



Valley Park – Full September opening

Valley Park Primary and Community Primary School is totally committed to our children and families.

1 Why is it important for children to come back to school?

Children have missed too much school. This is affecting their confidence and wellbeing. A lot of children, and parents, have done a great job at home but school is much better set up for children learning and playing.

2 When will children come back to school?

All children will come back on Wednesday 2nd September.

3 What will they be doing when they come back?

They will be learning, playing and being back to a normal school as much as possible. They will be learning all subjects and we will be helping children catch up with their reading, writing and maths when they need it. We will also be helping them with their wellbeing and teaching them about how to stay safe and also listening to their experiences during lockdown. As much as possible though, it will be normal school. From the children who have come back we know this is what they want and need.

4 Will all children come back at the same time?

Ladybirds, Hedgehogs, Rabbits and Foxes will ask for some children to come in on a 'staggered' timetable. This is our usual system and your teacher will be in contact with you about this if they have not done so already.

5 What about the other year groups?

The other year groups will all come back on Wednesday 2nd September.

6 Will school be open every day?

Yes school will be open every day.

7 Will they have to social distance from other children while in school?

No. We realise this is not possible and the guidance we have received has told us not to do this. When in school we want it to feel as warm and inviting to children as we can, while taking necessary precautions.

8 Will they be in bubbles like last time?

There will still be 'bubbles' but these will now be much larger and will be whole year groups. So a whole year group can play together, eat together and learn together and will have the same staff with them.

9 How will school stop them mixing with other year groups?

Each 'bubble' will have all their own equipment and resources, their own time in the dining room, their own play time, their own toilet time (see toilet question) and so they will not mix with each other. Staff will not leave the bubble for the staffroom etc. and all the learning will be made by staff in the office so they will not be leaving to go to the photocopier etc.



10 How will children go to the toilet without mixing?

Most year groups will have their own toilets so this is not an issue for them. Y2 and Y3 will share toilets as will Y4 and Y5. They will therefore have certain times in the day they can use the toilet freely and cleaners will clean the toilet between each of these times. We realise they may need the toilet outside these times so if they do they will be taken to the toilet with an adult who will clean handles and taps before and after they have gone.

11 What will breaktimes be like?

We will divide the school playground into three. We will also use the top field when the weather allows. This means we will have at least three areas for bubbles to play in. There will only be three year groups playing at any one time.

12 What will lunchtimes be like?

Each year group will have 20 minutes in the dining room and will eat together. There will be three year groups in the dining room at any one time, each year group will be 2m from each other. Once they have finished the dining room will be completely cleaned and then next three year group will come in. We will still be providing hot meals as we feel this is important, and children can still bring packed lunches. They will also get time to play outside with their bubble.

13 How will collection and drop-off work?

When on the school site, adults and children must remain 2 metres from each other at any one time. Only one adult should come to drop off or collect. We will operate a one-way policy through school to stop adults 'bumping into' each other. Everyone must enter through the front gate near the main office and can leave through the family centre gate or back through the car park gate on the left. We ask that parents do not bunch up at any gates. Outside each classroom there will be markers so that everyone can queue 2m from each other if needed. Children and adults should stay 2m away from others before they get inside their bubble.

14 When exactly will the drop off and collection times be?

There will be two main drop off and collection groups:

- 8:45 and 3:00 for Reception, Y2, Y4, Y6 and KfL
- 9:00 and 3:15 for YN, Y1, Y3, Y5 and Rowan

If you are dropping off more than one child and they are in different times then you have the following two options:

1. Drop off at the later time and collect at the earlier time for both children;
2. Wait outside the classroom for 15 minutes each side.

We realise neither is ideal but we will not be opening classes early for drop off and collection.

15 What if the adult dropping off or collecting has medical needs?

Please follow the guidance from the government. Provided you are not 'extremely clinically vulnerable' this risk of being on site will be very low if you keep 2m from all other adults and children while dropping off and collecting.



16 Will there be breakfast club and after school club?

No. These will not be running as it would involve mixing bubbles.

17 What about key workers who need to get to their job?

Please contact Mr Knox if your child was previously in the key worker class and these times will be an issue as there will be individual arrangements made if needed and where possible.

18 Will staff be wearing PPE?

No. Staff will not be wearing PPE through the day. The only time they will be wearing it is if they have to change a nappy, apply first aid or have a reason to believe a child is showing Covid symptoms. Some staff may wear gloves if this makes them feel more comfortable.

19 What happens if someone in the bubble gets Covid 19?

We would immediately contact Public Health England and discuss next steps with them. It may mean that the bubble, or even school, would be sent home but this would be unlikely and not always the case. We will work with the test and trace system and take immediate and appropriate steps.

20 What if a child or adult starts showing symptoms?

That person will be sent home and asked to get a test. We will not be sending anyone else in the year group home as, as we enter winter, children may get ill and this will be very unlikely to be Covid 19.

21 What if my child is ill but for another reason?

You should call school in the normal way and let us know when they will be returning.

22 How will school be kept clean?

We have day cleaners who will be cleaning classrooms and toilets throughout the day. When a class is out of their room it will be cleaned. They will clean the dining room between each bubble. They will clean the toilets at least three times each per day. They will clean handles and doors throughout the day. Adults in class will also be cleaning as they go.

23 Will children be washing their hands?

Yes, a lot! There will be regular hand washing in each classroom. We have even ordered new sinks for each classroom to make it more exciting! We have also ordered a pedal bin with a lid for each classroom so that tissues are not uncovered.

24 Should my child come if they have asthma or another medical condition?

Unless children are extremely clinically vulnerable, which means they will have been contacted by their GP, they can come into school. We do not have any of these children registered in our school so all children should be able to return.

25 What if someone in my house has medical needs, should I send my child?

Yes, this should not be a significant risk to them.

26 Do I have to send my children to school?



Yes, it is now a legal responsibility to send your child to school.

27 Do children need to wear uniform?

Yes, children need to wear full uniform and normal sanctions will be applied if they do not. Uniform does not need to be washed more often than normal and does not need to be washed in a different way.

28 Do children need to bring their own pencil case?

No, in fact we ask that they don't. We will make sure each year group has the equipment it needs and will not move it between bubbles. Where this is needed (such as PE equipment and laptops) we will clean the equipment touched by pupils before it is used again.

29 Can I just turn up on the 2nd of September?

Yes, we are expecting all children and so you can now just come back.

28 How should I prepare my child for school?

Talk to them about what school might be like. That they will have to stay in their classroom and not mix with other year groups. They will be washing their hands a lot and they should know about the reasons for everything they are doing. We will send even more guidance on this to each class nearer the time.

29 What if other children break the bubble and don't follow the rules?

We will be continuing to use our Covid behaviour policy updat. Any breaking of the rules will be severely dealt with including isolation and, where necessary, immediate exclusion.

30 My question isn't answered here, what should I do?

Send me your question on Dojo or call school and it will be noted. I will add all questions to this document and regularly update it on the website.