



VALLIS FIRST SCHOOL

Milk Street

Frome

Somerset

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www.vallisfirstschool.org

Wednesday 20th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re-opening of Vallis First School for Year Reception and Year 1

Following on from the government announcement last week regarding the re-opening of schools, I can now give you more details about how that will work for us here at Vallis. Throughout the last few weeks since we closed, the safety and welfare of all the staff and children in the school has been uppermost in our minds and this continues while we plan for re-opening the school. I would point out at this time, it is the decision of parents and carers as to whether you decide to take up this offer and send your child to school. There are currently no penalties if you decide to keep your child at home and we will respect your decisions.

The leadership team has worked tirelessly over the past week in planning for re-opening to ensure everyone is safe within the guidelines set out by the government. Plans include re-organising classrooms, grouping children, staggered break and lunchtimes, re-organising staffing, putting down floor markings round the school, risk assessments, detailed classroom rules and protocols along with many other things to try and ensure children can return to school in a safe and welcoming way. Additional documents will be put on the Thursday note section of the website week commencing 1st June which will give more details about hygiene, cleaning, social distancing and the classroom plans/routines when these have been finalised. As parents and carers, you can also play your part by continuing to respect social distancing guidelines when you are picking up and dropping off. I would ask please for only **one adult** to do the drop offs/pickups to reduce the number of people around the school at any one time.

Our planning has centred on re-opening for Year Reception and Year 1 initially as per the government guidelines and the continued provision for critical worker/vulnerable children. **Please note that until further guidance from the government is forthcoming, we cannot provide provision in school for Year 2, Year 3 and 4.** In deciding how to organise the re-opening, we have prioritised the safety and welfare of all the staff and children and have decided to open for some children on Monday/Tuesday and for some on Thursday/Friday. This model will allow us to keep groups apart and for the classrooms and school to be thoroughly cleaned between groups. It is also a model that will allow us to increase our capacity and invite in more year groups in due course and when we are asked to do so without having to alter the existing arrangements for YR and Y1. Universal Infant and benefit based free school meals will be provided for children attending school but they will be a packed lunch rather than a hot dinner.

Reception and Year 1

- Children do not need to wear school uniform as it will be easier to wash/clean their own clothes. We would ask for different clothes to be worn each day.
- Children in each class (Sun, Moon, Jupiter and Saturn) have been split into 2 groups.
- Groups 1 will come to school on Mondays and Tuesdays. Groups 2 will come on Thursdays and Fridays.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility – Vallis First School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our children and we expect all members of staff, volunteers and visitors to share this commitment.

- A separate text message will be sent to all parents telling you the group and days the children can come in.
- During the day, the children will stay within their group at all times and there will be no crossovers.
- Pick up and drop off times will be staggered to avoid congestion and overcrowding and is as follows:

Drop Off

We will mark off 2 metre spaces outside for waiting.

8:45am: Sun and Jupiter. Sun children/parents to wait outside by the gate 2m apart until asked to come in. Jupiter children/parents to walk down into the bottom playground following the markings and wait to be welcomed in to class.

9:00am: Moon and Saturn. Moon children/parents to wait outside by the gate 2m apart until asked to come in. Saturn children/parents to walk down into the bottom playground following the markings and wait to be welcomed in to class.

8:30am: Critical Worker/vulnerable children. Please wait outside the community room on the 2m markings.

Home Time

2:45pm: Sun and Jupiter. Sun parents please wait outside the gate and your child will be brought out. Jupiter parents please wait on the 2m markings and your child will be brought out.

3:00pm: Moon and Saturn. Moon parents please wait outside the gate and your child will be brought out. Saturn parents please wait on the 2m markings and your child will be brought out.

3:15pm: Critical worker/vulnerable children. Please wait outside the community room on the 2m markings.

Learning for All

We will be continuing to upload topic themed grids and ideas for home learning onto the web site and the staff in school will be using these as a basis for the learning in school too.

Critical Worker/Vulnerable Children

- Based in the Community Room.
- Children do not need to wear school uniform as it will be easier to wash/clean their own clothes. We would ask for different clothes to be worn each day.

Please note that we will re-open for YR & Y1 children on Monday June 8th. Most Frome schools agreed this date as it allows us to get our schools ready for a safe re-opening in the week of 1st June and ensure staff anxieties and worries have been addressed.

I hope this information is informative and helps to reassure you that we are taking all the necessary steps to ensure we can get some children back into school in a safe and welcoming way. Please also note that there is no before or after school provision at the moment.

Best wishes

Nick Firkins
Headteacher

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