



Valley View Primary School
Primrose Village, Lambton Terrace
Jarrow
NE32 5QY
Telephone: (0191) 4893143
Executive Headteacher: Mrs. G. Jeynes



Full Opening of School September 2020 COVID 19 **Information for Parents.**

The government is expecting a full reopening of school in September. We feel this is absolutely necessary and are very much looking forward to getting back to a more 'normal' way of working. The information below sets out some key points about reopening, however, if you have any questions or would like to discuss any worries or concerns please feel free to contact the school office and we will do our best to respond. We are all hoping for a vaccine or a solution to the virus but until then we will continue to keep your children and our school family as safe as we can.

Full reopening and local lockdowns:

We have carried out a full risk assessment for the full reopening of school and feel confident we can manage this safely within the guidance set by the government. However, there are a number of reasons why the school may need to close:

1. There is a national lockdown because the R rate has increased nationally.
2. There is a local lockdown because the R rate locally has increased to 1 or there has been a significant spike in the number of cases or deaths.
3. There is a confirmed case of COVID-19 in school. Due to the nature of our school, it may be necessary to close one part or all of the school in this instance.

In the event of a lockdown of any kind, school will be thoroughly cleaned and enough time given to ensure the virus will not be reintroduced into the school, home learning will be set (see home learning section below) and well being class reinstated. Any staff or children who have been in contact with the infected person will be informed as soon as possible.

Home Learning:

In the event of another lockdown, we will be required to provide home learning. This will be compulsory home learning and must be covered by all children. To support parents we are going to spend some time teaching our children how to access their home learning on our online resources so they are more independent.

Our IXL programme provides feedback about a child's learning and directs to a recap of prior learning or more challenging units of work. We can evaluate how well your child has done and set the right level of work following on. It is therefore vital that parents support children to understand their work but do not complete the work for the children or 'over' help.

We will be developing our home learning offer further with a video tutorial of key learning on a Monday by class teachers followed by 3 IXL sessions in both English and maths and one day of curriculum learning with a video lesson to introduce this also on a Friday. We will also hold some live sessions to ensure direct teaching and feedback for pupils where closures are longer than two weeks.

We are not providing all live lessons as these are very restrictive and we feel it is important to have some flexibility for parents who may find it hard to fit in home learning.

Further information will be provided in the event of a lockdown.

If your child needs to self isolate due to COVID 19 symptoms or a positive test within the family, IXL and purple mash will be set for them as individuals for the two week period.

Returning to school:

All children are required to be in school full time from September. The government has announced greater use of fines and sanctions for pupils who are not attending school. Although we can not get away from this, we hope to be more supportive of our children and their families and work with you to ensure full attendance. If you are having difficulty getting your child to attend please contact the school office and we will put a plan in place to support.

Staggered start, end and lunch times:

We have been guided to reduce congestion on school grounds. This is particularly important for adults. We have implemented a staggered start and end time and a staggered lunch time. Please ensure you abide by the staggered start and end times and where possible keep a distance from other adults on the school run. We must insist only one adult drops off and collects children within a family. Please follow the signs and abide by the one way system for entry to and exit from school.

Year 5 and 6 are requested to come onto and leave school grounds by themselves and siblings can come in with the youngest sibling to make things easier for parents with more than one child. We will remind parents via text, class dojo and facebook of the times. They are also on the covering letter.

We must request parents to maintain a 2m distance from staff during drop off and collection times. A 1m distance from other parents is recommended. Please be mindful that we have all had differing experiences and anxieties related to COVID 19 and some parents may wish to maintain clear social distancing on the yard. We ask that you are respectful of this on the yard.

Lunchtimes:

We are very fortunate to be able to maintain our usual school lunch offer with the exception of Years 5 and 6 who will have their lunch delivered to the classroom to eat. Phase bubbles will have designated play times and zones outside. Lunch will be slightly shorter at 45 minutes initially to ensure we can get all children to have lunch within a reasonable time of starting school.

Breakfast Club:

Breakfast club has been the hardest thing to organise due to the limits of numbers, adult supervision and not crossing bubbles. We have been very lucky to receive some funding for disadvantaged children for breakfast.

We are therefore going to do the following:

- A booking system will be in place for breakfast club. Breakfast club will therefore not run in the first week back. Breakfast club will start on Monday 14th September.
- A booking form will be sent out. Once you have received confirmation of your breakfast club place, you will have a place for the full term.
- Expectation of behaviour will be extremely high. Any children who do not demonstrate acceptable behaviour will have their breakfast club place withdrawn immediately.
- There will be limited places for breakfast club these will be given on a needs basis and then a first come basis.
- Breakfast club is funded for disadvantaged children through external funding but we will require more staff to supervise bubbles for all children.
- We are utilising the funding for disadvantaged children to reduce the cost of breakfast club for all children but there will need to be a charge of £2.50 per day per child for non- disadvantaged children to attend. This must be paid on a Monday via Parent Pay or cash on the door.
- Breakfast club will run from 8am Monday to Friday.
- Children will be kept within phase bubbles during breakfast club but some crossover of space and shared spaces with other bubbles will be unavoidable.

**Disadvantaged pupils are those who are eligible for free school meals (not universal infant school meals) where parents are in receipt of income support, income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, income-related Employment and Support Allowance, support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, the guaranteed element of Pension Credit, Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190), Working Tax Credit run-on - paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit, Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get).*

We are looking at all options to fund Breakfast club and are contacting charities to reduce the cost for all children.

Uniform:

Full school uniform is required each day with the exception of PE days where we are requesting children come into school in a SCHOOL PE KIT. This can include a pair of jogger bottoms and a hoodie for colder weather. School Hoodies can be ordered from the school office.

Curriculum:

We feel balance will be needed with our curriculum in September. Children will need clear boundaries and expectations so they feel safe and sure of what is expected of them. However, they will also need reassurance, care and support to transition back into school life. We have therefore designed a reconnect curriculum and a recovery curriculum.

The **reconnect curriculum** will support us as we bring our children back into school. It has a strong social and emotional focus and also covers new aspects of school life such as handwashing. This will

run daily initially and will become a weekly focus in our family group sessions for as long as we feel it is needed.

The **recovery curriculum** has been planned to ensure children are able to catch up with any missed learning quickly and with the highest level of support. We have reorganised our curriculum coverage to bring children inline with each other and the expectation for their age by October half term. Where children are finding this difficult we will utilise the government funding to provide small groups and 1:1 interventions. Your child's class teacher will speak to you individually if we feel your child would benefit from some extra catch up.

Our children are used to working in small groups for targeted input, it is one of the strategies which we already use to ensure children reach their full potential and we are confident that our children will see any catch up sessions as part of normal school routine.

Hygiene and Cleaning:

One of the biggest changes to school life will be the increased cleaning routines and hand washing. Children will wherever possible have their own resources (pens, books, rubbers, pots of playdough etc) which will be cleaned or changed regularly. Where individual resources are not possible we will ensure resources are kept within a phase bubble and additional cleaning will take place.

To support the cleaning of high volume facilities in school such as toilets, door handles and nursery and reception where children are less able to maintain a distance, we have employed additional cleaning staff during the school day.

Hands will be washed or sanitised at each transition point, when sharing resources, working with an adult or if they cough or sneeze. If you are worried about your child having to wash or sanitise their hand regularly please speak to your child's current class teacher or their new one in September. We know many children have sore hands or have developed sensitivities to certain products.

We will be using bleach based cleaning products as recommended by the government.

What children should bring into school:

We are asking that all children bring a bag into school which is big enough to fit on the back of their chair, including their coat, their water bottle and packed lunch if needed. To limit the amount of material in school corridors and cross contamination, children will keep all of their belongings in their own bag (including coats) on the back of their chairs.

PE kits should be worn on PE days only and should be worn for school and not put in the bag.

Children can bring in a water bottle clearly labelled with their name, a packed lunch if needed and an outdoor coat.

Social distancing, PPE and close 1:1 contact:

The government guidance clearly states that there is no requirement for younger children to socially distance. It also states that where possible children should distance from adults in school and each other. 1m is recommended for adults. Children do not have to socially distance from each other.

The guidance recommends forward facing desks. This will be implemented in Year 3, 4, 5 and 6 where children are more independent and are at a slightly greater risk of spreading the virus. Due to the nature of the curriculum in nursery, reception, 1 and 2 we will not be having forward facing desks at all times in classrooms.

In a school, we need to have close contact with children and will do so where needed but will limit the time spent in close proximity to 15 minutes at a time. Staff can wear a mask if they feel they need to, however masks, aprons and gloves will not be commonplace in school unless staff are caring for a child who is poorly or providing close intimate care such as a nappy change or injury. However, we do have visors and some screens which will be used for 1:1 intervention, reading and marking of pupil work where needed. These are clear perspex and will be used inline with the age of children and if they are comfortable with them.

Parents and Contacting School:

We have always been an 'open door' policy school. We love the relationship we have with our families. However, the greatest risk of transmission is between adults and we have to ensure we minimise contact. For this reason, teachers will not be allowed to speak with parents face to face on the door. Brief messages will be allowed to be passed on at a 2m distance. To contact school or your child's class teacher during working hours informally you can:

- Message on class dojo
- Message on the school facebook page
- Call the school office for a call back

If you need a more formal discussion or require a senior leader to call you back please contact the school office or email the school email address.

Valley View 0191 4893143

info@valleyview.s-tyneside.sch.uk

