



The Valley Federation of Edale C of E and Hope Primary Schools

14.5.20

Dear Parents/Carers,

At this complicated time, we are all trying to make sense of what is best for our precious children and relatives. I realise that whatever we do as a school and as parents there will be a mixture of relief and anxiety. We have received up to 3 updates a day throughout this period (such as DfE, Derbyshire County Council, Unions) and all the staff have tried hard to meet a range of needs both in and outside school, this includes teaching, vouchers, 1:1 crisis support, phone calls and chats, sorting out resources and a never ending technical journey! Please be assured we will continue to do our utmost to provide the best we can for all your children whether at school or at home. Today we are grappling with just how to open and what school will look and feel like, trying to balance mental wellbeing, education and safety and the fact that small children, especially when they have been apart, tend to be human and mix - after all that's what school is all about - being sociable!

I am as desperate as all of you, to get every child back to school as fast as possible. But as you'll know there is a lot of conflicting information about how this should be achieved in order for us all to keep safe and healthy. Currently our guidance encourages us to minimize contact by working, playing, eating and moving in small consistent groups - with the same staff. So we are working on this plan for Reception, Year One, Year Six and Key worker children. As a Headteacher, I am following the range of protective measures for educational settings set out by the Government - these will look different in every school and staff are understandably nervous and unsure about their own health as much as they are about your child's safety and happiness.

However, what I can say is that the staff, supported by the Governors, will do our best to create an environment that is as safe as it can be. We will be hand washing regularly and moving around school in these smaller groups. We have had to carry out risk assessments for cleaning and squeeze points for example where children will have to social distance and queue. Infants will not have access to all the resources they are used to. All of these things will make school feel different and staff will also be learning how to cope with these changes. We will be using the outdoors as much as possible especially for Reception children, everyone will do sporty activities each day (in these same small teaching groups!) The groups will NOT be mixing for lunch, play or hand washing.

Obviously this all depends on the tracking of the national R Number and the Government have said they will clarify if schools can open on May 31st so you will hear when we do as it's a Sunday!

Next week there will be a more specific letter for all of you, which will include details about how we will keep safe, learning and practical plans.

As we continue to make plans whilst continually keeping school open and providing online and website learning for everyone, I'd like to say a big thank you for your positive feedback to the staff for all their hard work. We know it's taxing and tiring for you to keep motivated at home - a little everyday is the best way. Please do ask if you need help or just a chat.

Another thing to consider is your home working situation as your Key Worker status may have changed. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

As well as Reception, Year 1 and Year 6, children of Key Workers in all year groups not just Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 will be able to attend school if they cannot make alternative provision with a parent a home.

To give us an idea of needs for the term ahead, **please reply by email** before lunchtime on Wednesday 20th May, the answer to the following 5 questions:

1. Name and Year group
2. For Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 parents:
 - a. My child will be attending and I accept the school will have risk assessments in place
 - b. My child will not be attending and I will continue to support learning at home
3. For parents in any year group (Reception to Year 6):
I believe that under the guidance, I am a Key worker who cannot make alternative provision and my child needs to attend
4. I'd like a school lunch (the canteen is open as usual every day)
5. I would like to add my comments

Many thanks for your patience in these uncertain and worrying times. As always, I hope you are staying well and safe.

Yours sincerely

Miss S Fisher

Executive Headteacher

The Valley Federation of Edale C of E and Hope Primary Schools



01433 670280



01433 620541