



**IF YOUR CHILD HAS COME INTO SCHOOL AND YOU RECEIVE NOTIFICATION OF A POSITIVE COVID-19 TEST RESULT WITHIN YOUR FAMILY PLEASE CONTACT THE SCHOOL IMMEDIATELY**

Everyone is really excited in school for Monday when we can welcome everyone back. It has certainly been a strange start to the New Year, but hopefully we can now slowly return to some form of normality in school and life in general. I know many children will feel apprehensive and a little nervous in coming back after such a long time out of the classroom, but please be reassured that all the staff in school will be going that extra mile to ensure a smooth return.

No one has experienced times like we are all going through at the moment and in school we have tried throughout the pandemic to make the right decisions with the children and families of the school at the center of these. We acknowledge that many of you have had to juggle home working as well as home schooling and it was for this reason that we decided, along with the vast majority of primary schools, not to deliver live lessons every day but to give families the choice as to when they engaged with the home learning set – live lessons are very different for primary aged children compared to secondary aged students as we rely on parental supervision. The government's guideline was for about 3 hours of learning a day for primary aged children and hopefully this is roughly what we achieved. Many of you took up the offers of one to one phone calls which was great and enabled the children to keep in contact with their teachers. This lockdown has been very different to the first one in that we have had to manage much higher numbers of children in school as well as provide the home-schooling element.

We have received many positive comments regarding the lockdown provision (and hopefully we will not have another one) so thank you very much for these but as always, I am keen to know of any suggestions regarding things we could develop and improve on if we were to find ourselves in another lockdown situation. Please feel free to email, phone in or catch me in a morning as your feedback is always welcome.

As a quick reminder, the start and finish times next week are the same as the ones before Christmas and all of these can be found in the COVID section of the website in the September Plan. Please also be aware that our Before School Club, After School Provision (Child's Play Clubs UK) and hot meal service will all resume on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. If you would like to use our Before School Club or your child/ren to have hot meals please contact the School Office.

Last week, the government announced that families of primary aged children can now take regular lateral flow tests every week if they would like to – similar to what most of the staff at Vallis are already doing. The following link takes you to the government web page that has all the information you need to order the tests:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>

I hope you have a great weekend; see you all on Monday.

Best wishes

Nick Firkins  
 Headteacher

Please take a moment to have a look at the link below – it is a video which we hope will help, support and reassure families who are sending their children back to school on Monday. <https://youtu.be/dfLPphYr2o>

### VSA NEWS

**Feel Good Friday's:** We are starting where we left off in December, but in order to give every class two chances this year we have joined the Reception and KS1 classes together for their second Feel Good Fridays. An updated list of Feel Good Friday dates has been circulated with this Newsletter. It will be the turn of Apollo Class next Friday (12<sup>th</sup> March).

**Library Fundraising:** It was a year ago today that we launched our fundraising for the Library Project. Despite everything that has happened in that year, thanks to donations, sponsored events and children taking part in mufti days and quizzes, we raised over £2500. Thank you so much to everyone who contributed to that total. The committee is currently starting to plan events for the rest of the school year – watch this space for more news!

Our **Secondhand Uniform Shop** will be open on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March from 2:15pm in the main playground. Feel free to stop by if you need to buy or swap uniform for the next size up!

Thank you for your continued support.

VSA

### Dates for your Diary

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March – VSA Uniform Shop – 2.30pm – Main Playground  
Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March – Feel Good Friday – Apollo Class  
Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March – KS1 Parents' Evening – early  
Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March – KS1 Parents' Evening – late  
Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March – KS2 Parents' Evening – early  
Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March – KS2 Parents' Evening – late  
Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April – Easter Break  
Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April – Return to School  
Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April – INSET DAY  
Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May – INSET DAY