

# HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**Headteacher:**  
Corina Foster



**The Valley School**  
Broadhall Way  
Stevenage  
Herts SG2 9BN  
Tel: 01438 747274  
[admin@thevalley.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@thevalley.herts.sch.uk)

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March, 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

## PLANS FOR WEEK COMMENCING 30<sup>TH</sup> MARCH

I was so looking forward to next week, with our first full school show for a while and all the excitement that brings. I assure you that those days will return and "Alex in Wonderland" will be part of a wonderful celebration of all that is good, when we come out of this sad and international crisis.

Thank you to our site staff, who are working exceptionally hard this week and are managing, despite missing 3 key colleagues, to ensure that the site is safe and pleasant. I have been in school with some of my senior leaders and other staff have continued to work from home.

In line with Government expectations, we are due to re-open on Monday. However, given the directive nature of the latest announcements, we are now only focusing on providing care for a very small number of pupils whose family are genuinely unable to keep their children safe at home due to their specific circumstances.

Thank you to those of you who managed to find ways to keep your children at home on Monday of this week. I have made the assumption that you will continue to do so during next week. If that is not the case, please leave a message on the school answerphone and one of us will call you back. We may need to ask you for more details, including your work role, place of work and shift pattern, so that we can plan accordingly.

We have already telephoned a number of families of those who were in school on Monday. There is no need to make contact with us, unless something has changed. If you have not received a phone call, that is because we have enough understanding of your home circumstances to ascertain that you are probably able to keep your child at home.

For the very small number of pupils who have no other option, we will do all that we can to give them an enjoyable and productive week. Staff have been deployed in teams and are planning a range of indoor and outdoor activities, ensuring that equipment is not shared and that social distancing can be enforced. Arrangements for transport and school meals will be as normal for them. Vouchers will again be sent to other families if your child is eligible for free school meals.

I cannot wait for a return to something resembling normality. I am just hoping that, by then, we will have learnt a bit about appreciating the simpler things in life, the value of people and the overwhelming preciousness of a hug.

Please take care of each other.

Yours sincerely,

*Corina Foster* (Headteacher)

