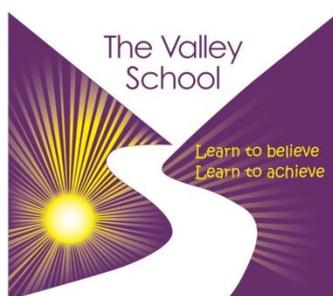


**Headteacher:**  
Corina Foster



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Sunday, 22 March 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

## UPDATE ON SCHOOL CLOSURE

This weekend, I am sure we have all been aware of a growing realisation of the enormity of our current crisis and an increase in the practical and emotional impact on all of us.

Firstly, may I reassure you that the school remains open, in line with my previous commitment. For as long as we can keep our pupils and staff safe and well, we will continue to operate as a school.

However, I would like to draw your attention to the wording of the most recent advice from the Government, given to all Headteachers:

“Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be.

...(schools are expected to) follow these key principles:

1. If it is at all possible for children to be at home, then they should be.
2. If a child needs specialist support, is vulnerable or has a parent who is a critical worker, then educational provision will be available for them.”

With this in mind, I fully support you if you decide to keep your child at home, even though school is available. This will allow us all to practice safer social distancing, as we will have fewer people in school. Please let the school know if you decide to do this and make sure that you contact taxi companies so that they know not to collect.

If your child is eligible for free school meals, we will endeavour to deliver a packed lunch to your home on a daily basis. Please telephone the school office, before 10.00 each day, if you require this. If your child is in school, school transport and daily meals will continue.

We are updating our home learning activities and key links on a daily basis. Please check our website for updates. Staff in school are focusing on the daily curriculum and staff who are self-isolating are supporting pupils who are at home. As parents and carers, you are not expected to home-school your child and deliver a full curriculum. The activities are optional and varied, so that you can make choices as a family. If you wish to contact a specific member of staff, please direct your request to [admin@thevalley.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@thevalley.herts.sch.uk) making it clear who you wish it to be sent to.



On Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March, we will put in place measures to check pupils and staff for elevated temperatures and we will follow guidance on isolation practices.

Thank you again for both your support and your concern. Please be reassured that I am well and fully committed to getting through this unprecedented set of experiences. As a family of pupils and staff we are looking after each other and remaining positive and cheerful. I have been overwhelmed by the response from my staff and I am hugely proud of the way they are working, in school or at home, to make this possible.

Yours sincerely,

Corina Foster

Corina Foster  
Headteacher