

13<sup>th</sup> December 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

With the Autumn term rapidly drawing to a close, I would like to update you with some staffing changes.

In January, Mr Pearson (Y5/6 teacher) will teach his current class Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Mrs Freeman (currently Y3/4 teacher) will teach the class Thursday and Friday.

Miss Jones will be returning to teach Mrs Freeman's Y3/4 class full time.

Miss Pandolfo, Midday Assistant and Mr Wakefield, Teaching Assistant, will be leaving us; we wish them both well in their new roles.

Safeguarding: our most important job. Please do share with us any concerns you have. Miss Brough, Miss Green, Mrs Mickle and myself are available to talk with you at our drop-ins (see the calendar on the website). The Team Around the School (TAS); Family Help Coordinator, Social Worker and school staff, Miss Brough, Mrs Mickle and myself are available to support. Alternatively, contact Stockport MASSH 0161 217 6028, selecting option 1.

Thank you for attending the Family Reading on Fridays in school. As an active reading school, we would like to encourage you to take every opportunity to support your child learning to read: hearing them read five times a week; asking them questions about what they have read; sharing your favourite stories as bedtime reading; as well as making opportunities to read when out and about in the environment.

It is recommended that children are physically active for sixty minutes every day. There is an expectation that on the 190 days a year that the children attend school they will be physically active for at least thirty minutes every day. As well as two lessons a week for Y1 to Y6 of PE, swimming or dance the children are involved in 'Joe Wicks' or 'Wake-up, Shake-up' before the start of the day. Smile for a mile is timetabled and staff are busy including short active breaks in the classrooms in between lessons. Please do ask them to demonstrate 'active breaks' or take a look on Dojo, Seesaw or X (Twitter) in the coming weeks.

Another active favourite of the children is outdoor learning (Muddy Monday in EYFS and Forest School Y1 to Y6). Join our Forest School X account when your child is taking part in Forest School to see the fun that they get up to! Children do then need to be active for an additional thirty minutes every day at home on non PE days and an hour each day at the weekend.

As you will be aware, we are part of the Poverty Proofing the School Day Project. As a result of all the information gathered from stakeholders there are some changes we wish to make:

- From January 2024 please do not send sweets or cakes into school to celebrate birthdays. We will celebrate birthdays by singing to the children in class or in Celebration Assembly.

- We are investigating clubs which will be free for the children to attend. Some clubs are available to our UKS2 from January 2024. We hope to extend this to KS1 and LKS2 as soon as possible.
- Please do continue to send school uniform into school for us to reuse with other children. We are able to re-home Christmas Jumpers too!

Christmas at Vernon Park is always enjoyable; it was fabulous to see so many of you joining the children for Christmas Crafts and enjoying the EYFS and KS1 Christmas performances and Nativities. There is lots more Christmas fun to be had next week too with the Christmas Forest Trail for all, (Monday and Tuesday), the Carol Service at St Mary's in the Market Place on Wednesday, followed in the afternoon by the visiting theatre company for the pantomime and finally on Thursday it is Christmas Party Day for all!

As always please do contact us if we can help in any way.

Please find notable dates for January and February 2024 attached.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Claire E Lee  
Head Teacher

## January - February 2024

### **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January**

UKS2 (Y5 & Y6) - Vernon Mill Visit

### **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January**

Non Uniform day in return for unwanted gifts

### **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January - Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February**

#### **School Council Fundraising Event**

Monday 15th January 2024 is the launch date of our annual Raisin Box Challenge. Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 children will receive a small box of raisins to eat and enjoy. Children in Nursery and Reception classes will receive a satsuma and a plastic container to collect their coins. The challenge is to fill the empty box or container with silver or gold coins and return it to school by Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024. The class which raises the most money for School Council Funds will receive a treat.

### **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January**

PTA meeting 2pm - All welcome

### **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January**

Miss Ridgway's Family Assembly 2.45pm

### **Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> January**

EYFS Parent Workshop: 2.15pm - 3.15pm (for families with pupils in Nursery, Nursery/Reception Speech and Language Unit and Reception - class teachers Miss Dakin, Mrs Griffin, Mrs Sweeney and Mrs Poyner/Mrs Broxson)

### **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February**

Early Years Friend-a-thon to raise money for our Early Years Department - More details to follow

### **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February**

Mrs Johnson's Family Assembly 2.45pm

### **Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February**

Valentines Discos - More details to follow