



15th MAY COVID 19 UPDATE from Mrs Eveleigh

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following more information issued to schools yesterday and today, I thought it might be helpful to share some thoughts about what the Prime Minister said last week, the latest guidance and the implications for us here at The Valley Partnership.

What we know

- Children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 are likely to be the first to return to school.
- This **MIGHT** be as early as June 1st.
- The government would like all children to return to school by July 1st.
- We will continue to provide care and education for vulnerable children and the children of Key workers, but no other children will be able to attend schools at the moment.
- The definition of Key workers and vulnerable children has not changed.
- Guidance to schools (from National Government, the Local Authority, the Department for Education and the Teaching Unions) is being sent almost daily.

The latest guidance given by the Government for parents about children returning to school can be found [HERE](#).

The latest Local Authority Letter for parents can be found [HERE](#).

What we have yet to establish

- How many of you will want to, or be able to, send your children to school. Please follow the link to our online questionnaire [HERE](#). **Please respond by Wednesday 20th MAY by NOON, to help us establish numbers quickly.**
- What the proposed start date for other year groups might be - if this were possible.
- How many of our teachers and teaching assistants will be able to work at school.
- What exactly is expected of us in respect of social distancing and other special measures to protect children and staff.
- How catering will work with larger numbers and a staggered lunch break.
- Whether we will have PPE – guidance at the moment suggests not.
- What the next set of 'advice' from the various sources will be.
- Our full risk assessment implications - e.g. space, equipment & resources organisation, school routing systems, additional hygiene routines.
- The governors and local authority comments with regard to our Risk Assessments.
- If any of our planned community/whole school events will go ahead - we are assuming it is highly unlikely and will try to plan for some of them in the Autumn, for example a Year 6 reunion 😊.

We are hoping to receive more information and clarification from a range of sources in the next few days, to allow us to further plan for welcoming more children back into school - we are all missing the children.

For now, the priority remains the safety and wellbeing of staff and children who are working both at home and in school.



THE VALLEY PARTNERSHIP



In the meantime, we will continue to set work for children who are not currently in school. We are reviewing how we can support transitions for some children, Year Six and our New Reception. We also do not yet know at this point, whether we will be able to provide a full week for vulnerable children and those of Key workers over half term. If we are opening for three year groups, from June 1st, there is a good chance that we will need to close for some of the time over half term in order to prepare Webber's and Burlescombe School accordingly. Webber's has been open almost daily since February 24th and although the new roof was completed at Burlescombe, the subsequent furniture/clean up and stock reorganisation was halted. We anticipate things are going to look very different. Things such as: one-way systems, single desk use, small classes, staggered openings/breaks/lunch/home-times, more independent work, changes in work approaches, work set and marking will be different, lunches in classrooms, and probably more outside lessons, to name a few.

Once I have established and confirmed things with staff, Governors and the LA, I will give you as much detail as I can, as soon as I am able.

I am very proud of the way that both school communities have worked together so far and am very grateful for your continued understanding and support while we try and work through the latest guidance and make appropriate plans. We want everyone to be safe, feel safe and be back in school.

In the meantime, please enjoy the next few weeks and above all, keep safe.

Kindest regards

Deborah Eveleigh