

Valley Primary School

A Member School of Connect Schools Academy Trust

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24th August 2020

Dear Parents,

I hope the summer holidays are going well and you have managed to enjoy the sunshine we have experienced.

As things stand, we are still anticipating a full return to school for all pupils on **Thursday 3rd September** with the school now operating a system of year group bubbles to minimise, as far as possible, the mixing of pupils between different year groups.

As part of this new system, there will be some adaptations to the 'normal' school day throughout the autumn term. A timetable of staggered starts and ends to the school day will be in operation along with staggered break and lunchtimes. Families are kindly asked to respect and follow the staggered start and end times to reduce the number of parents gathering on and around the school site. Where possible, one parent should accompany the pupils to school and siblings can arrive and depart together at the times for the youngest sibling. For example, if a family has a pupil in Year 1 and Year 5, then both pupils can arrive together at 8.50am and leave at the same time of 3.25pm. Upon arrival at school each morning, pupils will move straight to their classrooms and will not line up in their class lines as normal.

Drop-off

Time	Bottom Gate	Top Gate
8.45	Reception	Year 3
8.50	Year 1	Year 4
8.55	Year 2	Years 5 & 6
9.00	Pre-School	

Collection

Time	Bottom Gate	Top Gate
3.20	Reception	Year 3
3.25	Year 1	Year 4
3.30	Year 2	Years 5 & 6
3.45	Pre-School	

When the weather is fine, the field gate will also be open for those families who wish to use this entrance avoiding the pavement at the front of the school.

For **Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th September** as well as **week beginning Monday 7th September**, our new Reception pupils will **arrive at 9.20am** each morning and, in order to capture those essential family album snaps of your child's first day of primary school, both parents will be permitted to accompany Reception pupils to school on the dates specified above. Older siblings of our new Reception intake can also arrive at 9.20am on those dates.

Pupils should only bring to school a named water bottle, a fruit snack for morning break and a packed lunch if this the preferred lunch option. The school book bags to hold Reading Records and reading books are allowed but toys, teddies, sticker albums, pencil cases and alike are not permitted at this time.

Pupils will wear their normal school uniform and I would like to remind our Year 1 parents that Year 1 pupils now move to the formal school uniform with white shirts and ties being worn. Throughout the autumn term, pupils will wear their school PE kit to school on the day of their PE lesson to avoid pupils having to get changed in school. The school PE kit is an important part of our school uniform so it is important that pupils arrive at school in the correct PE kit as outlined in the school's uniform policy (attached).

The PE days for each year group are set out in the table below with the first PE lessons beginning from **Monday 7th September:**

Reception	TBC by the Reception Team within the first few weeks of term.
Year 1	Tuesday
Year 2	Thursday
Year 3	Tuesday
Year 4	Thursday
Year 5	Monday
Year 6	Wednesday

Graduates, our school uniform provider, has kindly requested that parents do not leave their uniform purchases until the last minute as they are operating strict social distancing measures within the store so they will not be able to accommodate everyone at the last minute.

The school's Breakfast and After-School Club will operate from September and, depending on numbers, the provision will be split into two separate groups in order to minimise the number of year groups that will mix whilst attending the extended day care. Parents are asked to only access this provision where it is absolutely necessary. Bookings can be made using the careclubs@valley.bromley.sch.uk email address from Tuesday 1st September.

During the autumn term, the programme of extra-curricular clubs such as Football Club, Knit and Natter, Taekwondo will unfortunately not be running.

As we look forward to welcoming all pupils back on the 3rd September, many of the measures the school put in place throughout the lockdown period will remain in place. These include:

- Increased cleaning regime of high contact areas such as toilets, handrails in corridors and i-pads
- Increased handwashing / sanitising throughout the school day for pupils and adults alike
- Water fountains and electric hand dryers will remain out of use
- Soft furnishings such as cushions removed from classrooms and difficult to clean toys removed from the Early Years
- Desks will all face forwards (except where a play-based curriculum is on offer) and pupils will keep to their allocated desk
- Some year groups will eat their dinner in the classroom while others will eat in the Dinner Hall
- All pupils to have their own stationery (supplied by the school) to avoid the sharing of equipment
- Where possible, all PE lessons will take place outside
- Lidded dustbins in all classrooms for the disposal of tissues and located at the main entry points for the disposal of used face coverings

Thanks to the grant funding that was obtained from Thames Water, two outdoor handwashing stations are being installed at school over the coming weeks.

During the first half of the autumn term, we will continue to keep the number of people on the school site to a minimum. We kindly ask that the majority of communication with the Main Office be kept to email and telephone conversations. Parents who do need to come to the reception foyer will be required to wear a face covering unless there are justified reasons for not doing so.

At the beginning of the school year, I normally produce the Key Dates sheet for the forthcoming academic year but I have taken the decision to delay the publication of this document until the school receives further clarity on public gatherings.

Finally, please also find attached some behaviour and wellbeing resources from Mrs Coulson and the lunchtime menu for the first few weeks of September. This menu will be revised once the school has a clearer picture of the number of pupils choosing a daily school lunch.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Jackson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr. S Jackson
Head Teacher