

Derwent Vale Primary and Nursery School

Great Clifton
Workington
Cumbria
CA14 1WA

Telephone: 01900 601233

Fax: 01900 603950

E-mail: admin@derwentvale.cumbria.sch.uk

Website: www.derwentvale.cumbria.sch.uk



Headteacher: Mrs F Edmondson BEd Hons NPQH

07/07/2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the end of the 2019-2020 academic year; a year which has changed dramatically and brought so many challenges, I would like to remember the positives around the COVID-19 pandemic. A time where we all came together as one community, a time where our whole lives and routines changed, a time where we had to learn new ways of doing things, but we all battled through and are now beginning to come out the other side.

The end of this school year is very different as will be the beginning of the upcoming academic year in September. I would like to thank parents and carers for managing the last few months and supporting your children with their learning and engaging with staff. I also appreciate the Derwent Vale Primary and Nursery School staff for their efforts ensuring children were able to access online learning, making countless telephone contacts and providing home learning packs. None of us anticipated the circumstances with which we were faced and forced to adapt, I am very proud of what we have accomplished together.

Last week of term plans:

- Teachers will hold zoom transition meetings for their September year groups to say hello and to pass on the information shared below. Details will be sent via Showbie
- Wednesday 12.00 – 1.00pm Y6 leavers picnic outside
- Friday 17th July - school will finish for the Summer term 3.00pm

There will be no school reports issued at this time. The government has stated schools must not report on attendance or statutory assessment progress. As you as parents and carers have been fully hands on supporting your child with their online work I feel it would be insulting of teachers to suggest that they can make a more informed judgement than you at this point. Parents' meetings will be planned in for the first half of the autumn term.

I am honoured to be Head Teacher of our amazing community school. The support we have received from parents and carers and members of the public has been amazing. Our children have had to adapt to a new way of learning at home. They have shown resilience and strength and have made us all proud - Well Done! They too have faced uncertainty and will be nervous about returning to school in September.

With this in mind and looking ahead to September 2020, I want to share some important information for planning our return. We have put a number of measures in place to protect all children and staff. See list below. However please be aware that this is an ever-changing situation. I will keep you updated via our website over the Summer Holidays if we need to adapt our plans.

Current plans:

- School starts back Wednesday 2nd September 2020
- Nursery pupils will return in staggered groups to allow them to settle in

2.9.20	Reception, Y1 - 6	Nursery pupils who started school prior to lockdown
8.9.20	Nursery pupils who were due to start after Easter 2020 will be given an individual start day this week	
15.9.20	Nursery pupils who were due to start September 2020 will be given an individual start day this week	

- All classes will be in their own bubbles and will not mix with other children.
- Nursery and Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 lunches will be time staggered and eaten in the school hall. KS2 will eat lunch in their classroom to reduce contact between bubbles. Break times and lunch times will be staggered so each bubble can access the playground for their allotted time (there will be no loss of teaching time).
- Bubbles will have their own entrances. These will be signposted.

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	Start time	Gate	Finish time
- Year 6 - Mr Lucey	8.40	Big Blue Playground Gates	2.50pm
- Year 5 - Miss Steel	8.40	Front Playground Main Gate	2.50pm
- Years 3, 4 - Mrs White	8.55	Front Playground Main Gate	3.00pm
- Year 1, 2 - Mrs Steel	8.55	Big Blue Playground Gates	3.00pm
- Nursery, Reception - Miss Greer	9.10	Front Playground Bottom Gate	Nursery 12.00pm Reception + 30 hours 2.45pm
Start and finish times have been staggered to 1. Reduce the possibility of contact between class bubbles 2. to allow parents to move between gates for more than one child			
If you have children in multiple classed please ensure your child is at the correct gate at the correct time. Older pupils can wait at the correct gate by themselves. N, R children may be allowed in earlier if siblings have been dropped off			

- Parents/carers will not be allowed on the school premises this includes the school playground.
- Hand washing will continue to be high priority and hand sanitiser is available throughout school.
- Deep cleaning will take place at the end of every day as well as continuous cleaning throughout the day.
- If your child has any symptoms contact school at the first instance. Also if any children show symptoms at school we will contact you right away. Public Health England guidance will be followed.
- Children will be expected to wear full school uniform.
- On PE days pupils will be expected to arrive in school wearing suitable PE footwear, leggings or joggers and their school sweatshirt. Pupils will not be changing for PE
- The Government has confirmed that attendance is compulsory and the usual attendance procedures will apply. However, if your child has been given clinical guidance please contact school in September and we will discuss how we can support you.

How are we going to return to teaching and learning the curriculum?

- We will provide high quality teaching and re-establish good progress in the 'essentials' (phonics and reading, increasing vocabulary, writing and maths)
- We will identify opportunities across the curriculum where children can build on their core skills within other curriculum areas
- We will teach a broad and balanced curriculum
- We will focus on supporting children's emotional wellbeing and help them to adapt to the new 'normal'

While reading, writing and maths is essential we will keep our curriculum broad so that pupils are taught a full range of subjects over the year.

I would like to wish our Year 6 all the best as they move onto Secondary school. We may not have had the usual celebrations and activities, but we are confident that you are ready to take the next steps of your learning journey. We hope you enjoy your time in Secondary school and we will miss you.

I will keep you updated on the progress of our return to school plan and any changes which may occur.

Change can be an inconvenience, but it can also bring opportunities and I know Derwent Vale Primary and Nursery School will emerge stronger than ever. Stay safe and we will look forward to welcoming you all back on Wednesday 2nd September.

Yours sincerely,

F. M. Edmondson

Mrs F. M. Edmondson
Headteacher

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