

3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you and your families are well and that you are able to make the best of Lockdown Three; long walks, increased family time and some time for yourself.

It has been wonderful to see many Vernon Park Primary School values in action across the school community: kindness, resilience and support to highlight a few. Please be kind to yourself in these challenging times and accept that you are being the best that you can be. Formal home learning is only one small part of the support you are providing for your families at the moment. Please prioritise your family's wellbeing and update us if we can help in any way. For example, a number of children who learn independently in school are requiring family members to sit by them the whole time while they complete a task. If you feel your child could do something independently, please encourage them to do so. A promise of an extra Dojo might be all it takes! Lower Key Stage Two staff have invited parents to contact them to award an extra Dojo where learning that previously was fully supported by parents has been attempted independently. All classes and staff will happily support you in the same manner.

As I am sure you are aware from the Dojo messages that you have received, it is Children's Mental Health Awareness Week. This, along with the information gathered from the Google Meet parent drop-ins in January, has prompted us to make some changes to our current home learning offer. As well as the regular Google Meet check-ins, daily drop-ins are now available for all pupils. The children or parents may join the Google Meet drop-in to speak directly with staff about any aspect of the learning or any support that is needed. These are on a need-only basis and are not compulsory: hopefully these opportunities for direct feedback and support will further increase the independence and resilience so many of our children are developing through this tricky time.

Many of you have been buying additional workbooks for your children. We have placed an order for a CGP Maths home study book, which you will be able to collect from school (further details to follow as soon as the books arrive).

EYFS have already renamed Wednesday as 'Wellbeing Wednesday' and this is something we would like the whole school community to be involved in. For the remainder of this lockdown, Wednesday's home learning activities will be structured to allow as much time away from screens as is possible. There will still be the daily Google Meets for KS1 and KS2 children in the mornings, as well as the drop-in sessions for all pupils who may need a little extra help or maybe even a chat with a member of staff. These activities will be shared with the children via a grid posted on both Class Dojo and the Google Classrooms and staff will also talk through the activities during the morning Google Meets. Hopefully, this break from more formal activities will support your whole family's wellbeing.

Friday this week is 'Dress to Express' which children can take part in whether at home or in school.

Unfortunately, due to high costs, we have been unable to renew Athletics. Staff are researching alternatives and we hope to have details for you very soon.

We do hope that we are back together soon. In the meantime please do contact us if you have any concerns or there is any support we can offer.

Take care and stay safe

Claire E Lee  
Head Teacher