

Christmas 2018 Newsletter

21st December 2018

Dear Parents & Carers

Just before we close for Christmas I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support this term, particularly your attendance at all of our Christmas events. I do believe more of you have been able to get involved this year than ever before, certainly since I was appointed Head Teacher in 2015. Your attendance at events is wonderful for your children, as well as supporting the school to achieve targets set during its 2014 OFSTED inspection, which graded Vernon Park as Outstanding.

Even with an outstanding judgement, Staff, Governors and all stakeholders were left with the following targets to improve Vernon Park further. We continue to work on these today (as well as the targets that we set ourselves), which assist us to provide the best education we possible can for your children:

- Improve the school's partnership with parents further by:
 - Consulting with all parents, including those who are harder to reach to get their ideas and views about how best to work together as partners,
 - Recruiting Parent Governors so that they are fully represented on the Governing Body.

Thank you for the numerous responses that we have had so far to the parent questionnaire, both in paper format and online. As a staff we appreciate your honesty: where you feel we are not getting it right, we are pleased when you let us know directly as this means we can work together to improve. If it is convenient for you, I would very much appreciate you coming to see me throughout the year to address any concerns.

Many of you are making good use of the 'drop-ins' that are held by Mrs Bommer - Pastoral Manager; Liz Donegan - School Nurse; Kathy Haworth - Children's Worker; Ross Thompson - Social Worker and myself. Our Team Around the School and the school staff are best placed to listen to and respond to your concerns. They can then address any issues raised efficiently. We believe this is more effective than turning to social media as this makes it impossible for us to respond or implement any change as unfortunately we may not fully understand your concerns.

Our Governing Body structure has provision for four Parent Governors. We currently have three on our Board. No special qualifications are needed and the most important thing is to have a keen interest in the school and be prepared to play an active part in the work of the Governing Board. If you are interested in becoming a Parent Governor please contact me for further information.

- Continue to build on the outstanding progress made throughout the school since the last inspection.

All staff continually challenge themselves to assist your children to make outstanding progress. Your support with this is vital. I am very pleased that you embraced our earlier decision to ask children to read at least five times a week at home. That one-to-one time you can give your children is difficult to replicate in a class of thirty, even with the wonderful support staff in classes. Don't forget to introduce yourselves to the Teaching Assistants and Higher Level Teaching Assistants, who will be regularly in the playground - before school on Tuesdays - in the New Year.

Each term, we hold Pupil Progress meetings where the progress of every child is considered by Class Teacher, Phase Leader, Deputy Head Teacher and myself. Discussions focus on how we can best support each child to be the best that they can be in our school.

Through reviewing our Special Education Needs & Disability (SEND) offer, and taking note of Stockport's recent inspection, we will be sending you termly notification of your child's SEND status, if applicable. We will also ensure that we continue to consult you regarding the individual targets that will be detailed on your child's Teaching and Learning plans.

Look out for the SEND letters in the New Year and as always, if you wish to speak to me or a member of the Vernon Park team, call into the office and make an appointment, catch up with us around school, email or telephone. We will get back to you.

Finally, on behalf of all the staff, may I take the opportunity to thank you for all the cards, gifts and warm wishes we have received and wish all our families a wonderful Christmas, a Happy New Year and a well-deserved rest!

We'll be ready and waiting at 8:45am on Monday, 7th January 2019 to start what I am sure will be an equally successful Spring Term.

Yours sincerely

Claire E Lee
Head Teacher
Vernon Park Primary School