



**Victoria Park**  
Primary Academy

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**Parents Evening:** It was great to see so many families join us to share the children's progress, look at their learning and discuss steps forward this week. Along with the reintroduction of class INSPIRE sessions and assemblies, we love to see adults coming into school and participating alongside the children.

**Dogs Trust, Dentists and the Police:** These have been our visitors this week, with assemblies and workshops for all around keeping dogs safe and keeping safe around dogs. Nursery children brushed up on their dental hygiene with lessons and guidance from NHS dentists, whilst year five continued on their safeguarding journey alongside local officers.

**Barnado's Children Centre, Cape Hill :** Formerly run by Action for Children, the Children's Centre in Corbett Street has recently started to deliver successful Forest School sessions on our site for local families. This is a partnership that we're keen to redevelop. To learn more about what the service can support with, please click [here](#).

**Free school Meals/Christmas Holiday Food Vouchers:** At present, all families who apply and qualify for Free School Meals are also entitled to other free services, trips and **£15 food vouchers, per child, per week during the holidays from Sandwell.** Often families in Reception, Years 1 and 2 don't apply because their children already get a free lunch BUT this means you could be missing out on wider support. To learn more and [APPLY ONLINE](#), please see the [Sandwell Website](#) or ask for help at the school office.

### **Attendance matters:**

*"Children who miss school, miss out as adults." Secretary of State for Education*

*"Of pupils who miss between 10 per cent and 20 per cent of primary school, only 35 per cent manage to achieve five A\* to C GCSEs, including English and maths."*

This year has seen a huge spike in requests for Leave of absence during term time. Nearly 10% of families have asked for time off. As per Trust and Sandwell guidance we will always deny these requests and, in severe cases, support Sandwell in further actions.

We analyse attendance data each week to ensure we identify those at risk of falling below our target of 94% attendance, in these cases we will write out to families or arrange a meeting to discuss how we can support an improvement.

**Dates for the diary:** 4OS welcome you into to their class assembly on Wednesday morning, whilst the afternoon sees the shared INSPIRE session from 1GH.

With best wishes, Mr Reed