

21<sup>st</sup> October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is so hard to believe that we have been back in school already for half a term! On the whole, this has been an extremely profitable, positive and productive start to the academic year. Children and staff very much enjoyed National Poetry Day in September and KS1 & KS2 demonstrated and further developed their history skills this week during our 'History Super Learning Day'. Please check online on our Twitter pages to see your children enjoying learning at VP.

### **COVID Update**

Unfortunately as you may be aware, we have had a number of positive Covid-19 cases across the school since reopening. Sadly, our Early Years department had to close completely on Monday, with a gradual return for most pupils over the week as staff returned to school. For the safety of all, we have reintroduced staff - who can - wearing face masks in school. All classes are once again eating in their classrooms. Our planned Harvest Festival, which was due to take place at St Mary's in the Marketplace, will now take place in school. Also, all of the EYFS classrooms have had a deep clean, including all of the toys. Thank you for your continued support in keeping our school community as safe as possible.

### **Food Bank**

If your family would benefit from assistance with food at any time, please contact Mrs Bommer. Referrals will be confidential.

### **Uniform**

We have had an enormous amount of lost property this half term. Please name all personal belongings, (jumpers, coats, shoes etc.) so that they can be returned to your child swiftly and easily.

PE Uniform - KS1 & KS2

Thank you for sending your children into school on PE days wearing black or navy shorts and a white tee shirt. If your child does not have a plain navy or black sweatshirt/hoodie, please ensure they wear their school jumper or cardigan over the top of their PE kit in the cold weather.

### **Forest School**

Happily, Forest School - with Mrs Stone and Mrs Singleton - will be resuming after half term. All KS1 and KS2 children will enjoy approximately ten sessions by July 2021. Further information will follow.

### **Christmas Gifts**

The Giving Tree (a Stockport-based charity), have once again offered to supply ten families with requested gifts for children this Christmas. Please contact Mrs Bommer for further details. Referrals will be confidential.

### **Parents Evening**

KS1 and KS2 Parents Evening (using the online platform, School Cloud) was very well received by the families who attended the appointments. Unfortunately, a high number of parents did not make an appointment and out of those that did make appointments many did not log on to the meet with the teachers, which was disappointing.

### **After School Club**

After School Club runs from 3:15pm until 5:30pm Monday to Thursday and 3:15pm until 5:20pm on a Friday. Please continue to book and pay in advance via School Money. Bookings are essential to guarantee a place at both clubs.

All children should be collected at 3:15pm from their class teachers. Unfortunately, many children are regularly not being collected on time. From 2nd November if children are not collected by 3:20pm,

they will be cared for in the After School Club. This service will incur a £4 charge. If children are collected after 4:15pm the cost rises to £6.00.

### **Nut-Free School**

As you are aware, we do have a number of children with severe nut allergies. In order to keep them safe we are a nut-free school. Research has indicated that coconut can have the same devastating effect, so we are asking that you do not include coconut in packed lunches or for playtime snacks.

### **Park and Stride**

We have had two near misses on Peak Street this half term, as well as a number of complaints from residents. Please be mindful of our neighbours; drive, reverse (if you have to) and park safely. Please do not park on the yellow lines on Alpine Street or New Bridge Lane, as you are endangering our families. Please assist us by completing the short survey which has been sent via a separate email.

### **Play Equipment**

The play equipment in school is only to be used by the children during the school day. Please do not allow your children onto the 'green areas' or play equipment when you collect them from school.

### **Halloween and Light Colours**

Tuesday 2nd November will be Vernon Park's Halloween and 'Light/Pale Colours' Day. Children may wear their Halloween Costumes or Light Colours, if Halloween Costumes do not appeal. Children may of course wear their school uniform, if they would prefer not to dress up. There will be lots more special days to come next half term, which will be communicated in the usual manner via newsletter, school email or text and/or on our social media. Please check your children's book bags for letters and the school Calendar on the website for further information.

### **Safeguarding**

It has been highlighted recently that many Primary aged children have been exposed to the latest Netflix drama, Squid Game, which has a 15 rating. Unfortunately, some of our children have reported watching this programme (or viewing content on other platforms such as YouTube and TikTok) and are even using references to it during play. Please continue to support our school community by following national guidance on the suitability of this programme. Netflix has published a guide to parental settings that may be of use.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any help.

We look forward to welcoming the children back to school for Wake up Shake up and Funky Fingers from 8:45am on Tuesday 2nd November. Have a lovely holiday.

### **Term Dates**

Our 2021 / 2022 and 2022 / 2023 term dates can be found on the school website in the Parents' Section

Yours sincerely

Claire E Lee  
Head Teacher