



Victoria Park
Primary Academy

School newsletter published bi-weekly (#29) 17.03.23

Spring showers (and storms): We've seen and endured all weathers so far in March (I've lost an umbrella on the morning gate to the wind!) I recognise the inconvenience caused by the snow closure last week, and will always endeavour to keep the school open, whilst also considering the safety of children and staff journeying to and from site.

Mr (and Mrs Cavill): I am pleased to share some happy news amongst our staff: Miss Baig in Year 5 will marry Mr Cavill in Year 6 this weekend. We wish them all the best for their second of two ceremonies, and a long and happy future together.

A fond farewell: The next staffing update is harder for me to celebrate, Mrs Kaur, who currently works in Nursery and has been with the school since (at least) 1988 will be retiring at Easter. I'd love to keep her here forever; she's taught generations of our children (and even some of our parents too!) However, I recognise that she has earned her rest. Enjoy your well deserved time with your family Mrs Kaur, and keep in touch with us all here.

New starters: A few new faces have joined us over the past few weeks, Miss Mulcahy has replaced Miss Butler as our specialist Music Teacher whilst she is on maternity leave. Miss Abdi has joined temporarily as part of the National Tutor Programme, to support with small group mentoring to help close learning gaps that might have occurred through-out the pandemic. We wish both teachers a happy and productive stay whilst they are with us.

This week's events and visits in school: A busy week has just passed: 1FG shared their learning through their class assembly, Reception hosted their Challenge Outcome Tea Parties and 6MC invited families into an INSPIRE session.

Events booked in before we break for Easter: Still to come are: Rock Steady Concerts (20/03), Year 4's trip into Birmingham City Centre and St Martin in the Bull Ring Church, 1TG's class assembly (22/03) 1GH's assembly (29/03) and the joint Year 4 INSPIRE session—baking Hot Cross Buns for all (also on 29/03).

Ramadan and fasting: In preparation for the start of Ramadan next week, please can any families of children in Year 5 or 6 write to school to confirm if and when their children are fasting. By sharing this information we can ensure appropriate health and safety observations and make the necessary space available at lunch time. Having spent two years teaching at an Islamic Faith School, I recognise the will of our children to want to practice fasting, and whilst ideally this would be at the weekend, and not everyday, we are committed to facilitating the wishes of individual families.



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Comic Relief: As per our Poverty Proofing Charter we won't be asking for donations in school, or for children to wear red, but we will be highlighting and discussing the cause throughout the day, as well as a whole school joke competition with performances and prizes shared during next week's celebration assemblies. If families do wish to contribute you can access directly at <https://donation.comicrelief.com/>

Summer term school clubs: Our Summer Term clubs have gone live on ParentMail this week (with a deadline of Sunday night). Our West Bromwich Albion coaches are offering KS1 spaces this term, whilst other clubs have opened up to KS2.

Holiday and Food Easter Club: Victoria Park Academy will be hosting 4Community Trust's HAF club on site during the Easter break. They will be in school for 8 days over the two weeks, with free spaces available for Free School Meals families and paid spaces for all others. Please see the Sandwell [link](#) here for more information.

Sparkling teeth in nursery: We've been working alongside the Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust in our Nursery classrooms to encourage independence and good practice when cleaning our teeth. Children have been allocated tooth brushes and worked in their family groups to develop their technique. Our linked nurse came to check up on our teeth and left beaming by the children's attitude to their oral health. Thanks to all the children and staff involved in the project.

Support for families: With the two week holiday soon to be upon us, it's helpful to have as many free or affordable options available to engage our children. For a list of ALL local events and opportunities, click [here](#) for the Sandwell Family Hub. Another site to be aware of if you are ever concerned about the welfare of a child, or want to explore further family support you can find local professional links [here](#). Finally the ongoing list of Sandwell Warm Spaces are listed [here](#)—there are 9 warm spaces open regularly throughout the day, in walking distance of school.

With best wishes, Mr Reed