



Part of PACE Academy Trust
New Valley Primary School

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17th July 2020

Dear Parents & Carers

It has been lovely to welcome some of your children back to New Valley over the last few weeks, and we are only sorry that we have not been able to have them all back. However, I am delighted that **we are expecting all children to return when the autumn term begins on Monday 7th September**. I cannot tell you how much we have missed them all since school closed for most children in March, and we are so excited to get back to learning together.

We are working very hard to ensure that we can re-open for all in a way which is as safe as possible for children and adults, and follows government guidance, but also allows school to be the exciting, inspiring experience it should be for your children. The situation regarding COVID-19 changes all the time, and guidance is updated frequently, so I am not able to give you every detail about what school will be like. We will continue to work on and respond to developments over the summer, so watch out for further updates.

However, there is much that we do know, and I am able to share some important information with you now about what to expect in September and beyond.

The key to reducing the risk of spreading the virus is to ensure **regular hand-washing** and to **minimise contact between different groups** of children. Different classes will not mix with each other during the school day, so there will be no assemblies or shared break or lunch times. Classrooms will be slightly adapted, and there will be enhanced cleaning routines.

We know that it is very difficult for children to socially distance, particularly when there are up to 30 of them in a classroom, but we will encourage them to stay apart where possible and reasonable. We aim to increase the amount of time that children are working outdoors, as evidence shows that the spread of the virus is far lower outside.

Children will **eat lunch in class**, or outside when the weather allows. We are hoping to offer a choice of a sandwich lunch or hot meal option. I am currently working with our caterers to try to arrange this, and will let you have more information when we can.

To reduce the number of contacts, there will be **staggered starts and finishes to the school day**, with slightly different times for different classes:



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| Reception | 8.45-2.50 |
| Year 1 | 8.55-3.00 |
| Year 2 | 9.05-3.10 |
| Year 3 | 8.55-3.00 |
| Year 4 | 8.45-2.50 |
| Year 5 | 8.45-2.50 |
| Year 6 | 9.05-3.10 |

Children **must arrive and leave at the specified time for their class**, and there will be further instructions and guidance about dropping off and collecting your children, including siblings in different classes, and using public transport. We will update you in the summer and near to the start of term.

School uniform (including PE kit) is an important way to build a team ethos and sense of belonging, so **we will be expecting children to wear school uniform**. However, we also think it will be particularly important for your children to have lots of physical activity, and they will not be able to get changed at school, so **on some days they must wear PE kit**. This fresh start is a good time to make sure that your children have plenty of New Valley PE kit; we will send more details about this very soon.

Breakfast Club will run as usual from 7.30am from the beginning of term, and we will start **After School Club** as soon as possible; I hope this will also be at the start of term, but I am waiting to confirm this. More details about Breakfast Club and After School Club will follow soon. Children from different year groups will be in these clubs, but we will ensure increased levels of social distancing.

These are a few of the arrangements we will be putting in place. You and your children will need more detail about some things, and please understand that instructions and expectations are likely to change before and during the autumn term, so we will continue to keep you updated as September approaches.

We cannot wait to be able to re-open New Valley for all of our families, and we know we have a very exciting year ahead. Please look out for further updates and news, but in the meantime, we hope you have a wonderful summer.

Yours

Pete Steward

Pete Steward
Headteacher



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