



Return to School Information for September 2020



What will my child's class be like?

- Your child will be in Reception
- Mrs Deakin, supported by Miss French and Mrs Smith, will be teaching your child
- Each child will have their own pencil case and stationary to use
- There will be 26 children in the class
- The classroom has been arranged to allow children to play safely. There are plenty of toys available but soft furnishings and difficult to clean toys have temporarily been removed
- School staff will stay 2m from your child as much as possible but we recognise that sometimes very young children will need an adult to be closer than that to support them with their needs.
- Staff will not be wearing masks or gloves unless they have to administer first aid
- Children from Reception and Nursery will be a "bubble" spending the school day together and will not be mixing with any other classes



What will my child be doing in their class?

- For the first two weeks, we will be using the brilliant book *"Here We Are"* by Oliver Jeffers to help ease children into school and to address any worries and anxieties that they may have
- The first 2 weeks will be settling in time. Children will have lots of time to play and get to know the staff and their new class mates.
- After 2 weeks we will begin our fun StoryTime phonics to help your child begin to read.
- We will be having a weekly PE lesson and a weekly outdoor learning lesson.



How will I drop my child off?

- All children must be accompanied to school by an adult (16+)
- Only 1 adult is allowed to bring children to school
- We have staggered start times for different classes and their siblings. You will have received a text message with your children's start time
- If your child has siblings, you must drop off your oldest children first
- Children must be dropped off promptly at their allocated times
- Reception children will enter the school on the Infant yard
- Children will be met on the yard by either Mrs Deakin, Miss French, Mrs Wagstaff or Mrs Clark,
- Adults can accompany their child for dropping off on a morning but you must stay 2m from other adults and 4m from class groups
- Do not congregate around the entrance to school and stay 2m from other adults at all times
- Messages must be telephoned or emailed to the school office
- No face masks are permitted onto the school site. They must be removed before entering.



How will I pick my child up?

- We have staggered finish times for different classes and their siblings. You will have received a text message with your children's finishing time
- If your child has siblings, you must pick up your oldest children first
- Children must be collected promptly at their allocated times
- Only 1 adult (16+) is allowed to collect children
- Reception children will be collected on the Infant yard
- Adults will be allowed on the Infant yard to pick up children but you must stay 2m from other adults and 4m from class groups
- You must leave the school site immediately after collecting your child
- Messages must be telephoned or emailed to the school office
- Children must wash their hands as soon as they get home



What should my child bring into school from home?

- Your child will be expected to be in full school uniform
- Children must have shoes that they can put on and fasten themselves. No laces please.
- Every child must bring in a water bottle with their name on.. Please can you clean the water bottle as soon as they get home each evening.
- Every child must bring a PE kit and a pair of wellies that can be left in school. The PE kit will be sent home for washing at the end of each term.
- Your child will be given a school reading book or reading card, and this must be brought in every day
- Children in Reception will be provided with a school meal free of charge. They should not bring a packed lunch.
- No other items other than those listed above can be brought into school from home



What is school doing to limit the spread of viruses?

We have a very detailed risk assessment in place in order to protect our entire school community and this can be viewed on our website. Some key points to note are:

- Children and staff will be washing their hands at regular intervals (when they arrive in school, between lessons and breaks, after visiting the toilet and at the end of the day)
- Children will be taught how to wash their hands properly and how to use the *Catch It, Bin It, Kill It* approach for coughs and sneezes
- Desks and shared areas of the school will be cleaned and disinfected regularly throughout the school day
- No adults, apart from school staff, are allowed into the school building without an appointment
- Staff and children must stay at home if they display symptoms of coronavirus (Covid-19)
- Staff or children developing symptoms of coronavirus while in school will be isolated immediately and sent home
- Social distancing will be encouraged as much as possible



What happens if my child is poorly?

- If your child is feeling too unwell to attend school, but does not have any symptoms of coronavirus, then you should inform the school office as normal.
- If your child, or any member of their household, has **a fever, persistent cough or a loss of taste/smell** then they should stay at home and contact the NHS to book a coronavirus test. They should NOT come to school until after the test comes back as negative.
- If your child tests positive, then you should follow the government's stay at home guidance and self-isolate them for 7 days and only return your child to school when they no longer have a fever. Coughs and loss of sense of taste/smell may persist for longer than 7 days but it is okay to return to school with these symptoms. If it is someone in your child's household that tests positive then children must not return to school until after self-isolating for 14 days.
- You **MUST** inform school and the NHS Test and Trace service if your child or someone in your household tests positive for coronavirus.



What happens if there is a positive case of coronavirus (Covid-19) at VLA?

- School will contact the Health Protection Agency if we become aware of a positive test result within our school community
- The Health Protection Agency will contact schools directly if they become aware that someone has tested positive who attended the school (from Test and Trace)
- A risk assessment will be carried out to confirm who has been in close contact with the person during the period that they were infectious, and ensure they are asked to self-isolate.
- If we have two or more confirmed cases within 14 days, or an overall rise in sickness absence where coronavirus (COVID-19) is suspected, we must work with our local health protection team, who will be able to advise if additional action is required – This may include isolating bubbles or closing the school
- If bubbles have to isolate or if school closes we will provide remote online learning activities for children to complete at home