

# Date Valley School Trust

Company number: 06845508 Registered Charity number: 1136298

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Asalamu alaikum,

24/08/2020

Dear Parents

I hope you and your families are well and in a high state of Eemaan, in shaa Allah. We would like to outline our intention and procedures **for the Autumn term and returning to school in September 2020, in shaa Allah.** We would appreciate your cooperation and support in doing so. We would also request you bear with us whilst we ensure that everything runs smoothly and effectively, as this involves the entire school returning at once.

Thank you for your patience while we waited for government guidance on safely reopening schools, and have summarised the implementation of this guidance tailored to our setting below.

During the past few weeks, we have compiled a detailed plan and updated our original risk assessment to reflect new government regulations to ensure we can safely welcome all year groups back, Alhumdulillah. I have outlined some of the precautions and safety measures that we have or will be taking: -

- We have **implemented a second-deep cleaning of all the areas being occupied and used** which includes wiping down of shelves, furniture, walls and doors. Carpets have been deep cleaned as well
- We have created a **weekly cleaning** schedule which is COVID 19 compliant that will be conducted by Grace and checked by myself, in shaa Allah
- Surplus equipment has been removed and the classroom setting has been redefined to meet hygiene and social distancing stipulations
- Toys, furniture and play equipment have been washed and will be washed regularly after use
- Soft furnishings have been removed
- Resources that may be used by the different bubbles will be wiped down and left between 48 - 72 hours before allowing further use.
- Book band reading books will be issued on a Monday and then taken back on Friday. These will be kept for approximately 72 hours before providing your child with another set of books. Each child will receive two books for the week.
- All tables and chairs will be placed in front facing rows and the children will be allocated a seat as well as allocated place in a line order to ensure a smooth transition when entering the class and gaining access to their seat
- The staff have been briefed about the necessity to wipe down equipment, surfaces and used furniture periodically during the school day
- Classrooms and communal areas will be set up with appropriate handwashing facilities
- Two medical bays have been set up, equipped with personal protective equipment and non-contact infrared body thermometers as per government guidance
- Additional hand sanitising points will be set up in the playground, middle and side stairways so that the children can use when entering and before leaving the building.
- Break and lunch time have been staggered and the children will remain in their bubble.
- We are following strict staffing timetables and ensuring that staff crossing bubbles is at a minimum. Those staff that have to cross bubbles will be provided with face shields and where able will enter into a 'safe zone' area within each class to communicate. This safe zone will be in line with social distancing rules.

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- Special Assemblies have been cancelled for the Autumn term and the first Class Assembly will commence in December (details to follow). Head Teacher (including Star of the Week) assemblies will be conducted on Tuesdays and the children will remain in their bubbles, in shaa Allah.
- Each Bubble will be allocated toilets and social distancing signs will be placed outside toilets, permitting one child access at any time within the cubicle area.
- Recap and reinforcement of the 'Catch it, Bin it, Kill it' approach will take place at the beginning of term and periodically throughout the Autumn and Spring terms. This will go some way in ensuring good respiratory hygiene, in shaa Allah.

We would also like to define the systems and procedures in place for your child while at school.

Please be aware that upon arrival your child will be greeted by their teacher or a member of the SLT and hand gel will be used before entering the school building through their allocated entrance points. **Each child will be placed into a 'bubble' and will remain in the bubble with their allocated teacher/s.**

Social distancing rules will apply, which means **you will be unable to come pass the green school gate into the school playground.** There will be social distancing prompts for dropping and collecting your child.

Year Group Bubbles	Drop off timings	Pick up timings	Salah arrangements
Nursery	9.00am playground	3.00pm playground	N/A
Reception	8.50am playground	2.50pm playground	N/A
Year 1 and 2	8.00am playground	3.20pm playground	Salah in class
Year 3 and 4	8.10am playground	3.30pm playground	Salah in class
Year 5 and 6	8.00am PE / Hall Door	3.20pm PE / Hall Door	Please bring your own prayer mats for Jumma in hall on Fridays only Mon – Thurs salah in class
Before School Hifdh	8.00am playground	N/A	N/A
Early Starters (Nursery only)	8.00am playground	NA	N/A

We request that parents do not congregate outside the school gates and surrounding areas and leave as soon as possible for the safety of everyone.

Please ensure your child comes to school wearing the correct school uniform and when possible a fresh set every day. This is to reduce the risk of cross contamination as the school week progresses.

The PE arrangements for Year 3 – 6 during the first few weeks of the term will be based within the school grounds and the Cricket Green. As soon as we receive information and guidance from Canons about reopening school bookings, we will inform parents.

Please ensure that book bags contain only the key essential items and that additional equipment or toys are not brought in. Please ensure that book bags and lunch boxes are cleaned and checked daily to maintain safe hygiene standards.

In terms of the wellbeing of your child and to ensure that coming back to school is as smooth as it can be, we request that you start to prepare your child for the first day back in the following way:

- Ensure as a family, you begin to get back into a school routine in advance
- Ensure that you have discussed going back to school with your child and what that will look like, each day before they return
- Discuss how they feel about going back and ensure that we are aware of any useful information about their emotions

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- Ensure that your dialogue around them about going back to school is positive, as children pick up on everything
- There will be a PowerPoint and video for you to watch with your child about returning to school. They will enjoy seeing us in the video!
- Please update us with any additional back ground information that will be useful to know about your child or family circumstances.
- If you have travelled abroad after Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> August, please inform the office of the required details.

**Please note that attendance will be monitored by the school in line with government guidelines and children are expected to attend school, as a legal requirement.** If your child is unable to attend due to a clinical need the school will need proof of this. You are no longer permitted to keep your child at home if you feel a little anxious about sending them back in. If this is the case please book an appointment to speak to myself about your personal circumstances.

If your child is clinically vulnerable, you should follow medical advice to decide if they should come back to school. Please refer to the government guidance for this :- <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/people-at-higher-risk/whos-at-higher-risk-from-coronavirus/>.

The following links provide up to date and useful information for parents / children that need to go for testing and possible self-isolation: -

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>

We would like to request that parents use email, DOJO or calling the school as their first points of communication on all matters. Access to the school office must be limited to activities that can not be conducted by these above means. Appointments with SLT will need to be pre - booked. Visitor access to the building will be strictly limited until further guidance is provided.

Despite all the preparation and precautionary measures we have implemented, as a Head Teacher and on behalf of my team, I would like to end by saying that we are eagerly awaiting the rooms of Date Valley to be filled with the presence of your wonderful children and we are looking forward to meeting our families once again, in shaa Allah.

If you have any questions, please do email at [headteacher@dvst.org.uk](mailto:headteacher@dvst.org.uk) and I will be happy to assist.

Jazakumullahu Khayrun

Wa alaikum as salaam,

Neena Lone  
Head Teacher

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