VPA News

VICTORIA
Primary Academy

Happy Friday!

Welcome back to school after the half term break—I hope you managed to find some fun in the Halloween and Bonfire celebrations the last few weeks have brought us? This half term, we are working hard to make the most of Christmas COVID-style and are going to do our utmost to ensure that the half term includes lots of fun celebrations with our children. Christmas in a primary school is definitely something we all look forward to every year, so please rest assured we fully intend to celebrate it in style, if not with all of our usual events happening in precisely the same way…. COVID will not spoil Christmas at Victoria!

During half term, we had our first positive COVID case within our school community resulting in a class closure, and since our return on Monday we have also had to send home our second class, with both 6RK and 5OM working from home for the required periods. In both instances, we were able to gather the necessary information and liaise promptly with Public Health England to put the necessary control measures in place. To press, the single case in 6RK has not led to any further positive cases and the class are due to return to school on Monday. Fingers crossed the same can be said for staff and pupils in 5OM and that they all return to school on Tuesday 17th November as planned, safe and well. Enormous thanks to all parents who have been able to get their child onto Google Classroom to continue their learning during this period of closure. We are aiming for 100% of children logged onto their Classroom from the day following the closure. Enormous thanks to Miss Kaye and Mr May for switching so brilliantly to this way of working, and to their classes for getting on board! 5OM—let's see how many 100% days you can clock up in the week ahead!

Mrs Bailey

Parent Consults

Next week, all parents of pupils with SEND should be enjoying a telephone conversation with their child's class teacher. The purpose of this conversation is to talk about the plans in place for your child during this half term, to explain what we are doing to help your child and to talk about how best we can work together to achieve our ambitions for your child.

During the week commencing the 16th, appointments are available for parents of all other pupils. We really want to talk to you about your child and again how we can work together to ensure your child catches up from the lost learning since March.

If you haven't already made a telephone appointment, please use your Arbor app to do so OR ring us to arrange an appointment. Thank you.

Attendance

This week's whole school attendance is

94%

FS1 84.04%	FS2 JR 91.75%	FS2 KH 96.52%	Y1 AB 93.45 %	Y1 JR 98.57%
Y2 HD 92.68 %	Y2 HG 92.73%	Y3 GL 91.67%	Y3 LP 96.96%	Y4 MC 95.19%
Y4 GG 94.03%	Y5 RM 91.89%	Y5 OM 91.7%	Y6 BC 93.82%	Y6 RK N/A%

Attendance Matters
…every school day counts!

School Photos

This week, you should have received the proof of your child's photo and details of how to place an order. Those children who are currently isolating will receive their proof via siblings, on their return or through the post in the coming week. The orders are made directly with the photograph company and there is a deadline for the final order to be placed. We are really pleased with the quality of the photos and hope you are too. Get ordering!

Fridays

I have written to you all today to outline our plans for the school week commencing next week. From Friday 13th November for the duration of this half term at least, I have taken the decision to close school to all pupils from 12.15pm (EYFS and KS1 Reception, Year 1 & 2) and 12.30pm (KS2 Years 3-6). I need all parents to collect their children at these times. To maintain social distancing in line with all other days, the window of time for collection allows collection 1 (EYFS/KS1) between 12.15pm and 12.30pm, and collection point 2 (KS2) between 12.30 and 12.45pm. I believe this is our surest way of maintaining full opening throughout this period of high rates of infection in the community and I appreciate your support with this. I have given a full explanation in the letter you should have received today. If you have any questions, comments or particular difficulties facilitating this change, please email me via info@vpaleeds.co.uk

On Friday 13th November, Victoria will be celebrating Children in Need. Throughout the week, children will complete 5 tasks set by Joe Wicks and Blue Peter. These 'Five to Thrive' tasks will focus on being active, being curious, giving, taking notice and connection with others. Of course, on Friday, we will be encouraging non uniform and embracing all things spotty!

Digital devices

We have spent a lot of money, this year, on Chromebooks in school so that children have access to much more technology in class, and also so that we have devices we can loan to pupils if they have to self-isolate and we need them to switch to virtual learning. In addition, we have also switched homework over to this platform, and we have also spent a lot of money on some high quality learning resources on-line. As the materials include lots of games - we know these are very popular with the children and we also know that children can and do spend hours playing the right kinds of games if we point them in that direction and make it easy and fun for them to do so! Please encourage your child to log in to their learning platforms at home to play and learn after the school day has ended.. Catching up with lost learning can be fun, and every hour invested in this is an hour towards their future success.

The Government promised us 100 free Chromebooks at Victoria… and then reduced their allocation to just 20, at the last minute. Sadly, this means that we are unable to allocate devices to pupils to keep at home all of the time, but we will be loaning out devices to any pupils who do not have one during any school closure or period of self-isolation. Please return any loaned devices as soon as they return to school, in order that they can be loaned to another pupil in need or returned to class stock.

Finally, if your child is telling you they can't yet log in to Google Classroom at home—please speak to your child's class teacher to get this resolved. We don't want to lose a minute of learning time this year, so let's do our best to switch between the real and virtual classroom overnight if and when the need arises.