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Dean Valley Community Primary School  
Albert Road, Bollington  
Cheshire SK10 5HS  
Headteacher: Mrs Vicky McPherson

*Success and Fulfilment for all*

Dear Parents,

Well day one of Dean Valley Home Learning mark 2 has happened and I would like to thank you all for your support, enthusiasm and patience. This time Remote Learning has taken place using Teams as our Learning Platform and whilst I appreciate there will have been hiccups and teething problems – for both staff and parents/children I know we can work together to make this a success and to support our children in their online learning whilst children learn at home.

The first day of keyworkers in their new bubbles with teachers and TA's has gone well. Children engaged brilliantly with their tasks and have taken things in their stride today, a huge well done goes to them all! Drop off and pick up all worked well, please remember to keep your distance from other parents as you arrive, all safety protocols remain in place – one-way system, masks, one parent only in order to protect everyone as much as possible. Staff have done a fantastic job too, we are working in a very different way to last lockdown and hope that this makes learning for all of our children so much easier and allows for pace to continue.

The Remote Learning Strategy and Guidance is on the website; I know many of you will have already read this but just incase you would like to revisit it you will find it here:

<http://www.deanvalley.cheshire.sch.uk/uploads/11/files/Remote%20Learning%20Strategy%200-%20FINAL.pdf> Mr Hasler has recorded several tutorial videos to support uploading photographs and navigating the assignments section, you will be able to find these videos on Teams. If you experience problems, please do let your child's teacher know and we will of course do our best to help.

We have been inundated with requests for keyworker places this time, we are doing our best to accommodate everyone but please can I remind parents that where ever possible the safest place for your child to be is at home. We will always do our best to help everyone and understand just how difficult a time this is for all, however we want to keep everyone – children, staff and families - as safe as we possibly can and this provision is there for parents where there is no alternative.

We will also continue to implement the strict policies around illness, the isolation room is still in use at school and children who display any symptoms of covid-19 will be isolated and will need to be collected as soon as possible. As a school we are keen to protect all staff as much as possible so keeping all bugs out of school is important – if staff become ill bubbles are at risk of closing.

Children at school and those working at home are completing exactly the same learning, if your child is in the keyworker group for a couple of days a week it is really important that they keep up with their remote learning as they will need to be able to follow what is happening when they are in school. They will find it very tricky if they haven't completed tasks as they won't understand the context of the learning. It is really important to us that all children are accessing their learning, it is compulsory (we know that it's not easy and you may be doing your job at the same time as trying to support home learning) but we desperately want to try to keep the momentum up that learning has had at Dean Valley since September for all our children. We know that devices are stretched – there are three children at home in



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my house fighting over Wi-Fi spots and computers with Teams lessons happening at the same time all day I totally understand the pressure we as parents are under! If you need PPTs printing, then please let us know and we can provide those for you if that helps.

As with lockdown and school closure the first time we will make contact with all parents and children and we are hoping that the live lessons and use of Teams to connect children with their peers and teachers will help to enthuse and engage them in their learning each day.

I hope that you are able to enjoy a quiet(ish) evening please don't hesitate to get in touch if I can do anything to help. I really do understand just how difficult this is for everyone. I have found myself looking for positives today that are coming out of the situation we have found ourselves in once again, I returned home last night to find my daughter had done the ironing and cleaned the kitchen! In all seriousness though, the resilience, strength of character, determination (to find items which fly off shelves in a pandemic alone is impressive), have strong bonds with our loved ones – time we may not have always spent so quickly, are reconnecting with post/email/video calls and take enjoyment out of things that maybe we wouldn't have noticed – a walk to look at the stars, gardens, reading a book or listening to music.

Last time we entered lockdown there was no knowing what would happen, when it would end. This time, as we start the third lockdown we know vaccinations are being given, we will eventually I am sure all be able to gather once more as a community and will look back at and celebrate what we have achieved as a team.

Stay safe and please take care.

Kind regards,

Vicky McPherson  
Headteacher

