



Victoria Park
Primary Academy

School Newsletter published bi-weekly (#42) 24.11.23

The Big Ambition Project: Next week we will be asking children to capture their views and opinions about their lives, their experiences in Sandwell, and in school so that they can feedback to Dame Rachel De Souza, the Children's Commissioner for England. I have attached a flier with this newsletter, but if you'd like to have your say, and feedback to Politicians and Policy Makers, then please do [here](#).

Visiting us this month: We have two scheduled opportunities to come in and see what we do in school coming up.

Firstly, we are delighted to offer an open afternoon to prospective Reception parents who will be applying for their child to join us in September 2024. Please bring your child to meet us and explore the classrooms. Come along to our Reception Open Day next Wednesday (29th) from 1:30pm. ***Remember - the deadline for applying to Sandwell for a reception place is the 15th of January 2024*** - if you have a child already in reception you will still need to apply, Sandwell will not automatically give you a place. (To apply online, please click [here](#).)

The second opportunity to join us is at our Volunteer Open Morning on Friday 8th December. We currently have 14 volunteers supporting across our school, and four members of staff who were previous volunteers. At our Open Morning you'll be able to learn about the opportunities available, share your skills, and experience life in a classroom. We're also hoping to work in Partnership with [Sandwell Adult Family Learning Service](#) to support their [Level 1 Preparing to Work in Schools course](#) which starts in February. To book a space at our Open Morning, please contact [Mrs Uppal](#) in the office.

Community Academy Councillor position: Do you know of any local stakeholders with the time and skills to contribute to our school's Academy Council? These needn't be parents or have links to school, but who have the knowledge and commitment to guide and support our school life through termly Council Meetings and monitoring activities. Please drop me a line at headteacher@victoriaparkacademy.org.uk to find out more.

Community Links - Early Help Officer, PC Begum: Thanks to Mrs Mahal for sharing her Community Links Newsletter this week. She has also spent time introducing our newly allocated Police Officer, PC Begum to school. PC Begum will be on hand to support children and families as required. Remember, if there are specific issues that you need help to address, please book in to meet Mrs Mahal or access the [Sandwell Early Help Provision](#).



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Tesco Grant award: Another thanks for all families across our community who were able to drop blue tokens into the relevant Tesco stores across the Summer - we came second in the poll and were awarded £1000 - this will go directly towards our exciting Spring [Playground project with OPAL](#). We'll shortly be writing out again with more details and to ask for some very specific equipment donations...

Faith visits: A commendation to Year three whose behaviour and curiosity was recognised and praised earlier this week on their trip to our local Hindu temple. Our visits to Places of Worship are a huge part of our RE curriculum here at VPA with all year groups accessing and understanding different faiths and cultures. Next month sees the turn of Year two to visit the wonderful Mosque, sat literally on our doorstep, before children in Year four take the short bus trip to the Bull Ring to visit a Church in the Spring.

Epic Assemblies - Take a bow 4PM, this week they shared an epic assembly showcasing learning and literature from across their Challenge Pack - Bolts and Bones. Next comes the turn of 4OS (Thursday 30 November) and then 4PA (Wednesday 6 December).

Additional performances for your calendar: Not to be outdone, all of Year two will come together for their Challenge Outcome 'The Great Fire of London' Production - Parents please join us from 1.45 on Monday 11th December. Reception families, your classes will share their Class Nativities throughout the day on Wednesday 13th December.

Vision and Values Ambassadors: And finally, two staff members and two pupil representatives joined partners across all ten of the Victoria Academies Trust Schools this week to help plan our new Visions and Values shared actions. You'll hear a lot more about our five key values of *Unity, Integrity, Courage, Curiosity and Excellence*. This will include a Trust-Wide Newsletter, updated Celebration Certificates, Values Stickers, child designed posters and books, and many more opportunities to work across our family of schools.

With best wishes, Mr Reed