

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Headteacher:
David Pearce



The Valley School
Broadhall Way
Stevenage
Herts SG2 9BN
Tel: 01438 747274
admin@thevalley.herts.sch.uk

Friday 26th November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have reached the end of another week, plotting our course through these very strange times. I wrote to you on Wednesday trying to predict how our circumstances would unfold and how best to move forward. I did warn you that any plans were under advisement and subject to change; considering where we are at, I am glad that I did.

To provide some context, we have had over 21 staff off sick every day this week due to Covid and other related factors. In many cases, staff have been really ill and are having to take time to recover properly. Some staff have cleared their isolation period and have been eager to come back, but are still clearly unwell. Some have unfortunately relapsed and had to take further time off again.

I am sure you appreciate that we are trying to balance the welfare of our whole school community whilst trying to deliver education to all our students. We are also trying to support families and offer any help we can, from delivering work packs, providing free school meal vouchers and doing virtual check-ins with your children. I would again like to extend my thanks and appreciation to everyone who is working so hard to make this happen, from the flexibility and understanding of families, to the resilience and determination of the staff.

Moving forward

From the latest information received this morning, we are expecting 17 staff to be absent on Monday. As with all schools, we are stretched when everybody is fit, well and in school; no staff sit around doing nothing on a daily basis, so it is clear that we will not be able to have every student in from Monday, as I had hoped.

We are planning a more staged return with the emphasis being placed on seeing every child, on site, at least a couple of times next week, so we can check in on them and make sure they are okay.



The plan shown below, is dictated by the numbers of staff in each Year Group that are sick and unable to work, and the subjects/areas they teach. Conversely, where there is more capacity, we are able to facilitate more learning in that year group on site.

Monday					
Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Interventions
Students invited in by letter	All in	Remote learning other than bespoke cases	In school bespoke cases and 10WA. Remote learning 10GR and 10WI.	In school bespoke cases and 11HA. Remote learning 11HD and 11RI.	Years 8 to 11 are all in. Year 7 to follow programme sent out on Wednesday 24 th November.
Tuesday					
Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	
Students invited in by letter	All in	Remote learning other than bespoke cases	In school bespoke cases and 10GR. Remote learning 10WI and 10WA	In school bespoke cases and 11HD. Remote learning 11HA and 11RI	Years 8 to 11 are all in. Year 7 to follow programme sent out on Wednesday 24 th November.
Wednesday					
Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Interventions
Students invited in by letter	All in	Remote learning other than bespoke cases	In school bespoke cases and 10WI. Remote learning 10WA and 10GR	In school bespoke cases and 11RI. Remote learning 11HA and 11HD	Years 8 to 11 are all in. Year 7 to follow programme sent out on Wednesday 24 th November.

We are currently planning for all students to be in on Thursday and Friday.

Reports and Parents' Evening

Our Year 10 written reports are definitely going out today. Unfortunately, due to staff illness the Year 8 data reports have been delayed by a week and will go out next Friday. Our parents' evening on Thursday 2nd December is still going ahead as planned for Years 7, 9 and 11. Information about how to book appointments online has been distributed. If you are experiencing any difficulties, please contact reception on (01438) 747274 and ask for Lindsay, who will help you.

Plans moving forward

Please work with your child to prepare them for the dates they are expected in. We will communicate with transport to ensure the right vehicles are in the right places at the right

times. During these challenging times, please contact us through the school office if you need any help and support. As always I will communicate frequently to keep you informed and will write to you again in the middle of next week to provide you with an update. Wishing you a relaxing, safe and Covid free weekend.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D Pearce', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

David Pearce
Headteacher