



VERNON PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Tuesday 1st September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to welcome you all back to the start of our new academic year. I am delighted that we are able to reopen for all children. We want to make this a positive experience for everyone and will be doing everything we can to ensure a safe, smooth and happy transition back to school. I am writing to reiterate the arrangements for tomorrow's return, as well as answer some questions that I have received. I would also like to direct you to the attached leaflet provided by the Government. More information on the Government's 'Back to School' plan can be found at www.gov.uk/backtoschool.

Wellbeing and Curriculum:

As you know, we will be ensuring that the children's emotional wellbeing is at the heart of our school plans this term. We will be continuing to amend and adapt the curriculum as necessary, so that children can revisit and consolidate subject knowledge, skills and concepts. Teachers will be observing their classes closely during the first few weeks of the term and 'catch-up' plans will be drawn up accordingly. We have also adopted a theme for our PSHE curriculum this term that focuses on emotional wellbeing and resilience: 'After every storm comes a rainbow.'

Bubble Arrangements:

The children will be in a class pod (group) with their teacher in their classroom for the majority of the school day. For times when they are outdoors, such as play and lunch breaks and for drop-off and collection, they will be within their 'bubble':

- **Bubble 1: Reception**
- **Bubble 2: Years 1 and 2**
- **Bubble 3: Year 3 and 4**
- **Bubble 4: Year 5 and 6**

In line with Government guidelines, we are staggering the school day (beginning tomorrow) to encourage social distancing. Here is a reminder of the timings (Reception children have their own bespoke induction timetable):

- **Bubble 2 (Years 1 & 2): 8.45am – 2.50pm**
- **Bubble 3 (Year 3 & 4): 8.55am – 3.00pm**
- **Bubble 4 (Year 5 & 6): 9.05am – 3.10pm**

I appreciate that many of you have children who will be in different bubbles, which is why we have tried to keep the drop-off and collection times as close together as possible. We will reassess the timings once we have seen it in action and we can make any changes that we need. Years 1 to 6 (Bubbles 2, 3 and 4) will use the main playground for drop-off and pick up. Parents and carers will be coming onto the school grounds for this purpose only. We cannot and must not allow groups of parents to be standing together in the playground which is why we have staggered the start and end times to the day for different bubbles. These timings need to be adhered to in order to ensure bubbles do not mix. We ask that when you come to drop off or collect your



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child, only one adult comes and you maintain social distancing. Staff will be waiting to welcome the children in and will bring the children out at the end of the day. If your Year 6 child is walking to or from school on their own, please ensure that they are aware of the rules of social distancing when waiting on the playground. When you have dropped off your child, please leave the playground promptly to enable the next bubble to begin arriving.

Visitors and Meetings

We also ask that parents and carers don't come into the school to pass on messages or information to the teachers as we cannot admit any external visitors at the moment. If you need to pass on any information to staff, please visit/telephone the school office or email admin@vernonprimary.cheshire.sch.uk and someone will always get back to you. Unfortunately, the guidance also means that we cannot at the moment have any volunteers in school. I look forward to when this will be able to resume at some point in the future as your support in school is always gratefully received. This also unfortunately means that face-to-face meetings cannot yet take place. These will have to take place over the telephone or via email.

Allergies and snacks:

I would like remind you that we are now a **nut-free school**. One of the children joining us in September has a severe allergy as well as a member of staff. Please do not send your child to school with any nuts or nut products. Thank you for your support with this. In line with current hygiene advice, we will not be serving toast or juice at snack time. This has been the case throughout lockdown and must continue. Children are encouraged to bring to school a healthy snack and we also have free fruit in Key Stage One within each class pod.

Equipment and Uniform

All the children will be provided with their own school equipment (pencil, rubber etc). This will be named and kept in their classroom at all times. Unfortunately, in line with the guidance we have been issued, children are only permitted to bring in essential items from home, such as a named water bottle, their PE kit, lunch box, reading books/records and sun cream (if needed). These items may be brought in a bag or rucksack which will be kept on their peg in the classroom. Children should be wearing school uniform.

Lunches

Lunch will be eaten in each pod's classroom. This will be either a hot meal provided by Mrs Lloyd, our school cook and delivered to the classroom, or a packed lunch brought from home. Reception will be eating their lunch in the school hall. On Friday we will be sending a spider survey for you to pre order meals for your child for the week to be delivered to the classroom. Please complete this by 09:30 on Monday so we can send to the kitchen. For KS2 children please make your payments in advance in the usual way. If your circumstances have changed and you feel you may be eligible for income based free school meals please refer to the attached website https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/schools/free_school_meals.aspx

Risk Assessment

Safety continues to be at the forefront of our minds. Our up-to-date risk assessment can be found on our school website: <http://www.vernonprimaryschool.com/page/school-policies/44178>.

Cleaning and Hygiene

Regular cleaning will be taking place throughout the school day, following guidelines issued to us. This will include regular touch-points, toilets, tables, chairs and equipment. Resources and soft furnishings in each classroom will be minimised in line with government guidance. There will be regular hand-washing built into the school day which will become part of the children's routine. The school has had a deep clean over the Summer holidays and is ready for all children and staff to return safely.

Face Coverings



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Face coverings are currently not required for drop-off and pick-up times, as this will all take place outdoors and we are expecting parents to socially distance, in line with Government advice. There is no requirement for staff to wear face coverings in Primary Schools. However, I have reassured staff that they may do so if they wish at any point in the school day.

Taking temperatures/Symptoms

It is not recommended for Primary Schools to take children's temperatures on arrival. We do have a thermometer in school should we suspect a child has a temperature and can use this if necessary. We are asking you to be vigilant and **please keep your child at home if they have a new and persistent cough or a high temperature, or a loss of or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell.** If your child has any of these symptoms, please seek medical advice.

Drop box

To minimise external visitors to school, a "drop box" will be available in the school foyer for any items that need to be dropped off throughout the school day such as lunchboxes, glasses, water bottles etc. These items should be named and we will check it regularly and deliver items to the children.

Additional Opportunities

As you know from my letter in July, some of the additional provision that we usually offer will not be able to take place initially, such as whole-school assemblies, discos, extra-curricular clubs, visits and performances. However, we are incredibly fortunate to have some wonderful specialist teachers on-site, such as Mr Hunter (sports coach) and Mr Richardson (music teacher), who will be delivering sessions across the school. We also have some of our peripatetic music teachers, who are able to continue their lessons as they have a set of guidelines to follow to ensure children's safety. We will also be able to have our weekly praise assembly within bubbles of children. Hopefully, as the situation improves, we will be able to resume many more of our usual extra-curricular activities.

Once again, your support as Parents and Carers has been invaluable. Thank you again for everything you have done throughout this time. I look forward to welcoming everyone back tomorrow, fully refreshed and recuperated for the new academic year.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs J Carvell
Headteacher



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