

11th November 2022

Autumn Two Values: Friendship and Respect

Dear Parents and Carers

What a busy start we have had this half term!

The Halloween Disco was a huge success: the children had a lovely time. Thank you to Mr Spence, the DJ, who gave his services to school free of charge; the PTA; and to parents and staff who helped. Your feedback with regards to the disco timings would be greatly appreciated, as we are very much hoping to hold a Valentine's Disco and Summer Beach Party Disco later this academic year.

We continue to be able to offer drop-ins with our Team Around the School professionals; School Age Plus Worker; and School Nurse. Please check the calendar on the school website for dates and times. Mrs Bommer and I are available most Tuesdays from 8:30am to 9:30am, if you wish to pop in to discuss any worries, concerns or challenges.

After the disruption to the children's education in the height of the pandemic, attendance in school is a huge priority for us all. You all received your child's attendance for the first half term. We will be sending these letters out to you every half term. The Local Authority are proactively encouraging us to support you to improve all children's attendance.

Unfortunately, I have had further complaints from local residents about the noise level before school in Peak Street park as well as outside school at drop off and pick-up time. Please could you turn off car engines if you are waiting and remind the children of our expectations of their behaviour regarding our neighbours.

Parking outside school, as well as cars reversing along Peak Street, continues to be a challenge. I have received further complaints about cars parking on the yellow lines on the corner of Bateson Street and Peak Street, Newbridge Lane and Alpine Road as well as the disabled spaces on Peak Street without displaying a blue badge. Your help with this matter would be greatly appreciated. Please contact the school office if you would like a permit, which would entitle you (or whoever collects your child) to free parking before and after school in Newbridge Lane Car Park.

Please may I ask that you refrain from talking directly to children other than your own without the permission of their parents and carers as it can cause distress to the children. School are always available to help in sorting out any issues that may arise and you can contact us for support via our social media platforms, via email, telephone or in person.

Dates for your diary relating to our planned Christmas activities can be found at the end of this newsletter. All dates are also on the calendar on the school website.

We encourage the children to respect (one of our twelve values) each other and all staff members at Vernon Park Primary. Our support team of Teaching Assistants, Higher Level Teaching Assistants, Pastoral Staff, Kitchen Staff, Site Staff and Office Staff contribute hugely to the good education the children receive and deserve the respect of the children.

Unfortunately, a number of reading books, library books and reading record books have been lost this half term. The school budget (like all personal budgets) is suffering due to increased costs, so we will have to ask families for a contribution if items are lost to ensure they can be replaced.

We continue to have large amounts of lost property. Please name all items of clothing and belongings that come into school, so we can return the items to the children, thus saving you money and keeping our school environment clean and safe.

Please ensure that your child has a water bottle in school with them every day, so that they can remain hydrated. We have water coolers in school and the children can refill bottles throughout the day with cool, filtered water. Children are not allowed any fizzy drinks in school at any time; including fizzy water. Diluted juice or flavoured water may be sent into school for your children to drink with their lunch. However, as diluted juice or flavoured water has a detrimental effect on children's teeth, we do not allow them to sip these drinks throughout the day. Therefore, drinking bottles may only be filled with water, unless there is a documented medical reason.

The entire staff body at Vernon Park remain committed to ensuring our pupils, families and staff are kept as safe and healthy as possible. Our safeguarding responsibilities encompass all of our children and our staff work diligently to fulfil this role. Unfortunately, in the ever-modernising world we live in, digital and online safety remains a pressing concern. We urge all parents to be vigilant around social media, online gaming, viewing and communication and safety guidelines such as age restrictions. Children are increasingly vulnerable to inappropriate content and we cannot tackle this successfully without your support.

There has been much written in the press about the possible negative impact on families' finances from children bringing sweets, cakes etc into school to celebrate their birthdays. As a staff we have discussed this, but would value your opinions before any decision is made. A reminder that lollipops and bubble or chewing gum are not allowed due to the choking and injury hazards they present. We remain a nut free school.

We are aware of rising living costs for everybody and are concerned how this may negatively affect us all. I wanted to share with you where you can get support and advice around the cost of living increase. This is the main website - <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/topic/cost-of-living-support>

The following link is an interactive map of all the warm spaces set up around Stockport - https://www.stockport.gov.uk/warm-spaces?utm_source=partner&utm_medium=newsletter&utm_campaign=warmspaces

If you wish to speak to me about anything in this newsletter or anything else please telephone to make an appointment, telephone or face to face, or come and speak with me at the school gates.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Claire E Lee
Head Teacher



CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES 2022

Christmas Post & 2023 Calendars

Your child is making a calendar in class, which will be laminated. This calendar will be available for you to buy at a cost of £2.00. All money raised will go to the school fund. **Please make payment via our 'schoolmoney' system if you would like to purchase your child's calendar.**

As we recognise that children enjoy the process of giving and receiving Christmas cards, we will be providing a Christmas post box in the school hall from 1st December 2022.

We ask that both the name of the child and the class name be written clearly on the envelope so they can be delivered appropriately.

01/12/2022 Christmas Market 3.30pm - 5.30pm

06/12/2022 St George's Carol Festival 7.30pm

12/12/2022 Early Years Christmas Production 9.30am (Parent refreshments 9.00am)

13/12/2022 Early Years Christmas Production 9.30am (Parent refreshments 9.00am)

14/12/2022 KS1 Christmas Production 9.30am (Parent refreshments 9.00am)

15/12/2022 KS1 Christmas Production 9.30am (Parent refreshments 9.00am)

Tickets will be on sale shortly for the Christmas Productions - more details to follow

16/12/2022 Christmas Jumper Day / Christmas Dinner Day / Christmas Crafts 1.45pm-3.10pm (more details to follow)

19/12/2022 Forest School Christmas Trail

20/12/2022 Forest School Christmas Trail

20/12/2022 Christmas Raffle to be drawn at 3.15pm in KS2 playground (weather permitting)

21/12/2022 Year 3 - Year 6 Christmas Carol Service at St Mary's Church 9.30am (more details to follow)

21/12/2022 Year 1 - Year 6 Mother Goose Pantomime Production

22/12/2022 Whole school Christmas Party Day

22/12/2022 School closes for Christmas (no After School Club today)