

26th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

What a year!

Thank you for all your support during these challenging times. Despite the difficulties and challenges many of your children have flourished and have enjoyed learning both at home and at school.

In order to keep stakeholders as safe as possible during the pandemic many changes to the school day were made, some of which children, parents and staff felt were an improvement on arrangements previously in place. With that in mind and the possibility that the guidance we are working to may change at short notice we will be trialling keeping some changes.

The start of the school day this year has been much smoother and less disruptive for the children leaving parents and carers at the school gate. The school day for all begins at 8:55am from September, however both gates will be open at 8:45am for the children to come on site. School leaders will be at the gates to answer any quick questions. The school day will end at 3:15pm. The gates will be opened from 3:10pm for parents and carers to come into the playgrounds to collect the children. All staff will be available if you wish to have a quick word at the end of the day. Longer conversations can occur if appointments are made via the school office or Dojo messages direct to staff. When our Early Years children start on 13th September we will again operate a one way system for a week, so that parents and carers are able drop their children off at their classrooms in the morning.

While Covid-19 rates remain high please continue to communicate with us via email, telephone or Dojo. We are keeping visitors in the building to minimum at the moment. Cleaning of the school toilets, in line with the guidance, remains the same therefore please can you continue to refrain from entering the building to use our facilities.

Children coming to school in their PE kits on PE days has been a huge success. It has facilitated more learning time and a reduction in lost property so this will continue next academic year. Your Welcome Booklet, which can be found on the school website will indicate PE days for each class Y1 to Y6.

Lunch times have been successful with less children playing outside at the same time. Therefore we are going to alter lunch time slightly. Early Years, Y3 and Y4 will have lunch 12noon until 1pm. Y1, Y2, Y5 & Y6 will have lunch at 12:30pm to 1:30pm. This will enable all of the children to play in larger spaces.

The one way system in the hall has worked well, so we will also be keeping that for the moment.

Please can I ask that all children's belongings and water bottles are named. Children may bring juice in a second bottle to have with their lunch, but should have water in a bottle to drink throughout the day.

If your child has ear piercing, the only earrings suitable for school are small studs. These have to be removed by your child for PE and swimming lessons.

Parents of children who are in receipt of Free School Meals should be receiving two vouchers from Stockport LA, totalling £50, to support with feeding your children during the five week holiday. If you require further assistance please look on our Twitter page which has details of all the other holiday food and activity options. Alternatively contact school and speak with Mrs Bommer, the Pastoral Manager, or myself or use the helpline as detailed on Twitter.

In order to assist with uniform we have the 'Vernon Park Primary School Thrift Shop' on Facebook. Anyone may join the group, then you can post the details of old uniform that you are willing to thrift to other families. When someone replies, message them to arrange collection. Please remember to post sizes. Any uniform, shoes, book bags, PE kits, coats etc can be added, saving unwanted items go to landfill sites.

Sadly, it's not been the goodbye to our Y6 that we would have liked, but we all wish them well at their new schools and hope very much to hear all about their successes in the future. We are also saying goodbye and good luck to Mrs Blower on Tuesday.

We are very much hoping that the Academic Year 2021-2022 will be a return to a more normal Vernon Park. Have a wonderful holiday, hopefully full of sunshine, family time and fun!

Yours sincerely

Claire E Lee
Head Teacher