

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been a true delight to welcome back Years One to Six children and families to Vernon Park. To see the classrooms full again and hear your children about school, engaging with their peers in classrooms and playing with their friends outside, is absolutely wonderful.

Excitement is also building in our Early Years Department as the Reception and Nursery children from the four classes have visited this week in preparation for their first day on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September. Smart new uniforms, picnic lunches and lots of new children and grown-ups to play with has put smiles on all the faces of the new and returning children.

All the children have been amazing, a credit to you all. They have been quick to rekindle friendships, quick to learn the new systems and quick to become engaged in learning back in the classrooms with their peers and the staff.

The staggered times across the school are working well. Coming into school is quite slick and home time is getting a little quicker every day. Hopefully, by the end of next week we will be able to release both year groups simultaneously at their phase group time (1&2, 5&6, 3&4).

Happily, our school kitchen has reopened. We have begun the year with a packed lunch for pupils which includes a cold sandwich. We are already reviewing this and once we have our Nursery and Reception children settled next week, we hope to offer a hot sandwich. We plan to then reinstate the hot meal options as quickly as possible and will keep you updated with all the information relating to this as and when it becomes available. Please make use of the Universal Free School Meals for Reception, Year One and Year Two children. If you think you are entitled to Benefit Related Free School Meals please apply on line at <https://www.stockport.gov.uk/free-school-meals> If, as many schools have already been forced to do, we have to close a 'bubble' or even the whole school, for a period of time due to a positive case of Covid 19, Benefit Related Free School Meal hampers will be available to those children who are eligible and already registered.

I am sure you will want to join me in thanking all the staff of the school who have risen to the challenges presented by Covid 19 and the changes needed to ensure that we could fully reopen as safely as possible.

I would also like to express my thanks to you, our parents and carers, for your patience, understanding and kind words. We are in uncharted waters; these very strange times mean we are constantly reviewing our systems and altering them, so that the whole school community is as safe as possible.

Even though we are unable to welcome you onto the premises at the moment, we still want to keep up the excellent communication links that we have established between home and school. Texts and emails are our main form of communication to the whole community. The 'Letters' section on the school website, along with the calendar on the front page, will be invaluable to you as they are regularly updated with essential information. The Class Dojo app and our school Twitter pages, accessed via the app or the school website, will let you see what's happening in school and give you reminders of events that may be coming up. Teachers are generally not able to speak with you at the gate, but can be messaged directly through Class Dojo. Please be aware that staff are not expected to message you directly outside of the working day (8:00am to 4:30pm) and that they will be with the children between 8:45am and 3:25pm so replies may be slightly delayed. As always, you can email me at [headteacher@vernonpark.stockport.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@vernonpark.stockport.sch.uk) or telephone the school office for an immediate

conversation if I am at my desk, or a scheduled call back telephone appointment with myself or a member of staff.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Claire E Lee  
Head Teacher