



Victoria Park
Primary Academy

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Back to school. It was with anticipation and some anxiety that families and colleagues returned to school on the 5th of January. What would national and local guidance be, who would be in school and available to teach? Thankfully we've been able to maintain as 'normal' as service as possible.

Covid updates (and impact on attendance, staff cover and clubs) However, that's not to say that school hasn't experienced some disruption. Twenty staff and more than 30 children have been impacted by isolation or symptoms. The children may have coped with different or temporary faces across this past week, but I'd like to thank everyone for adapting and working together so well to maintain high standards of teaching and learning. Some aspects have been reduced, many of the clubs we'd hoped to start this week have been delayed, and we foresee additional cancellations across the term. Do please continue to check for updates on ParentMail for any changes.

Farm trip We were delighted that the scheduled Year 2 Trip to Ash End Farm went ahead, and grateful to the parent helpers who joined us. The children held and fed a menagerie of animals, climbed across hay and the soft play, (and then many tired faces dozed on the journey home...)

Rock Steady Music School New inductions are available to join the school band lessons that supplement our own school music provision. Please see the video, <https://www.rocksteadymusicschool.com/watch-video/>. For more information, please contact the company directly via their website.

Year 6 Author visit: The children were joined today by award winning writer and editor, [Corey Brotherson](#). He was able to share his story, as a local, West Bromwich resident of how he plotted and achieved his pathway into his exciting career. He was also on hand to offer support to the budding writers across the year group.

Upcoming trips and events : Years three and four have the Freshwater theatre group visiting them in school next week, whilst letters will go to families in Year five ahead of their trip to the Leicester Space Museum at the end of the month. As per our **Poverty Proofing commitment**, the cost of all trips this year will be capped at £5 and free to families who apply for Free School Meals. (For more information on applying for Free School Meals, please contact the office or log-in to your MySandwell space [here.](#))

VPA Poverty Proofing Commitment: In the Summer term over 100 VPA families (and all 600 children) shared their opinions and experiences of how school life is impacted by money, costs and general expectations. Mr Hull has used this information to draft a charter of actions and changes we can make to every school day to limit these impacts and make school fair and accessible for all. Before we publish, we would love to gain feedback from children and carers. If you would like to be involved in this consultation, please get in touch, either via the office or email to headteacher@victoriaparkacademy.org.uk.