



HOE VALLEY SCHOOL

Address: Egley Road, Woking, GU22 0NH
Office Tel: 01483 662627
Email: info@hoevalleyschool.org
Web: www.hoevalleyschool.org
Head Teacher: Mrs J Davies

6th October 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

Full Reopening 7th October 2020

First of all I hope that you and your families are well and would like to thank you for your support today in supervising your children working from home. I know that the news was very late in the day to inform everyone yesterday that the School was closing, but we responded as quickly as we could to the information we received that a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) had tested positive with Covid-19 and immediately took guidance from both the DfE and Public Health England before making a decision to close the School.

The Leadership Team worked on a plan last night to reopen the School and I am pleased to say that Hoe Valley School will be fully operational tomorrow, Wednesday, and all year groups should attend School at the normal times. Although I myself and three other members of the SLT will continue to be in self-isolation, we have seconded two other members of the staff to work with our Assistant Head Teacher Miss Austen and I would like to reassure you that both Mr Lyons and Mr Matthews have previously worked on an SLT in other schools. Miss Austen is fully trained as a DSL, although Mr Kelly, who is also self-isolating, is our Lead DSL. I have consulted with the Chair of Governors, and we are satisfied that this is a robust plan. Although I won't physically be in School until next Wednesday, I am in good health and fully available to all staff by phone and virtual meetings as are Mr Kelly and Mr Goulbourne, who equally are not experiencing any Covid-19 symptoms.

As you can imagine, closing the School is the very last resort, but I would like to reassure you that this was a very considered decision. The safety of students and staff has been at the heart of our thinking and we concluded that teaching children remotely for one day rather than risk the spread of Covid was the most effective decision we could take. This course of action was supported by the authorities with whom we have liaised as required. Today the School is being deep cleaned throughout using a Virabact Multi-Surface cleaner which kills 99.9% of bacteria and all viruses in five minutes of contact and we are confident that in reopening tomorrow, it will be a safe place for both students and staff. I'm sure you are aware that teachers are on the frontline in all of this and being older than students are at a higher risk of contracting Covid. With this in mind, I could not risk staying open until we developed a plan for a temporary Leadership Team and a deep clean of the building.

I would like to thank you for your ongoing support and please rest assured that if your child has been in close contact with the member of staff in question you will already have been contacted. I would also ask that you continue to work with us in the season ahead as decisions such as these are not taken lightly and our aim is always to provide a safe and happy, stress free learning environment for your children. Please take care of yourselves and continue to discuss hygiene routines and social distancing with your children at home.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs J. Davies
Head Teacher



*Hoe Valley School is a charitable company limited by guarantee
Registered in England and Wales with company number 8833418.
Registered office: Hoe Valley School, Egley Road, Woking, Surrey GU22 0NH*

