

4th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: COVID -19

I hope this email finds you and your families well.

We are all waiting for the government's announcement this week on how schools may return, albeit in a phased manner. Parents/Carers will appreciate that at this stage, schools have been given no more information than that which is in the national press. However, we are working in the background to consider plans as to how this may be possible for our school to return.

As a phased return is most likely, we will need to manage the important social distancing measures which will mean reduced class sizes and therefore, place a greater demand on staffing and physical space. We are also considering catering services and provision for break and lunchtimes as well as how we can continue to provide online learning for pupils at home whilst at the same time, meet the increased staffing demands in school. It is without doubt, going to be a significant challenge for all schools and I would like to thank you in advance for your overwhelming partnership during this unprecedented situation. I must also say a huge thank you to all employees of our school who have worked so hard to find a way to keep a good provision in place when they themselves may have been unwell, worried about their own families and loved ones - or even, faced untimely loss.

We know that for some children and families, this has been a time of huge pressure and may continue to be so for some time. We are developing provision across our school to help children to decompress from this situation and to gradually return to normal with confidence. Of course, we are all aware that measures to control the pandemic will be with us for some time, but we are mindful of the priority that children and young people need to feel safe and confident about the future. Pupils in Year 10 may feel particularly concerned as they approach key transition times in their education. Similarly, Year 11 pupils have not had the experience of leaving school that forms such an important milestone in a young person's life.

For our whole Test Valley community, we would like to reassure you that we are working hard to plan and very much look forwards to taking those positive steps forward to welcoming the whole community back.

With best wishes,

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Headteacher (Interim)

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