

14<sup>th</sup> December 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

As we hurtle towards Christmas, or, the busiest time of year for most of us, I would like to take the opportunity to update you on a number of matters that have been brought to my attention by parents kind enough to share their thoughts with us.

### **Wellbeing and Health**

At Vernon Park we take your child's health extremely seriously. We are able to support your children with their long term health needs as well as short term health challenges. Our policies, which are in line with the Stockport Local and Health Authorities' expectations, for caring for your children are on our website. However, they are lengthy reads so, there are one or two points I would like to share with you to ensure that your child can access the education they are entitled to.

**Medication** - We can administer prescribed medication to your child if the prescription states four times a day. We can also administer prescribed medication to your child if the prescription states three times a day and your child attends breakfast and/or after school club. For children attending school from 8:55am to 3:15pm, three times a day medication can be administered just before the start of the school day, then immediately after they finish and again at bedtime.

**Asthma** - All children diagnosed with asthma or who have been prescribed a reliever inhaler (usually blue), must keep an in-date inhaler, with spacer, in school for their personal use. Our most recent advice from the Health Authority Asthma Team is that if a child has been prescribed four puffs or more of their inhaler every 4 hours then they are not well enough to attend school and must be monitored closely at home.

**Head lice** - Head lice appear to love primary school children's hair and are common in all schools across the country. Staff at Vernon Park do not check your child for head lice. However, as we have a duty of care to every child, if head lice are seen by staff then you will be alerted by telephone and asked to collect your child to 'treat them' for the condition as it is uncomfortable for them to have an itchy scalp. Your child may return to school as soon as they have been treated, which, depending on the time, may be the same day. In order to stop the spread of head lice when we become aware of a case in school we will alert the whole school community by text so that all children and staff can be checked at home to attempt to stop the spread of head lice and further infestations.

Our School Nurse, Liz Donegan, is happy to give advice, demonstrate the most efficient way to check for head lice, advise and prescribe the recommended treatments. She holds drop-ins in school half termly. Look out for a text to alert you to the next drop-in session.

### **Attendance**

Many conversations are held regarding attendance and the difficulties you experience getting medical and dental appointments for your children outside of the school day. Please request appointments outside the school day and use the holiday date information on the website to arrange regular dental check-ups. Last half term over 100 appointments were attended during the school day. Sadly, those minutes and hours of learning time, and the experiences your child missed are unlikely to be repeated. Your child's Autumn Term attendance percentage will be with you early in January.

### **Behaviour and Relationships**

As you know we are a Restorative School. Staff are committed to developing your children's skills to enable them to form positive relationships both in and out of school. Our Behaviour and Relationships

Policy is available to read on our website and is regularly reviewed. On occasions, relationships at all levels can break down and it is important for the wellbeing of all concerned that broken relationships are repaired. Repairing relationships in school may begin with our Restorative Champions (a small group of Y6 pupils who have undertaken a training programme with Mrs Bommer, Pastoral Manager) talking with children who have had a minor disagreement. If the relationship is not repaired successfully staff; Midday Supervisors, Teaching Assistants and/or Teachers, will support the repair of the broken relationship. Moving on it may be necessary for the pastoral team to become involved; Mrs Barton, Mrs Bommer or myself. If at any point you feel further support is necessary, in the first instance speak with the Class Teacher. If a situation or broken relationship continues please speak with Mrs Bommer or myself. That may be out and about round school, at our Wednesday drop-in sessions, by telephone or by appointment. We are here for your children. We can successfully help your children if you let us know what they need as unfortunately this is not always apparent to us in a busy school.

### **Communicating with the Class Teachers**

There are twice daily opportunities, before and after school for you to have brief conversations with Class Teachers. If you would like a more private or lengthier conversation please speak to the Class Teacher or Office Staff to arrange an appointment.

### **Building Relationships**

As you may be aware, there are many, many staff in school. There are boards in the entrance hall with photographs of all staff as well as Governors. Teachers, Mrs Bommer and I have the pleasure of greeting many of you as you arrive at school in the morning. You will have met and been supported by the staff in the office by Mrs Morrison (Business Manager), Mrs Walley (School Secretary), Mrs Lamond (Clerical Assistant) and Mrs Worsley-Blair (Clerical Assistant), Dennis Broad, our Site Manager, and Class Teachers. In order to develop relationships with staff further our Teaching Assistants (TAs - who support learning and lead reading), and Higher Level Teaching Assistants (HLTAs - who support learning and cover classes) will be coming into the playground to greet you and your children on Tuesdays and Super Learning Days in the New Year.

Please continue to let me know, in person, via telephone or by email how we can continue to improve so that your children receive the best education possible at Vernon Park.

Yours sincerely

Claire E Lee  
Head Teacher