



Victoria Park
Primary Academy

School newsletter published bi-weekly (#4) 22.10.21

Half-term! We're grateful for a relatively undisturbed return since September. We have seen significantly fewer confirmed Covid cases amongst children, but are still mindful of local and National rates. We will keep families updated with any required changes when we return.

Covid-catch up funding. The Department of Education has allocated all schools a pot of funding to spend on filling the gaps in missed education throughout the pandemic. Now that we have completed baseline assessments across the school we are able to best allocate this money. After half-term we will have two additional teachers delivering catch-up interventions and two further adults trained to support reading across the school. We will publish a detailed account of how this money is spent on our website in December.

National Schools Breakfast Programme. We're delighted to be partnering this project. From November **ALL** children in school will have access to cooked Bagels in class for breakfast. It's part of our commitment to ending child hunger in school and we hope to follow this by providing further healthy snacks throughout the day. The weekly Friday Freecycle event (8.15—8.50 in the dining room), has also been well attended, and we're grateful to the support and assistance of the parent volunteers who have made this happen. We'll also be restarting the Sandwell Healthy Tums workshops that we last run in 2019, providing parents an opportunity to complete a course in school alongside children, to improve cooking skills and make friends within our community.

Trip costs and school experiences . As part of the Poverty Proofing audit completed in July, we're committed to capping the cost of school trips. Where possible we will limit the price to **£5.00** regardless of actual cost. We're also moving to Parentmail consent and billing, so it's possible parents may have two forms to complete or submit online. Year four have enjoyed another of these trips this week as they travelled to the Theatre to watch a live performance of *Gangsta Granny*— one of the many experiences guaranteed as part of the [VPA commitment](#)



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Free school meal vouchers (Half-term): If your child is eligible for FSM then you will have a £15 voucher issued electronically via Wonde/Sandwell. If you have No Recourse to Public Funds (either because of visa or asylum status), and are in need of school vouchers, please contact the office to discuss. To check if you are eligible for Free School Meals, please access your Sandwell account and apply [here](#).

Academy Council opportunity: We welcome interest and applications from parents and carers to join our school Academy Council. The role and responsibility involves attending half-termly meetings (between 9am and 11am) and monitoring a specific area of school development. For more details, please contact the school office to arrange a conversation with the Headteacher, or the Chair of the Academy Council.

Upcoming calendar dates: We're pleased to welcome families back into school (as stated, whilst current health guidance allow) Please see the timings for our scheduled INSPIRE open afternoons and class assemblies:

5SB Inspire: 03.11.21 (1.45)	3TB Inspire: 04.11.21 (1.30)	1FG Inspire 17.11.21 (1.30)	4PA Assembly: 17.11.21 (9am)
5SU Inspire: 10.11.21 (1.45)	3JF Inspire: 10.11.21 (1.30)	1TG Inspire 24.11.21 (1.30)	4PM Assembly 24.11.21 (9am)
5RG Inspire 17.11.21 (1.45)	3SB Inspire 03.11.21 (1.30)	1SS Inspire 01.12.21 (1.30)	4OS Assembly 01.12.21 (9am)

Support for reading at home: All children will have reading books and reading records allocated to use at home. We will schedule a programme of workshops to support families to share phonics and reading strategies, in the meantime, Miss Pleaden, our Reading Leader has shared guidance on the class pages of our website [here](#).

With best wishes for the half-term break—Mr Reed