

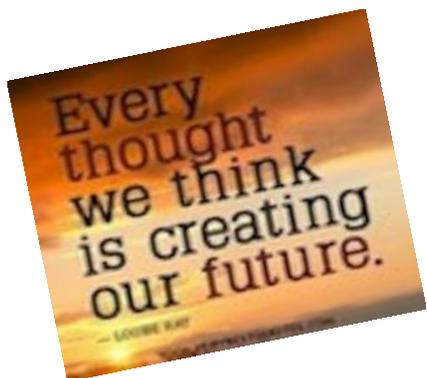
Headteacher's Reflections.

As salaamu alaikum parents,
This month's reflections will give you an insight into Date Valley's journey into Distance Learning. I hope you will be able to appreciate the amount of hard work that is happening behind the scenes to ensure we continue to educate your children.

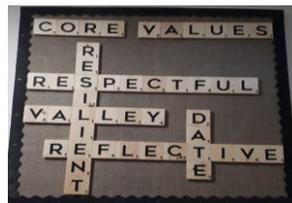
Believe it or not, we are only on Day 10!

We are currently living in extraordinary and unprecedented times! Coronavirus has not only raised health and hygiene concerns, but also an immense amount of emotion, stress and anxiety for everyone, staff and parents alike. So above all, we need to show patience and understanding with each other.

I would like to end by saying I am incredibly proud of my team as we have managed to implement so much in such a short amount of time!



Date Valley School April 2020 Newsletter



How does Distance Learning work?

We have been spending time recapping over objectives that have already been taught, to ensure children have a very solid foundation in their previous learning. This will ensure that children will not have gaps in their learning insha Allah.

Early Years: Weekly Choice Board linked to the Early Years Framework and Videos from the teachers.

Primary: Daily Planning sent for English, Maths, Science and Foundation subjects. Video recordings from the teachers for Y1, 4, 5 and 6.

Quran: LIVE lessons daily for Year 1 to 6

Feedback: effective and timely feedback given via Class Dojo messages for Nursery - Y6



"At Date Valley we are respectful, resilient and reflective learners."

Self-Isolation period:

Week of 16th - 20th March 2020

School remained open, and lessons continued as normal. However, there was a dramatic drop in attendance due to families self-isolating. Our teachers were trying to ensure those children who were absent were not missing out on learning, which meant they were teaching normal lessons during the day, and spending their evenings not only planning the next day's lessons but also making Distance Learning plans for those absent children.

Attendance data for the week of 16th - 20th March:

'Satisfactory' attendance is 96 %

- Reception: 37%
- Year 1: 57.2%
- Year 2: 61.4%
- Year 3: 64.4%
- Year 4: 37.7%
- Year 5: 55.8%
- Year 6: 41.4 %

SLT met daily, as more government guidance was released, and we began planning for a school closure. We researched into the best online platforms to be able to continue lessons online. Staff were trained up in the evenings.

Exercise books were issued to children to enable them to continue learning at home.

The school closed officially at the end of Friday 20th March and we moved into Distance Learning on Monday 23rd March.
Here is a summary of our journey so far!

<p>Week Zero! - Monday 16th - Friday 20th March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teachers introduced to Zoom in an evening INSET. Meeting with all primary and Quran teachers to introduce Distance Learning Plans (DLPs) Online folders set up for each class and daily DLPs added for Quran and Curriculum subjects Online folders shared with parents via Dojo with clear instructions on how to access All DLPs checked by SLT and uploaded every evening for the following day. Y4-6 Quran teachers trained on how to teach via Zoom Y4-6 Quran teachers spent the weekend practicing Trial lesson scheduled for Y4-6 on Monday 23rd March All staff meetings conducted on Zoom Information on Y4-6 trial Quran lesson shared with parents via Class Dojo 	<p>Day One - Monday 23rd March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> School opened for childcare for Critical Keyworkers Launch of live Quran lessons for Y4-6 Feedback given to Quran teachers follow the trial lesson and adjustments made Y1-3 Quran teachers continue to deliver Quran targets via DLPs Primary teachers continue to provide DLPs and now provide feedback for children's work on Class Dojo Video lessons sent to Reception 	<p>Day Three - Four</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continuation of Day 2, together with individual feedback sessions with teachers to improve delivery of lessons Year 4 & Year 6 teachers providing daily videos
	<p>Day Two - Tuesday 24th March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 4-6 Quran lessons went live Online Quran teacher staff meeting afterwards to discuss lessons so far Reception and Primary teachers on duty to answer Class Dojo queries and provide feedback to parents about the work submitted All teachers working on Spring Term reports Training given to Y1 and 4-6 teachers on recording video lessons. All material checked by SLT before uploading to the Class Onedrives. 	<p>Day Five - Friday 27th March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1st Nursery Learning Menu shared on Class Dojo Online Staff meeting about the week so far and how to make further improvements Discussions with primary staff on providing a Choice Board for the following week instead of daily plans to allow families to catch up First ever online Golden Tea-Time at 2pm with Headteacher! SLT meeting to discuss: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> introducing live online Quran lessons for Y1-3 providing support for Nursery parents and children by introducing video lessons as well as a Menu

<p style="text-align: center;">Day 6 - Monday 30th March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As per Day 3 <p>plus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quran staff meeting to introduce online learning for Y1-3 children. Y4-6 teachers provide feedback and advice for the teachers. • Groupings changed to allow all teachers to teach Y1-3 effectively. • Zoom accounts made for each Quran teacher and further training provided as a twilight session • Information regarding Y1-3 Quran trial lessons shared with parents via Class Dojo. • Gathering of all necessary Quran resources to ensure online learning can happen effectively • Continuation of providing childcare for Critical Keyworkers 	<p style="text-align: center;">Day 8 - Wednesday 1st April</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As per Day 3 <p>plus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Official launch of live Quran lessons for Y1-3 • Discussions of ways to fine-tune / make lessons more effective for Y1-3 Quran 	<p style="text-align: center;">Day 10 - Friday 3rd April</p> <p>A recap of what Date Valley has delivered to date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily Quran lessons delivered live for Years 1-6 • Daily Reception videos • Weekly menu for Nursery • Distance Learning opportunities for every child with effective feedback being provided daily through Class Dojo • Online Golden Tea-Time hosted twice with children and staff in attendance! • Staff in continuous communication via staff emails and online platforms to ensure effective communication and support is being provided.
<p style="text-align: center;">Day 7 - Tuesday 31st March</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As per Day 3 <p>plus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trial of live Quran lessons for Y1-3 • 2 videos shared with Nursery classes • Further guidance given to Nursery staff on Learning Menus and videos • Discussion with Reception teacher regarding making a Learning Menu after the holidays, IN ADDITION to the daily videos 	<p style="text-align: center;">Day 9 - Thursday 2nd April</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As per Day 3 <p>plus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily Quran lessons delivered live for Years 1-6 • Plans to refine Quran lessons for Summer Term to include children having allocated time slots to log in, which will minimise waiting time. • 2 more videos shared with Nursery 	

Food for Thought

Having connected with other headteachers and educational providers within the primary school sector, Date Valley is providing far more in comparison. Most schools are setting Distance Learning work each day that lasts for no more than one and a half hours a day.

We are very aware that there is a vast range of educational material available to parents, and you may believe that that material is more relevant than what the school have provided; however, please bear in mind that a lot of the material available is neither progressional nor in line with age related expectations. The material is designed to keep the children busy, rather than teach skills, which is what we are doing. The work we as a school are setting is much more detailed and appropriate for your child and their education.

So what's next?

As you can see, it has been an intense 3-week period for us! Coronavirus has been emotionally and physically draining on all members of staff.

So as school closes for the April Break, our staff need time to recover from a very memorable Spring Half Term. While schools have closed nationwide, our staff, just like other teachers, have had to balance their duty of teaching with fulfilling their duties as mothers, wives and daughters.

During the holidays, we will all have time to reflect on our systems and how to make improvements. We will spend time reviewing our current learning platforms to ensure they are effective and secure.

We have received a lot of feedback from parents in the last few weeks, both positive and highlighting areas for development, which we appreciate. Please do have patience with us as we are all learning new ways of working and, with limited manpower, some things take time to address.

Insha'Allah we hope to improve and refine the educational service we are providing on a weekly basis. We would like to introduce other ways of remaining connected with the children, such as Assembly, holding competitions, as well as adapting the curriculum to meet the challenges that lie ahead of us.

Musings of a Headteacher - for the children ...

On the twentieth of March, twenty-twenty,
I was told that I had to shut school,
I really did not want to close us,
But had to follow the Government's big rule.
I knew it was going to be difficult,
And it all felt so scary and unknown,
But we made the most of our last day together,
Before I sent you all off, safely home.
We've still been here for a few children,
Making sure that they have a great time,
Doing things that we don't always get time for,
In the great outdoors, under beaming sunshine.
I've missed you so much since you left us,
And I think of you in all that I do,
Nothing seems quite right with no children,
And I can't wait to be reunited with you.
I miss the daily 'salaam',
And the big rush to all get inside,
Seeing no bags and coats hanging down on the pegs,
The corridors just feel empty and wide.
Daily phonics has stopped with your teachers,
When you learn how to read, spell and write,
The pride on you faces as you learn new words,
And knowing that you're getting it right!
Daily salah in the hall is missing,
When we gather, talk, listen and share,
Coming as one to give praise and thanks,
We reflect as we say our prayers.
I can't hear you counting and adding,
As you learn in your daily Maths time,
There's no sorting shapes or using measuring tapes,
Or singing and chanting number rhymes.
Science is not being studied,
And PE lessons are now on hold,
History and Geography are waiting their turn,
And no children's stories are being told.
but all the love that I have for you's going nowhere,
It's safely locked deep down inside,
So when all the germs have been sent far away,
You'll be here, safely back by my side.