



Victoria Park
Primary Academy

School newsletter published bi-weekly (#10) 11.03.22

Spring greetings. Mornings and evenings are getting lighter, and whisper it, but the school day and experience feels like it is creeping back to normality. We are cherishing the things we are able to do together that have been prevented for so long.

Phonics Reading books and home readers: After a long delay (publishing and printing issues) we've finally got our full shipment of Rocket Phonics Reading books that we will share with children from next week.

All children in Reception and Year 1 will be allocated with a levelled reading book pitched to the sounds that they have been taught in school. These will be changed weekly—we massively encourage families to practice and share these books at home, reading together and repeating several times, asking questions about what they've read and looking for patterns within the words.

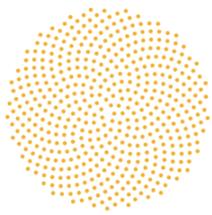
We will schedule workshops after Easter to support families in this. Reading guidance for families can also be found on the website [here](#). Picture books in Nursery and Year Two coded Phonics books will be published and circulated before the end of the year. All children in school should now have access to at least one home reading book a week and a home reading record for you to share—please raise this with your child, or their teacher if this is not the case.

Playground progress: We've received tenders to re-purpose part of the staff car park into a soft-floored climbing space for KS2, and to increase line markings and sports facilities in the existing playground for KS1. We're hopeful children will see the benefits of these before the end of the school year.

Staffing, equipment and nurture provision have already been amended since we returned back, and have received positive pupil voice reports from the children.

Lunchtime safety (no nut based products in packed lunches): One aspect of safety that we can all impact is ensuring no child is sent into school with nut based products in their packed lunches or snacks. Even though your child may not have an allergy, being close to another who does is an unnecessary risk.

Wraparound changes: We're in consultation with a local charity to takeover our breakfast and afterschool provision. Benefits to families would include: an earlier start time, flexible booking (allowing more families to access), and paid and funded holiday club provision—keeping school open throughout the year. We will send out more details to families as soon as confirmed.



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Poverty Proofing Charter: I recognise the mixed feedback and opinion received regarding dressing-up for World Book Day last week, however, was proud of the activities and access the children received to brilliant new books.

We've followed this up with a second school visit from a well known (and well loved) published author when [Pip Jones](#) spends a day with us.

The uniform decision was based on our commitment to the Poverty Proofing Charter which Mr Hull will circulate next week. This will mean some changes to traditions and practices that have previously been part of VPA culture for years, (our Year Six Prom will continue to be a activity day funfair for all where we provide the change of clothes after a successful trial run last year, and we will no longer accept or circulate cakes provided by parents on pupils birthdays), but for each of these decisions we've laid out our rationale, and in a month where petrol, gas and electricity prices, along with overall inflation continue to place pressures on all family incomes, this feels like precisely the right time to make sustained financial changes to the cost of the school day.

Trips and parent events this week: Thank you to the families who attended the IN-SPiRe session in Year Six this week, and to the teachers and children in Year Four, supporting their bus ride into the city centre to visit a place of Worship. All classes have also enjoyed and participated in their Safer ICT workshops this week—feedback from the trainer was so positive around how well the children listened to the information and asked respectful, appropriate questions—just one more reason for me to be proud of our wonderful children!

Look out for invitations to 1FG's assembly and several Year groups learning challenge outcomes before we break for Easter.

With best wishes, Mr Reed.