

16th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to let you know about the arrangements for the final few days of this term and beyond at Gade Valley.

As you may be aware, on Monday 19th July, operational guidance for schools will change as a result of the government's Step 4 plan. However, due to a surge of cases in the community and the school being open until 21st July, we will be operating with all the current procedures until we break up for the summer holidays.

When the pupils start in September, we are excited to be going back to relative normality! There will be no bubbles, no staggered drop off times and we hope to welcome parents back in to school...it will be fantastic! However, due to the success of some of the procedures, as reported from the pupils and staff, we will making some permanent changes. The changes that will affect you as parents are as follows:

- Pupils will come to school in their PE kit on the day that they have PE
- Teachers can be contacted via the class e-mail (as well as planners, face to face or the phone)

In addition, we will be changing our beginning and end of day routines with a 'soft start'. This is to maximise the pupils' learning experiences; provide a calmer, more positive start to the day; help parents with parking/dropping off; and further reduce the number of pupils arriving late.

At the beginning of the day, at **8.40am**, the classroom doors will open and pupils will be able to walk straight in. This can happen anytime between 8.40am and **8.55am** which is the official start of the school day. The gates will be locked shortly after 8.55am and any pupils who are arriving late need to enter the school via the office. Between 8.40am and 8.55am, pupils will complete early morning activities. We respectfully request that you do not arrive at school earlier than 8.40am (unless dropping off your children to the Nursery or Early Bird club).

At the end of the day, Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 will be collected from outside their classrooms at **3.10pm** and Years, 3,4,5 & 6 will be collected from the top playground at **3.15pm** – of course you can wait on the playground to collect siblings. Teachers from Reception to Year 4 will let your children go when they have seen you – for pupils in Years 5 & 6, we will send a 'permission to walk home' form for the beginning of the school year.

We hope this new system is successful and will improve the start and end of each day for everyone.

At the beginning of term, we will have 'meet the teacher' meetings. During this time, the teachers will tell you a bit more about the school day. Further to that, the school will continue to send you updates from the Covid-19 guidance, such as changes to Test and Trace isolation procedures.

Thank you as always for your fantastic support.

Best Wishes,

Mr Barron