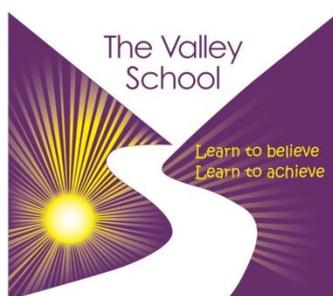


Headteacher:
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Tuesday, 22 September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

GOOD NEWS TIME

I am sure that you, like me, will be watching the broadcast from the Prime Minister this evening and wondering what it will be like to spend another significant period of time not being able to do what feels natural, worrying about where it will end and wishing you could wake up from the bizarre dream that is 2020.

We are immensely proud of our pupils and the way that they are coping with new routines and enjoying being back together. There are a few notes at the end of this letter to update you on developments in the measures we are taking.

Being able to share some exceptionally good news and having something amazing to focus on is just what we all need. It gives me great delight to alert you to a major decision that was made at the Hertfordshire Cabinet meeting yesterday. It was a public meeting and we were able to listen in and hear the wonderful news that the decision to re-build our school on the current site received unanimous approval.

This is fantastic news and we can now look forward to starting the process of designing our new buildings and seeking detailed planning approval, with a view to digging the first hole in about a year's time. The aim is to open in Autumn 2022, but it is more likely that this will be January 2023. There is a process to review the decision making process, in order to ratify the decision, and this will take until 29th of this month, but the approval is now public and very unlikely to be changed. We are delighted that this is featured on the front page of the Comet Online <https://www.thecomet.net/news/education/special-education-needs-school-stevenage-to-be-repaired-1-6850177>

Thank you all for your support and patience. It has taken a very long time, but it is well deserved and the majority of our pupils will be able to benefit from having a purpose built environment.

With my very best wishes and kind regards,

Corina Foster

Corina Foster
Headteacher



Coronavirus safety updates, with effect from 28th September:

- All payments to the school must be made via School Gateway. We are not able to accept cash or cheques.
- We recommend that all pupils travelling in County vehicles wear a face covering over their nose and mouth. Please encourage and support your child to understand how to wear this safely.
- We will follow advice from Public Health England, in the event of any member of staff or pupil testing positive for Covid-19, doing everything necessary to keep staff and pupils safe.
- Remote learning will be fully supported in the event of any year group or individual having to self-isolate. Our teachers are fully aware of the responsibility they hold to make learning possible, even if they and the pupils are not able to learn in school.
- Members of staff who work across more than one year group may, when appropriate, wear face coverings to decrease the risk of spreading germs between groups. A number of them are planning to use face shields, rather than fabric masks, to make non-verbal communication more effective.