



# VERNON PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Friday 10th July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am pleased to let you know that we have now received a vast amount of information from the Government regarding September and I can now share with you our plans. I would like to thank you as always for your patience whilst we make arrangements for all children to return to school in the Autumn Term. We are all looking forward to getting back to the new normal and welcoming everyone back to Vernon!

The systems in school that we have established during the last few months have been running smoothly and safely and we are planning to continue and develop this format from September.

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

## **Emotional Wellbeing**

The emotional wellbeing of all children as they settle back into school, whether they have attended in the last few months or have been working at home, will be one of our key priorities, especially considering they will be returning to an adapted school environment. We want the children to enjoy their time back at school and as such, we will be tailoring the curriculum accordingly, including building in focused wellbeing sessions to ensure a smooth and happy transition.

## **The School Day**

In order to maintain social distancing on the playground at drop-off and pick-up times, each bubble will have a different start and finish time to the school day. We have not included Reception in the timings below for now, as they have their own very specific induction timetable for the first few weeks:

- 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 in September.



*Nobody else is quite like me'*



### **Drop off and Pick Up**

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 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.

We also ask that parents 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](mailto: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.

### **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 and sun cream (if needed). 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.

### **Risk Assessments**

We are in the process of updating and adapting our risk assessment of the whole school, in preparation for September. Safety continues to be at the forefront of our minds. We are awaiting a letter from the Government to send home to all parents and carers that explains the procedures, as set out by Public Health England, for if anyone displays symptoms of Coronavirus whilst in or out of school.

### **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 will also be having a deep clean over the Summer holidays.

### **Catch-up**

As you will have seen reported in the media, it has been promised that schools will receive support and funding to ensure pupils are working at their age-related expectations. We are awaiting further details of this. I can clarify that any additional sessions will not be taking place over the Summer holidays. Once the children have settled in after the holidays, teachers will begin assessing pupils and establishing if any catch-up is needed. We will then make plans for supporting those children.



*Nobody else is quite like me'*



### Additional Opportunities

Under the new guidelines for schools, some of the additional provision that we usually offer will not be able to take place initially, such as discos, extra-curricular clubs and visits. 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 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. Hopefully, as the situation improves, we will be able to resume many more of our usual extra-curricular activities.

We are looking forward to welcoming all of our wonderful children and staff back in September and we will endeavour to make their transition into school as smooth as possible. I hope that the information shared in this letter has provide some clarity around preparation for the full opening of the school. Your child's new teacher for September will be in touch before the end of term and you will also be able to see photos of our September staff on the website in the next couple of weeks.

This whole experience has brought many challenges for us as a school and I really appreciate your support and patience.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs J Carvell  
Headteacher



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