



Victoria Park
Primary Academy

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Current status: We are creeping closer to normality. Staff cover is still much higher than we'd like (over 20% absent some days this week) and we know the destabilising impact this can have. However, there are signs that this is slowing down, staff, and pupils, are now able to return (where safe to do so), within 5 days.

Although national guidance around face masks has changed today, our Trust Risk assessment will keep these in place for adults in school where appropriate, to minimise further absence.

Final Training day: Our last one for this year will be on **Friday 18th February**—the last day before half-term. Teachers will spend the time evaluating changes to the school curriculum and further developing the recently introduced [phonics programme](#). Look out for the new home reading books being sent home soon!

The chicks!: All three reception classes have had 30 small, yellow, fluffy guests this week. Eggs arrived in heated incubators on Tuesday and have been slowly hatching since (sometimes during Phonics lessons...) Children can follow their development on a livestream via Miss Butler's twitter account [@MissKJLB](#)

Equipment and games return to the playground: Another area to be covered during next month's training day will be refresher Play Leader courses so that adults and children out in the playground at lunch and break times have more equipment, more structured play, and more opportunities to develop the critical soft-skills around turn-taking, fairness and sharing.

CLEAR advisors monitoring classrooms: I had the pleasure of working with the CLEAR (Child Led Evaluation and Reporting) Advisors this afternoon as they plotted their routes around every classroom in the school, checking that their meticulous standards are up to scratch (and discussing just how precisely they will feedback their findings to the class teachers!) They then went and joined in with our **Changemakers** to set up six tables of food and clothes ready for tomorrow morning's **Freecycle event** (from 8.15am in the dining room).

E-safety week: As we approach Safer Internet Day on 8th February we will be sharing materials in school (and via ParentMail) to help keep children secure online. Most of our input though will happen in March, when every class in school will have a professional theatre workshop come and deliver real-life scenarios and work with children to role-play the safest options.

Upcoming trips and events : Thank you to the families of 5SW who enjoyed their class assembly this week. Next up it's the children and families in 5SU. But before that, all of year five will journey to Leicester to visit the [National Space Centre](#). Thank you to those parents who have registered to support the trip.