

10th September 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

It has been a pleasure to welcome children in Y1-Y6 back into school after the summer holidays and a delight to see you all back in the playgrounds at the end of the day. We are now eagerly awaiting Monday, when our EYFS children and families return.

Thank you for your help last academic year supporting your children's learning and thank you for supporting the school staff to provide the best school and home learning experiences possible in extremely difficult circumstances. As you are aware, Government school guidance has changed and we are gradually returning to pre-pandemic practices. We are mindful that Covid-19 has not gone away and are continuing with regular hand washing and sanitising, as well as ensuring all areas of the school building are ventilated.

Your children look extremely smart in their uniforms, thank you. May I ask that if you have not already done so, you clearly label all their belongings with their full names as lost items are distressing for children and parents alike! As most of you know, our classrooms and cloakrooms are small and therefore on a daily basis, only book bags are needed for belongings as they fit neatly into trays. It would be a great help if spare clothes, for those who need them, are in drawstring bags: rucksacks should only be used for swimming kits. PE kits do not need to be kept in school as the children come to school in kit on their PE days. Please check the school website for colours and styles and message your child's class teacher on Class Dojo if you are unsure of their PE day. Please remind your children to put stud earrings in for school and ensure their nails are bare, with all varnish removed. All children's long hair must be tied up (already a couple of parents have reported head lice), with bobbles and clips in the school colours.

We actively encourage you to allow your children to ride their bikes or scooters to school - wearing appropriate safety equipment: helmets & Hi-Vis on, or over outerwear. At your own risk, these may be stored in the car park racks for KS2 children or the EYFS/KS1 rack through the infant gate.

Fruit or vegetables are provided free of charge to school for all EYFS and KS1 children. Children in KS2 may bring fruit or vegetables to school for a snack at break time. All children need a water bottle for drinking throughout the day. We have water coolers to refill your child's bottle throughout the day. Juice drinks, flavoured waters etc. may be brought to school for children to drink with their lunch, but should not be in water bottles for use throughout the day.

Families who wish to send their children into school with birthday treats to share with their class may do so again. However, please be mindful that lollipops or nut based treats are not safe in school, so unfortunately will not be distributed. Please make sure that you update us with regards to food allergies.

We are very much looking forward to a successful Autumn Term at Vernon Park and as always ask you to contact us in person, by telephone or email if you have any cause for concern or require any support. You may also contact class teachers directly via the Class Dojo app. All queries will be responded to within school opening hours as swiftly as possible.

Yours sincerely

Claire E. Lee
Head Teacher