

## News from the Office...

Dear Parents,

The new school year is almost upon us and I know I speak for all our staff in that we simply can't wait to have all of our children back in school. It has been 6 months for those children who were in Year 2, 3, 4 and 5 since they have been in school and we know that although it is exciting that there will be some who feel a little nervous and daunted by it all.

Planning to bring the whole school back in September has been amazing, to know that all of our learners will be back in our school environment, mixing with friends, experiencing learning in the classroom and making new memories is exciting.

We will be returning to school on Wednesday 2nd September, each year group is returning in full and will become a class bubble along with their teachers and teaching assistants. There will be occasions when we will increase the class bubble to a super bubble for example in order to allow for a school trip to take place.

Many of the changes we implemented to bring back Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 will not alter but are here to stay for at least the Autumn term. We are following the guidance carefully in order to bring back all of our children as safely as we can. There have been more changes over the summer with local lockdowns and partial lockdowns, talk of masks and an emphasis on the need for children to return to school in order to support their mental health and long term education, GCSE and A level results have been released and we hope that our past students have been successful and secured the next step in their education. Many families have also been affected by quarantines imposed following returns from France, Spain and Croatia to name a few. The repercussions of Covid-19 are still an ever changing picture and we will continue to update you of any changes.

There are some key points that I would like to remind you of to help you and your children prepare for the return to school from Wednesday 2nd September.

- Children will remain in bubbles, but these bubbles can now accommodate the full class. There will be a little mixing of bubbles as possible throughout school and social distancing rules for children in their bubbles has been relaxed. We want to be able to offer a broad and balanced curriculum with school trips, visitors in school and before and after school care for all year groups so this means we will need to have some bubbles in the same place. Club@Dean Valley will put reception, Year 1 and Year 2 together, Year 3 and 4 and then Year 5 and 6. The detailed risk assessment will be shared on the website in September.
- Staff must continue to socially distance from the children (where possible) and from other adults.
- School attendance is compulsory for every child from September.
- School uniform should be worn every day from September, Drop off and Collection times—We understand that this may be tricky for parents especially if you need to get to work yourselves but we are having to stagger arrival times in order to ensure we keep everyone as safe as we can. Please stick to your allocated times each day to help minimise the number of parents and children coming through the pinch points at the start and end of the school day.
- Children will go straight into their classrooms rather than lining up on the playground, please see the map within this letter to see where the drop off and collection point for your child is. Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 4 will all enter the school premises through the gate by the staff car park and follow the foot-prints leading through the large gates onto the playground and then round to their classroom entrances. Year 3, Year 5 and Year 6 will walk through the same gate by the car park but will pass in front of the kitchen and offices to their classroom doors.

Surname	Drop off time	Collection time
Surname starting with letters A-E	8:40-8:50 am	3:00-3:10pm
Surname starting with letters F-O	8:50—9:00am	3:10—3:20pm
Surname starting with letters	9:00—9:10am	3:20-3:30pm

- Our one way system will still be in operation, and we politely remind parents to socially distance while waiting in the playground and to leave the site as quickly as possible. When dropping off children at school we ask that only one parent accompanies them. Nursery parents will also be using the one way system from 8:40am until 9:10 and again from 3pm until 3:30pm.
- We will still be limiting the number of visitors who come into school, sports coaches and forest schools leaders are permitted to come into school as long as they follow social distancing rules. Unfortunately peripatetic teachers, although allowed to come into schools, are unable to start back at Dean Valley because of the social distancing rules and space. We are unable to offer zoom lessons as we cannot staff the lessons to safeguard staff and pupils. As soon as it is safe to bring back peripatetic teachers we will do so and we will be reviewing this through the first half term.
- Snack will be available at playtime for all those children who would like it. It will need to be paid for online a half term in advance at 30 pence per day. We are unable to accept cash at snack time. Snack will be 2 pieces of toast and a piece of fruit.

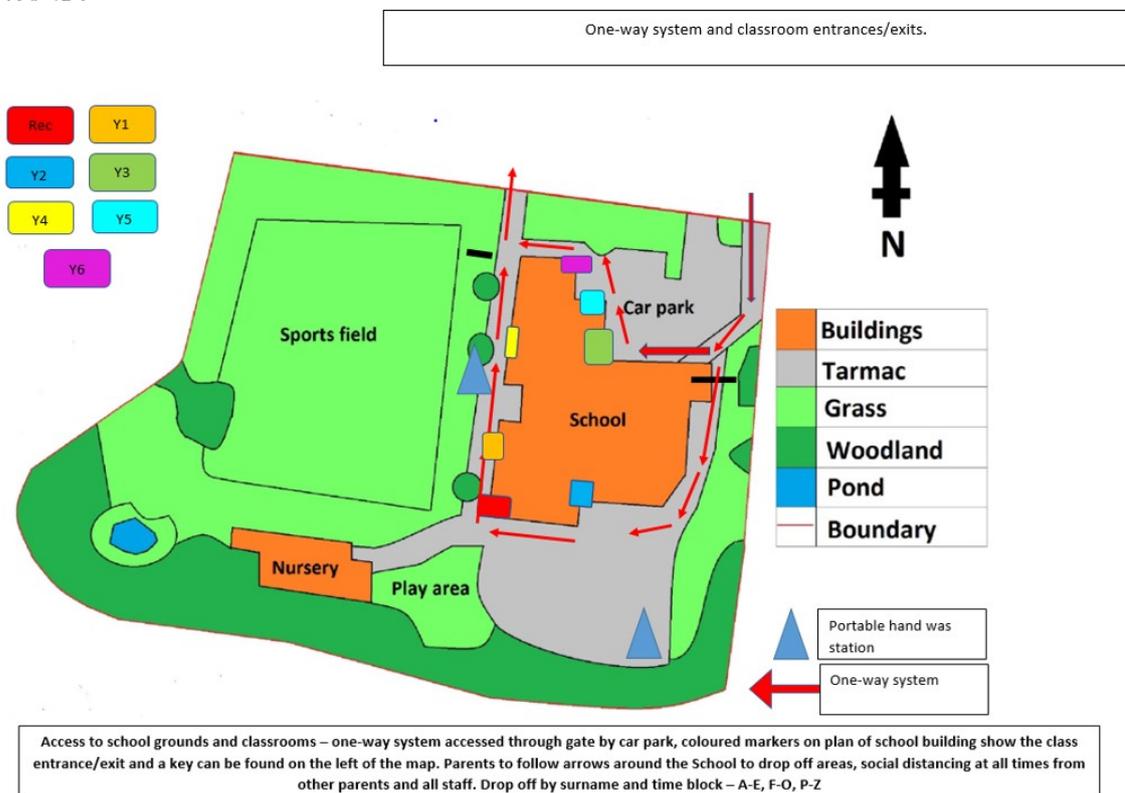


- Children are asked to bring only the essentials into school every day -lunchbox and water bottle. They will not need ruck-sacks or PE bags for the first term. They will all be provided with their own pencil cases and equipment so that they are not sharing pens, pencils, rulers scissors, rubbers and sharpeners
- Break times and lunch times will continue to be staggered, but the children will be served a hot school dinner every day. We will be starting our new ordering system in September, children will be able to select their lunch each morning from the new menu. They will then wear a coloured band on their wrist which they will swap for their lunch. We are hoping that will be a successful addition to lunchtime and will please children as they are then guaranteed to get the lunch they would like.
- Extensive measures have been taken around the school to promote good hygiene, there are hand sanitisers on the cabin by the large green gates onto the playground for parents to use should you need them. The routine children will continue is to enter school and go to wash their hands before going to their classroom. There are hand sanitiser stations throughout school and hand washing facilities for outside too.
- Extra-curricular activities will be kept to a minimum for the foreseeable future with no clubs until October half term running. There will also be no swimming lessons until after half term, we are working closely with the leisure centre in order to ensure safety upon return.
- Large gatherings such as open evening/parents evening and whole school assemblies will not take place during the first term. Assemblies will take place virtually on a Monday and Friday so that our children get to see all of our staff each week and continue to build relationships with them. We will also be holding a virtual open evening in the third week back to give staff a chance to speak to parents about the routines, expectations and highlights of the year ahead and to give you a chance to ask questions about your child's new year group. More information about these meetings will follow.
- Club@Dean Valley will be running for all year groups in September, in order to provide this we will be grouping class bubbles as we are not able to provide this for each class. These bubbles will be encouraged to social distance and will spend time outside too. The new booking system is live, your child will need to be booked in to club and sessions paid for before they can attend.
- PE kits will be worn to school on PE days (**no football kits/training tops**) plain white or red t-shirt, black shorts or jogging bottoms and a red or black jumper. Class teachers will let you know when your child has PE so that on that day they come in outdoor PE kit and trainers. PE lessons will be outside so trainers rather than pumps will be needed.
- Reading books will be sent home once a week, books will not be changed mid week, this is because books will have to be cleaned and put away for 48 hours before we can give them to another child. This will be challenge both in space, organisation and sheer number of books! Once reading books have been sent home book bags should not then come into school as books sent home wont be read in school. Your child will also have a book in school to read.
- Homework will be set each week but this will be handed in using the Dojo portfolio and feedback given.

Have a lovely Bank Holiday weekend and we will see you all on Wednesday 2nd September.

Kind regards,

*V. M. C. P. M. C. A.*



# School dinners @ Dean Valley

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Pasta in cheese and ham sauce topped with grilled cheese. Veg of the day Jackets and beans or tuna (v) Various melon or pineapple slices Fruit bowl Yoghurts Milk or water	Chicken curry, rice and naan Jacket and cheese (v) or ham Veg of the day Chocolate muffins Fresh fruit Yoghurts Milk or water	Beef casserole and yorkshire puddings Veg of the Day Tuna or Cheese melt (v) Fruit crumble slice Milk or water	Lasagne and garlic bread (V) Veg of the day Jacket potato and cheese, beans (v) Melting moments Milk or water	BBQ chicken and noodles or chips Veg of the day Salmon fish fingers in a baguette Vanilla iced sponge Milk or water
Tomato ad basil pasta and garlic bread (v) Veg of the day Jacket potato and cheese (v) or ham Various melon or pineapple slices Fruit bowl Yoghurts Milk or water	BBQ chicken, rice and tortilla Veg of the day Cheese panini (v) Cherry muffins Fruit bowl Yoghurt Milk or water	Shepherds pie Veg of the day Jacket potato and beans, cheese (v) Fruit crumble slice Fruit bowl Yoghurts Milk or water	Spaghetti Bolognaise and garlic bread Veg of the day Jacket potato and tuna Flapjacks Fruit bowl Yoghurts Milk or water	Sausage, mash or chips and beans Cheese and ham panini Chocolate brownie Fresh fruit Yoghurts Milk or water

Lunchtimes at Dean Valley will continue to be staggered for the autumn term, but the children will be served a hot school dinner every day. We will be changing the menu each term and will continue to seek feedback on the options we offer from both parents and children.

We will also be introducing our new ordering system in September, children will be able to select their lunch each morning from the new menu above. They will then wear a coloured band on their wrist to identify which option they chose. We are hoping that this will be a successful addition to lunchtime and school dinners and will please children as they are then guaranteed to get the lunch they would like.

Mrs Mackenzie, Mrs Morgan and Mrs Palmer along with our lovely midday assistants are all looking forward to seeing the kitchen return to being busy!

