREE DAY

Well done to all of those who were so practical and creative on Friday this week. We have seen some wonderful activities both in school and at home. It was a really good finish to our time of learning at home. Thank you for all your photos.



PARENT & TEACHER MEETINGS

We are really looking forward to our parent and teacher meetings next week to support the children's return to school. Thank you for making your appointments. Each class had now been sent the link via Parentmail that



you can click on to join the meeting on zoom (like the children have been doing for our Friday assemblies). The class teachers will admit you to the meetings at your time. If you have requested a phone call and ensured the office have the best number to call you on then the teachers will call at that time. Please be aware that this may be from a withheld number rather than the school number.

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

SCHOOL CATERING

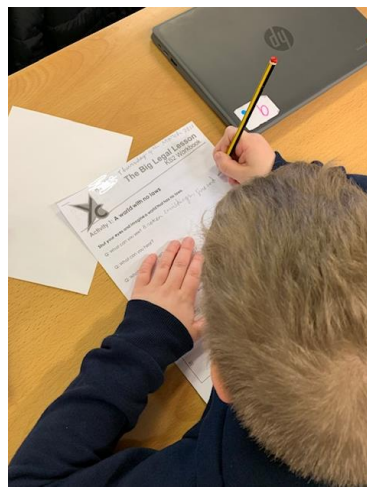
Please find Twelve15s Welcome Back to School Newsletter: <https://spark.adobe.com/page/A9wbXZPKPLNX3/>

CLUBS

Year 6 Football club will resume from Tuesday 9th March from 3.30pm – 4.30pm and a Parentmail was sent yesterday asking you to notify the office if you would like your child to attend. For those children who have instrumental lessons, both violin and piano, these too will be resuming this week. We are hoping very much that we will be able to run more clubs after Easter when the guidance for us is reviewed and more news about this will follow.

THE BIG LEGAL LESSON

It has been 'Justice Week' this week and some of our pupils have been taking the opportunity to learn about justice and the rule of law. Justice Week exists to improve access to justice by boosting the profile of justice and the rule of law, placing them at the centre stage of public and political debate. It's led by The Law Society, The Bar Council and CILEx with the support of many other organisations. The theme of this year's 'Justice Week' is to look at the impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on justice. Teachers up and down the country have been using resources from Young Citizens with their children to help them learn about how the law is a vital part of our democratic society and that understanding it is essential in being an active and engaged citizen.



RED NOSE DAY

Friday 19th March is Red Nose Day and is always a fun day in school! We will endeavour to ensure it is this year too. We are asking that children wear **RED** on the day to mark the event. As we did in the Autumn Term for mufti donations to support these charity events, we will have buckets to collect the donations in at drop off.





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	

Have a good weekend and stay safe.

Cathy Browne and Sarah Leyland
Co-Headteachers



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.

