

23rd November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Vernon Park celebrated one of our School Values, kindness, last week as part of national Anti-Bullying Week: on Wednesday, we had our Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) Super Learning Day and it was a pleasure and source of pride for all staff to see so many of our pupils embody both our School Values and British Values. We encourage the whole Vernon Park family to live by our values, aiming high, all of the time, in everything that we do. If we were all able to demonstrate kindness all of the time - understandably a big ask - bullying in any form would be totally eradicated and our pupils would be happier, safer and more able to focus on their work in school. We do not know the impact one unkind word or action can have, so we encourage the children to be kind all of the time. Please discuss this further with your children and encourage them to follow our School Values in their daily lives.

All the children enjoyed the PSHE Super Learning Day on Wellbeing Wednesday (as named by our EYFS department). Mental health and wellbeing are always at the forefront of our minds, as so many children and families are finding elements of life extremely challenging.

With that in mind we wanted to offer further support and are planning to extend our 'Drop-ins' from 5th December. The staff listed below will be able to meet with you most weeks from 8:30am:

Monday - Mrs Lee (Head Teacher)
Tuesday - Mrs Bommer (Pastoral Manager)
Wednesday - Mrs Mickle (Assistant Head Teacher and Inclusion Manager)
Thursday - Miss Green (Deputy Head Teacher)

If our 'Drop-in' times are not suitable for your schedule, please telephone to make an appointment with the member of staff you wish to speak to. Our School Nurse, Liz Donegan and our School Age Plus Worker, Sarah Bieniasz also hold regular 'Drop-ins'. Please check the calendar on the school website for the dates.

This May Help: *Advice for Supporting your Child's Mental Health* is a website with lots of information which you may also find useful. Just Google [thismayhelp.me](https://www.thismayhelp.me).

Unfortunately, we have been alerted to a stranger approaching a child in the Bredbury area. Please continue to be vigilant and report any suspicious activity to the police and let school know. Below is a reminder of the conversations we have in school which you may wish to reiterate at home.

Protecting younger children:

Statistics show that crime against young children by strangers is rare. Even so, these seven tips can help protect your child:

- Tell your child to avoid talking to people they don't know, unless you are with them to say it is ok.

- Make sure your child knows never to walk away with people they don't know or don't know well.
- Make sure your child understands that they should always tell you, if someone they don't know approaches them, and never to keep this secret.
- If your child is travelling alone, tell them to sit near other families on the train or bus.
- If your child gets lost, they should ask for help from a police officer, another grown-up with children, or someone working at a nearby shop.
- Encourage your child / children to learn their address and telephone number by heart (as soon as they can).

Finally, Miss Barton, one of our Reception Teachers, Miss Whyatt, one of our Reception Teaching Assistants and Mrs Lamond, one of our Clerical Assistants, will be leaving us at the end of term. I am sure you will want to join me in thanking them for their commitment and support for the children, families and staff of Vernon Park and wish them well on their next adventures.

Miss Hannah will be joining us in January to teach Reception, and Mrs Yates, Teaching Assistant, has joined the Reception Team this week.

Sadly, I have had another complaint from our local neighbours, the residents of Peak Street and Bateson Street. May I remind you that Park and Stride permits are still available, which may help to ease the congestion around our school at drop off and pick up time. Please continue to be considerate to our community at all times and ensure noise before and after school is kept to a minimum.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Your sincerely

Claire E Lee
Head Teacher