

Information for Parents/Carers regarding Covid – 19 (Coronavirus infection)

A message from the Principal

Dear parents and carers

The past week has brought us deeper into the Coronavirus crisis with many grim headlines from around the world and indeed here in the UK. The Government's message to stay at home is now even more urgent as the infection spreads rapidly in this country. Whilst the School is able to make some limited on-site provision for a small number of students of parents who are critical workers we are trying to ensure that we do not contribute to the spread of the COVID 19 infection. This has meant designating a residential bungalow for each child attending and having designated staff with them who do not mix with others. We also have a duty of care to our staff as an employer so are doing everything possible to keep them, the children that they are working with and those transporting them safe during this unprecedented crisis.

It is now abundantly clear even though yet to be fully spelt out by the Government that the restrictions placed on our lives are going to go on for weeks and probably many months. We are working hard to try to support students who are at home as well as those who come into school. But it is inevitable that it is not business as usual. I want to once more thank you all for your co-operation and support during this very challenging time and to assure you that we will continue to support you, even if only at a distance.

This bulletin covers the holiday period which starts today. There is important and useful information in this bulletin about:

- Infection control and COVID 19 infection (page 2)
- Access to support including from NHS therapies (page 3)
- Educational activities at home and Hawking 2 - 5 email access (page 4)
- Students' Book Reviews (page 5)
- Keeping children safe when online (page 6)
- Contact information for Easter holiday period and information about free school meals (page 7)

I am sure that one day we will be able to once more meet face to face and celebrate that we got through this crisis together! Please keep safe!

Wishing you a very happy if somewhat different Easter !

With my very best wishes.

Roland Gooding

Principal



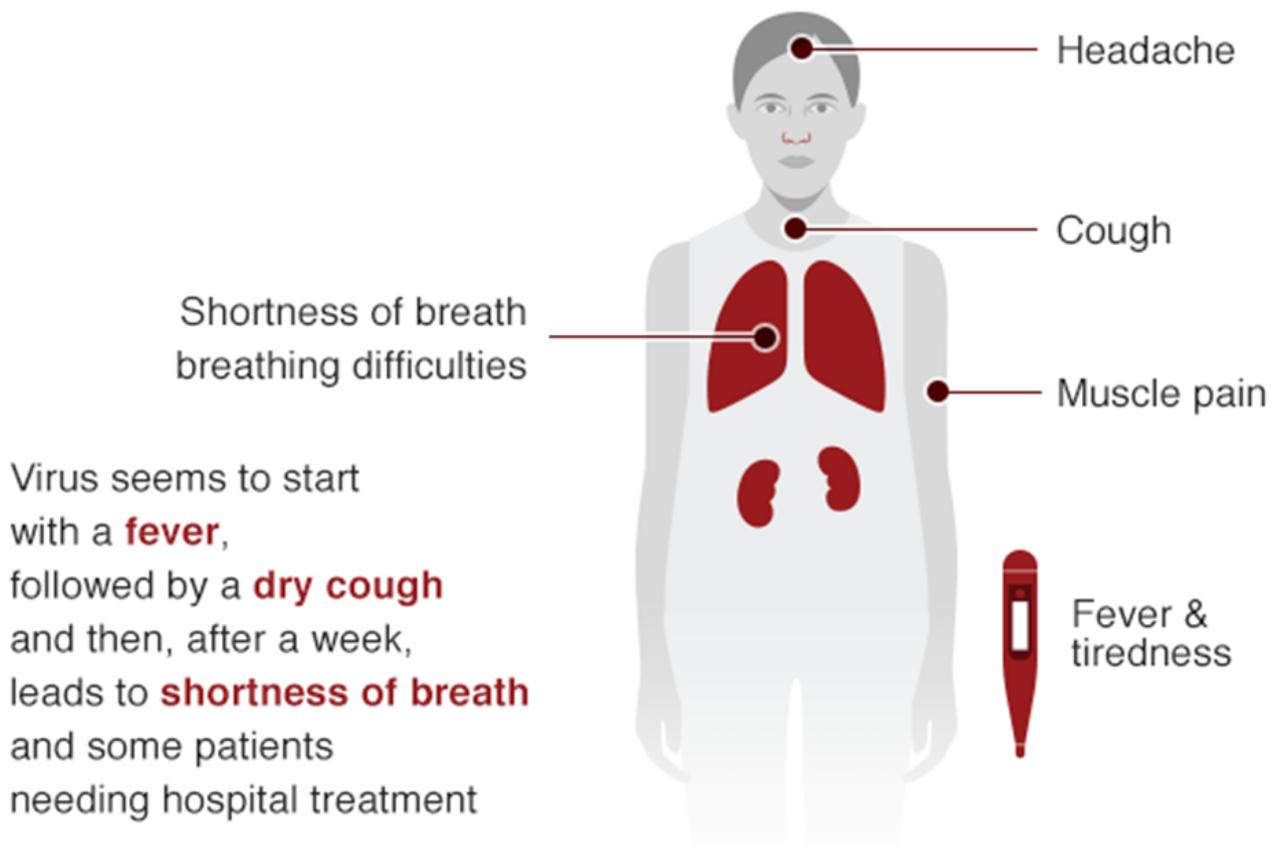
A. Infection Control

- General infection control practices and good respiratory hand hygiene can help to reduce transmission of all viruses, including Covid - 19. This includes:
- Covering nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, using a tissue where possible. Cotton handkerchiefs should not be used or carried.
- Immediately binning tissues after one use
- Maintaining good basic hygiene, for example washing hands frequently with soap and water to reduce the spread of the virus from your hands to face or to other people. In between washing hands use 60%+ alcohol sanitiser gel.
- Avoiding touching eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands
- Avoiding close contact with people who are unwell

B. You and Your Health

The symptoms of Covid -19 in people are similar to the symptoms of regular human seasonal influenza infection and include fever, fatigue, coughing and muscle pains.

Symptoms of coronavirus (Covid-19)



C. Access to Support from Valence School

We have made contact with every family and have tried to respond to any requests that we have received for support. Some parents prefer support from particular members of staff who know their children best but of course we can only allocate the staff who are available depending on their own personal circumstances. The staffing position therefore is kept under constant review on a daily basis.

As stated in the Parents' letter on the 20th March we will prioritise access to support (as this may change daily) on the following basis:

1. Any child who can be cared for in the family should be looked after at home;
2. Any family who needs some childcare support will be prioritised in terms of the child's needs and resources within the family home, taking account of available help from other sources such as respite care and Social Services;
3. Any child who needs to attend school due to the fact that their parents are critical workers and have to work will have provision made at School, subject to sufficient staffing levels, staff skills and expertise and the availability of specialist support. We envisage that this would be on a daily basis only in all but exceptional circumstances. This will be childcare and not educational provision although of course, meaningful activities will be undertaken.

The provisions that the School will make will be based on the principle that Valence students should self-isolate and therefore there would be strict allocation of any staff working in family homes on the basis of limiting work to one or two members of staff per family who required it. Any children having provision made for them at School would also be isolated with a limited number of staff, as far as that is practicably possible within a school setting. Arrangements will be subject to risk assessments and these will be reviewed regularly. Services provided, whether in family homes or at School will be subject to staffing levels available. At School a minimum of one nurse is usually present whilst students are at School but this may not be possible at all times during the COVID-19 crisis. However, with parental agreement some students may be able to attend without a nurse present.

The provisions we already have in place will continue to apply such as those which reduce the risks of the transmission of infections. No members of staff will be permitted to go to a family home where anyone is unwell or where other potential COVID-19 risks are present. Equally, no child will be able to attend School if anyone in their family is unwell.

D. Information from Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust

For therapy advice and equipment enquiries

During the current changes, the therapies support and advice can be accessed by either contacting your home therapy team, or for your NHS Valence School therapists via the email: kentchft.valencetherapies@nhs.net or on 01622 742333. This is one of the West Kent Children's Therapies' bases and is being answered by our administration team, they will be able to take your details and request and then pass this to the relevant therapist to support and advise you.

Karin Corrigan

Locality Clinical Manager Children's Therapies, West Kent

Educational activities whilst at home

Easter Holidays

Today should have been the last day of term 4 and the teaching staff have been working hard this week preparing work to be sent to students after the Easter break. This will be sent at the start of term 5 during the week beginning 20th April either via email to parents, or the students themselves (depending on the pathway/age of the student. Hawking students – please see the message below from Zena Belton below if you do not have access to your school email at home).

Over the last two weeks, several students have been carrying out book reviews as part of their English work and some of these are included in this bulletin. You will see from Miss Murray's introduction, everybody is encouraged to 'read at home' and should your child wish to send in a book review, we will keep including these in the weekly bulletin and Miss Murray has included details of how to do that in this bulletin.

Virtual Museum Tours

Why not visit a museum during the Easter holiday? Miss Barrett has compiled the following list of possible virtual tours that are possible at this time. We would love to hear if you have been on one of these tours – you could even write a review of your visit and send it to Miss Barrett ibarrett@valence.kent.sch.uk who would be keen to read it. Perhaps it might even appear in a future bulletin?

Here are a list of possible tours:

'Seven new wonders of the world', clicking on the images will open the location in a new tab, if you then drop the person it will allow you to move around and explore the places

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/viewer?msa=0&cd=6&sll=38.247969%2C-169.660492&sspn=25.420916%2C177.474242&hl=en&ie=UTF8&ll=4.915833000000075%2C14.0625&spn=121.839255%2C270&z=2&mid=1Zzt9agzggqXwsZPJWebM1ciBKGI>

Geoguesser game, this drops you in a random place in the world and you can move around and try to guess what country you're in. It gives you points depending how close you guess to the actual location

<https://www.geoguessr.com/game/Q5tLMIfYOO7XGGuf>

virtual tour of the HMS Belfast

<https://www.pan3sixty.co.uk/portfolio/iwm-museum-virtual-tour/>

WW1 trench virtual tour

<https://www.pan3sixty.co.uk/portfolio/trench-virtual-tour/>

This article lists virtual tours of a lot of different places too, museums, zoos and even theme parks

<https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/life/travel/a31784720/best-virtual-tours/>

Hawking 2-5 students school email access.

Teachers are preparing work for the students for Term 5 we have realised that this is more efficient if the students have their own email access at home. We feel that for Hawking students where possible students should be emailing teachers from their own school email account and not through their parents. All parents of Hawking 2-5 students have been emailed with the instructions to get themselves set up.

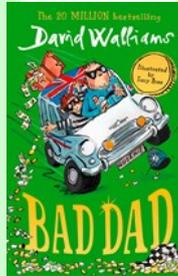
If this is not possible please contact Zena Belton zbelton@valence.kent.sch.uk or phone her on 07894 483666

Student Book Reviews

Valence students are avid readers and it has been a joy to read their book reviews and recommendations. Here is a collection of just some of the reviews I have received this week – please keep them coming! A big thank you and well done to all of the writers.

'Bad Dad' by David Walliams

Bad Dad is an intriguing book. Gilbert Frank's dad gets sent to jail, he has to come up with a marvellous plan to get his dad out of jail. Aunty Flip has similar features to Frank's dad so she disguises herself, so that they can put the money back in the bank so his dad could not have been guilty of stealing if the money was back in the bank. Gilbert owed Mr Big money due to his leg amputation no one would employ him. Mr Big got impatient waiting for his money so made Gilbert drive the getaway car for a bank robbery to pay off his debt. Does he get away? Or will he get caught? Is it all worth it in the end? Who knows, but this book has kept me guessing what will happen next, definitely a book I would recommend. This book is for someone aged 8-12 as it's entertaining and easy to read. My favourite part is when Frank comes up with a plan to break his dad out of jail!



Evie Carroll (H2)

'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe' by C.S Lewis

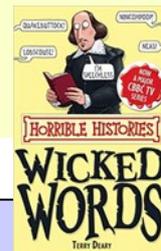
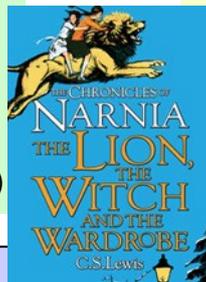
Four people go into a wardrobe and have an adventure in another land called Narnia. Each of their lives are affected by what they become.

My favourite moment in the book is when Aslan comes out of the tent because his powers were needed to save Narnia.

I didn't like the bit where Edmund went to see the Witch because it meant that he might be on her side. Other than this, I liked every minute of the book.

I would recommend this book to anyone above the age of eight because they might not understand if they are younger.

I first read this book when I was eight years old.



Kitty Scarboro
(H2)

'Horrible histories: Wicked Words' by Terry Deary

This book begins with the Roman occupation of Britain and ends with the national curriculum, but, being Horrible Histories; it leaves in the horrible bits that schools keep out normally. It covers a period of time starting with AD 43 and continues on till 1987. Control of Britain seems to have switched hands over the years. Horrible Histories tells readers about history with the horrible parts in, including the poems that have deaths in them. My favourite parts are the timelines because I find it interesting how far the English language has come.

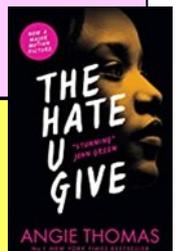
I would recommend this to people who would like to learn about English language history, even though the horrible parts are not for the easily disturbed. I think this book has a lot to teach about history and the affect it has on society and its attitudes.

David Gale

'The Hate U Give' by Angie Thomas

I really enjoyed this book. Its about a girl called Starr and she sees her best friend Kahlil get killed. The policeman killed him because he was black. The policemen thought that he was holding a gun but it was a hair brush. Starr didn't want the police to get away with it. So she ended up on TV and told everyone that Kahlil was murdered.

I gave this book a 5 out of 5 stars. I really enjoyed it, I couldn't stop reading it. I loved it!



If you are running out of books to read at home, Oxford University Press have opened up a **free e-library**; follow this link: <https://home.oxfordowl.co.uk/>

Audible are also making children's books free during school closures and no registration is needed; follow this link:

<https://stories.audible.com/>

This is brilliant for students who prefer listening to audio-books.

If you have any questions about how to best support your child with their reading at home, please feel free to email Vanessa Murray (Head of English): vmurray@valence.kent.sch.uk

Keeping children safe when online

In the current situation, the majority of us are going to be accessing online services from home more than usual, so here are some tips around a question I get asked a lot. Hope they help.

What can I do to support my child?

There are lots of things you can do to support your young child. This is not a complete list, but a range of strategies you can use to improve your child's online experience:

- 1. Explore together:** Explore your child's favourite apps and websites with them. This can be a fantastic way to find out what your child enjoys doing online, as well as having fun and learning together.
- 2. Talk to your child about their online experiences:** Start and continue regular conversations with your child about what they enjoy doing online, introducing online safety messages. These conversations can be a great way to reinforce the message that if your child sees anything online which makes them feel worried, they can tell you or another adult they trust.
- 3. Supervise your young child while they're online:** Keep the devices your child uses in communal areas of the house such as in the living room or kitchen where an adult can supervise. Children under 5 should not access the internet unsupervised in private spaces, such as alone in their bedroom or bathroom.
- 4. Parental controls:** Make use of the parental controls available on your home broadband and any internet enabled device in your home. You can find out more about how to use parental controls by visiting your broadband provider's website, or by viewing advice/step-by-step guides available on the [internet matters site](#).
- 5. SafeSearch:** The use of 'SafeSearch' is recommended for use with young children. Most web search engines will have a 'SafeSearch' function, which allows you to limit the material your child can see when they're online. Look out for the 'Settings' button on your web browser homepage, which is often shaped like a small cog. It is important to understand that no 'SafeSearch' function is 100% effective, and this cannot be used alone to protect your child from being exposed to age inappropriate material.
- 6. Set boundaries:** As a family you can agree a set of rules, such as locations in the house where devices can be used, times of day your child can use devices, or which age appropriate apps or websites they can access.
- 7. Lead by example:** Modelling the digital habits you expect from your child (for example, no tablets during meal-times) can be an effective way of supporting young children to develop their own positive digital behaviours from an early age.

Please remember to visit our online safety page on our school website as there are lots of links to good websites that may help or answer a question you may have.

Keep well and safe!

Kirsty McIntosh, Computing Learning Dimension Leader

Other Important Information

Contacting the School

We have a dedicated email address for all Covid 19 related enquiries. It is covid19@valence.kent.sch.uk

The school switchboard (01959 562156) will be open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays during the Easter break but you may need to leave a message.

Urgent matters during the next two weeks should be referred to Roland Gooding who is the on-call senior member of staff and designated safeguarding lead for the holiday period. He can be contacted on 07896905605 or by email — rgooding@valence.kent.sch.uk

Key Staff telephone numbers:

Roland Gooding: 07896905605

Lisa Kavanagh: 07912124724

Matt Strange: 07894483673

Jo Bleasdale: 07894483671

Zena Belton: 07894483666

Free School Meals

There is now a national scheme for the provision of supermarket e-tokens and vouchers which will be arranged during the Easter break for the families of children who are eligible for free school meals. **Please do not give out bank details to anyone as scams are being reported in some parts of the country.**

If you have information that you think we should know such as COVID 19 infection within your family please just email.

