

12th September 2024

Dear Vernon Park Families,

Welcome back and a very warm welcome to the new pupils and families joining our school community this academic year.

I very much hope that you have all had a lovely summer and that you and your children are looking forward to the new school year ahead.

The school has been an extremely busy place during the summer holiday with many contractors continuing the planned renovation work to install new electrics, water system, boilers, fire alarm, lockdown alarm, ceilings and an electronic entry system on all the external doors. Work will continue during the weekends throughout October and over the half term holiday. This update should ensure our 1909 building is school-ready for many years to come!

Safeguarding and wellbeing of our community

As you are aware, safeguarding your children and our whole school community is our most important role. Please speak with us if you have any concerns about a child or adult; we are here to help and to keep everyone safe.

For the safety and well-being of our school community - particularly those with asthma - please do not smoke or vape near the school gates and switch car engines off if stationary. If your child has asthma and has had to be administered additional inhaler puffs at home, especially before the school day, please alert staff on the gate and/or message your class teacher directly on Class Dojo.

Continuing with the theme of safety, I would like to remind you that all earrings and watches must be removed for all PE lessons, including dance and swimming.

To safeguard members of school community with nut allergies, we are a nut-free school. Please do not include any nut products (including Nutella products) in packed lunches or for snacks.

If you deem your child mature enough to walk to and from school alone, please email your written permission to: admin@vernonpark.stockport.sch.uk. Many children in UKS2 begin to make this journey independently in preparation for High School, and as a school we will support this with the exception of some individual cases. Younger children will be decided on an individual basis. However, as a school, we recommend that pupils should be brought to and collected from school by an adult. If a person under the age of sixteen undertakes this role, you as the parent/carer are responsible for the safety and wellbeing of your child; however, school staff also have a duty of care towards all pupils and will only ever release a child at the end of the school day if they believe it is safe to do so. Older pupils in our school cannot be made responsible for collecting younger siblings without a parent or nominated person present.

If your child (typically Y6 children preparing for High School) require their mobile phone/electronic device before or after school, please complete a permission form before sending this into school. Your child will be required to switch the mobile phone/electronic device off and hand it to the member of staff who will be collecting the mobile phones/electronic devices in the KS2 playground. School does not accept responsibility for

mobile phones/electronic devices on school premises. Pupils must not use their mobile phones on the school site, with the exception of listed special events such as the Y6 leavers' BBQ when they will be granted permission.

As you will be aware there is very little car parking space on the roads around our school. Please do not park on the double yellow lines or in front of the pencil crossing point, as this may put our children in danger. I continue to receive complaints from local residents about car parking around school (Alpine Street, Newbridge Lane and Bateson Street in particular) at drop off and pick-up times; please be considerate of and respect our neighbours. GMP and the LA Traffic Department were very supportive last academic year and are continuing to support us this year to ensure everyone gets to school and goes home from school safely. Please make use of Park and Stride Scheme available to all. Contact the school office for a permit, which will entitle you to free parking at drop off and pickup times at Newbridge Lane car park.

There are still financial challenges for us all and school remains committed to Poverty Proofing, ensuring an equity of experience is available for all. Please contact school via the admin@vernonpark.stockport.sch.uk if you require a Food Bank Voucher to support your family or speak to Miss Brough, our Pastoral Manager. Our school uniform shop continues to thrive. We have received many, many donations, thank you. If you require uniform, before buying new, please contact Miss Brough to see if we have what you need in school. As well as being financially responsible, this is enormously beneficial for our environment and helps us all to give something back.

Uniform

May I take this opportunity to remind you that we have a uniform and PE kit policy in school which can be found on our school website (and is supported by our second-hand uniform shop). Jewellery should not be worn in school with the exception of watches (without the capacity for taking photos or making calls) and earrings (small studs only, which must be removed for PE). PE kits should not have obvious logos and football shirts are not permitted. An enormous thank you to Stockport County FC, who have donated a huge number of PE kits, which will be distributed shortly.

Staffing

Sadly for us, Mrs Barton will be retiring on the 10th October. Mrs Barton has worked as a TA at Vernon Park for over eleven years and has been hugely supportive to children and staff. I am sure you will join me in thanking her for her enormous contribution and the difference that she has made to so many children: we are wishing her a long and happy retirement.

Mr Wakefield (BC/ASC) Will be leaving us to pursue his cricketing coaching career in Australia on the 27th September. We wish him well in this exciting new chapter.

We have, however, welcomed Miss Bohuslaw (HLTA) and Mrs Armstrong (HLTA) who has come back to our staff team.

Attendance at School

As you may be aware the laws around school attendance changed in August. Stockport LA has produced a leaflet explaining the importance of good attendance and punctuality as well as what may happen if your child is absent from school, the increase in fines and the possibility of prosecution. Please look out for the leaflet on your emails and Dojo.

Changes to homework and reading

As part of our commitment to lowering costs and protecting our environment, and after consultation with parent representative, we are moving forward as a paperless school for homework. Reading expectations remain a high priority - please read at least 5 times a week with your child at home - reporting this via Seesaw (information on how to do this can be found on both Seesaw and Class Dojo) so reading Dojos can be awarded in school. Homework tasks for Y1-Y6 are posted weekly on Spelling Shed and TTRockstars. Please support your child to complete these. Any additional home learning tasks will be individually explained (for example Y6 SATS booster work in the Spring and Summer term).

Home Learning Challenge

To further enhance our broad and balanced curriculum we have introduced Home Learning Challenges for all phases. These are available on the school website and will be posted on Class Dojo. Paper copies of this are also being sent home in book bags for you to display at home.

Parent Governors

Running our school is a community effort - we believe in collaboration and sharing best practise to ensure we are all the best that we can be. Our governors work hard to ensure every child has a high standard of education and a positive life experience during their time at our school. This is a crucial role in our school community and we would like to take this opportunity to invite more parents to apply for this responsibility. If you feel that you are passionate about children's safety and success and you can offer your time to further improve our school then please look out for the flyer from the governors advertising the roles we have available.

Team Around the School

We have a team of professionals who support our school community: a School Nurse; an Education Welfare Officer; a Linked Social Worker; and a Family Support Worker. Please do contact myself or Miss Brough if you feel we, or any of the team, can be of any help.

As always, if you have any concerns or queries please do not hesitate to contact me in person, via email or by telephone. Your child's class teacher may be contacted in person at the end of the school day or via Class Dojo (please do not expect a response from teachers during the school day when they are teaching or when the school is closed). For all urgent enquiries that require an immediate response please telephone school or come in.

Yours sincerely

Claire E Lee
Head Teacher

Please see details of upcoming events (subject to change):

Tuesday 24th September

UKS2 parents information afternoon: 2.30pm - 3.25pm

Wednesday 25th September

Open morning for new families: 9.30am

Year 5 Trafford Watersports Centre Trips:

Monday 9th September

Monday 16th September

Monday 23rd September

Monday 30th September

Thursday 26th September

Macmillan Cake & Coffee: 3.25pm - 4.15pm

Tuesday 1st October

LKS2 parent information afternoon: 2.30pm

Tuesday 15th October

KS1 parent information afternoon: 2.30pm

Friday 18th October

Open morning for new families: 9.30am

Toast by School Council (20p a slice)

Harvest Service St Mary's: 2.30pm

Wednesday 30th October

Halloween Disco EYFS and KS1: 3.25pm - 4.25pm

Halloween Disco KS2: 4.35pm - 5.50pm

Friday 1st November

Individual photographs

Wednesday 13th November

Miss Green and Mrs Mickle family assembly: 3pm

Friday 15th November

Nasal flu vaccinations (Rec - Y6)

Tuesday 19th November & Thursday 21st November

Parent's Evening Year 1 - 6 only: 3.30pm - 6pm

Thursday 21st November

Open afternoon for new parents: 4pm

Friday 22nd November

Non-Uniform day in return for bottles for the Christmas Market

Friday 29th November

Non-Uniform day in return for chocolate for the Christmas Market

Monday 2nd December

Christmas Market: 3.30pm - 5.30pm

Tuesday 3rd December

St George's Carol Concert TBC

Wednesday 4th - Friday 6th December

Year 6 Residential: Mount Cook

Wednesday 4th December

Open morning for new families: 11am

Monday 9th December

Christmas Crafts - whole school: 2.15pm - 3.15pm

Tuesday 10th December and Wednesday 11th December

KS1 performance: 9.30am

Thursday 12th December and Friday 13th December

EY performance: 9.30am

Friday 13th December

Toast by School Council (20p a slice)

Friday 13th December

Carol Service St Mary's: 2.30pm

Tuesday 17th December

Christmas Dinner

Wednesday 18th December

Christmas Party Day

Thursday 19th December

Christmas Jumper Day

Thursday 19th December

Dick Whittington Pantomime (Yr1-6): 12.30pm - 3pm