

15th October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for supporting us to bring your children back to school safely. Six weeks on and your patience and understanding of the dramatically different Vernon Park we are all now part of has helped your children to accept the changes to our school and embrace learning with their peers again.

Covid Safety

In order to keep the Vernon Park school community as safe as possible, we are limiting the items brought in from home. Therefore, at this present time, we are unable to share sweets, cakes or other treats for birthdays. We will still celebrate pupils' birthdays as part of our Friday Celebration Assembly, which is currently a virtual assembly conducted online. Similarly, if your child would like to share other good news and achievements from outside school, we will include this in our virtual assembly.

Please talk to your children about the local lockdown we are living through. In school, we have discussed why we should not be mixing with other families at home or going out to places with friends. We have explained why for most families at present, sleepovers and play dates are a thing of the past and not something we can arrange at the moment. Please continue to support us in keeping our school community safe by adhering to local and national guidance.

School Photographs

Individual school photographs will now take place on Wednesday 25th November 2020. If you order online, Tempest, the photography company have guaranteed delivery will be before Christmas.

Home Learning and Communication

The staff and governors are disappointed that we cannot maintain our 'physical open door policy', but we are embracing a virtual 'open door' with communication via the Class Dojo app, email & telephone. If you are not signed up to your child's classroom on Dojo, please let us know so login invitations can be resent. We hope you have been able to share your children's Autumn 2020 learning journey through our Twitter Feeds, Seesaw & Dojo posts - they really have done some fantastic work!

For those children currently self-isolating, learning grids continue to be available on Dojo.

Safeguarding

If you are posting on Twitter from home, please ensure all children are dressed appropriately i.e. not in their underwear.

School Vacancies

Our Midday Assistants play a vital role in ensuring that Vernon Park operates safely and smoothly, especially during the staggered lunch times we are currently operating. They are instrumental in ensuring that the children can socialise and play safely together. If this is a job opportunity that interests you, we will shortly be advertising on the Stockport Council website for more staff to join our team as we move towards the return of hot meals for your children.

Family Support

Family finances are a huge worry for many. Currently, we have not had any indication that there will be any additional government funding to support families in feeding children during half term. We are however able to offer Food Bank Vouchers to families. If this is something that you would find beneficial please email Mrs Bommer on ann.bommer@vernonpark.stockport.sch.uk. Please note Mrs Bommer's working days are Monday to Wednesday. Alternatively, you can email admin@vernonpark.stockport.sch.uk. St Mary's in the

Market Place have also offered to support families again. They have a fund which we can apply to if you require any food or general supplies. Bags of nappies, toiletries, fresh food and store cupboard items can all be obtained for you. Please email the addresses above or telephone if we can help.

Halloween

Unfortunately, we will not be able to have our usual Halloween disco. Instead we would like to invite all the children to come into school on Tuesday 3rd November dressed in their own clothes or Halloween Costumes. There will be no charge for this event. Please do not feel you need to purchase a costume specially, own clothes will be more than welcome too!

Christmas

We are currently planning how your children's Vernon Park Christmas can be as magical as always! Obviously, we will have to alter the way we celebrate and it is unlikely that we will be able to welcome parents/carers into school. However, for the children, the craft making, parties, pantomime, Christmas gifts etc. will go ahead! As mentioned earlier, the financial pressures families are facing are huge, so we hope to operate our celebrations this year at no cost to yourselves.

If Christmas morning gifts for your children will be a challenge this year, please contact us through the pre-mentioned email addresses. Through a link with Stockport LA and Mersey Way Shopping Centre, funds can be made available for ten families to have gifts that your children have requested provided for the 'Big Day'. Please telephone or email as soon as possible so that your children's requirements can be sourced in good time.

Housekeeping

Please help your children to bring all their belongings home by clearly naming all their items, including shoes and water bottles. At present, we cannot send children to look through lost property so are relying on items being named to be able to return them to their rightful owners.

As we cannot meet face-to-face in school, Parents Evening will be different this year and will take place after the Half Term. Instead, we will be offering virtual online or telephone meetings. These will be the usual 10 minute appointments offered after school on two evenings and will need to be booked in advance. Further information on how to book these will be shared closer to the time.

As always if there is anything further that we can help with please do contact me.

Take care and stay safe.

Claire E Lee
Head Teacher