

Friday 28th May 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a half term it has been and how amazing our children are. As I write this we still have had no closures in school and I think we should be incredibly proud that as a community we have put procedures in place and been so vigilant to enable this to be the case. We have conducted assessments and are ensuring that children are targeted so that no child falls behind and any missed learning is caught up. Staff and children continue to work incredibly hard to make sure that this pandemic does not impact on their education.

We have had no notification that our procedures can be relaxed and will continue to adhere to our risk assessment until we have official notification that this is the case. Obviously, the restrictions are relaxing as a country and we certainly hope that September will see a return to normal. I remind you of a letter I sent last year in July informing you of changes to the school day [Letter-to-Parents-17th-July-LGB-changes.pdf](#)

Due to Covid restrictions we have been unable to have normal start and finish times as we have had staggered starts. From September the start times will be as follows: the school doors will open at 8.50 for all and finish at 3pm for KS1 and 3.10pm for KS2, as we had intended for September 2020. To support working families OOSC will continue to function and will offer childcare from the end of the school day until 6pm. Our prices have not altered for a considerable time and to put us in line with local schools and providers we have increased our charges:

<https://www.westvaleacademy.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Out-of-School-Price-Price-List-2021-2022.pdf>

We are pleased to announce that after a successful recruitment drive we have appointed Mr J Middleton as Assistant Principal. He has been successful in driving school improvement in his previous school and we are excited for him joining our Senior Leadership Team in September. Further introductions to Mr Middleton will follow.

We have also appointed Mrs Heeley-Beaumont as Office Administrator to assist with Mrs Gunter who has been doing a remarkable job keeping everything running in the office with the help of Mrs Hemsworth. Mrs Heeley-Beaumont will join us in June and will assist with most online enquires, telephone enquiries, the website and we hope to have a Twitter account and Facebook page up and running soon.

Thank you so much for those of you who responded to the Parent questionnaire. There was a 20% increase on parents who responded from the previous survey. It was a positive survey and we endeavour to improve any areas that have been highlighted. Mrs Roebuck has sent a letter separately asking parents to get in touch with her if there are any unresolved bullying issues which we take very seriously as a school. The two areas we need to improve on are around personal development and clubs. From September we will be looking at extending the range of clubs that are offered and we will develop links with businesses and visitors to improve personal development. If you have any links please let us know so we can utilise the strengths around us. A huge positive was that SEND support was recognised and we have recently had an external review of SEN which recognised the fantastic work that school is doing. Working with families enables this to continue to be a strength. The results of the review and the survey will be shared on the website.

I hope you all have a wonderful half term and that you enjoy the sunshine and are able to make the most of restrictions being lifted to spend much needed time with friends and loved ones.

Kind Regards

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