

Ivel Valley School

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20th April 2020

Update on Covid-19 Closure

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your children are well. I know that this is an extremely difficult time for everyone. Thank you for keeping your children at home where we know that they are safest. This has allowed us to offer places to the children of NHS staff and other critical workers in support of the national effort against Covid-19.

Last week we learnt that the lockdown will last for a minimum of another three weeks and could last considerably longer. I understand that this will be causing a lot of concern for many of you. However, I'm acutely aware that many of our pupils are extremely vulnerable to Covid-19, particularly because it affects breathing. We have had a number of unconfirmed cases of Covid-19 within our school community. We also know how difficult it is to maintain effective social distancing at Ivel Valley.

Whilst we wait for further information from the government, we will continue to provide support to you and your children through Class Dojo (School), email (College) and the home learning section of the school website (<https://www.ivelvalley.beds.sch.uk/covid-19-home-learning/>). Work is uploaded to the website daily; your child doesn't have to complete this but it's there if you need it.

The school office is still manned throughout the week (01767 601010 option 3), if you need any support or guidance please feel free to call us. You can also contact teachers directly through Class DoJo.

We are also beginning to think about when school is able to reopen. Once restrictions are lifted, it is likely that we will have to reintroduce pupils in stages over a short period of time. A lot of our staff training has also lapsed; this means that we will need to complete staff training days before we reopen to ensure that we're ready for pupils to return. I will send you more details once we have a timescale from the government, although we don't know when this will be. However, the safety of pupils, their families and staff will be at the heart of all decisions that we make.

Families whose children normally receive free school meals should all be receiving food vouchers from Edenred, the government voucher supplier. If you are having problems with this system, please see the frequently asked questions sheet sent out to families or ring in to school and we'll see if we can help.

In the meantime, I hope that you are all well and staying safe. I will write to you again once we have more information from the government.

Yours faithfully

Joe

