



# Vernon Primary School

Newsletter - Autumn 2018



## Welcome

We are all looking forward to the variety of Christmas celebrations over the next few weeks. The children have been busy working incredibly hard to learn their lines and songs for their Christmas performances and are looking forward to sharing them with you. I will be missing all of the excitement this year due to a forthcoming operation and recovery period. Mrs Kiely and my team will be looking after the school in my absence. I wish you and your families a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I look forward to welcoming the children back in the New Year.

## Parliamentary Review

Further to the exciting news shared in our Welcome Back letter in



September, I would like to give you some more details about the Parliamentary Review. We were absolutely delighted to be invited to be part of the Government's annual publication.

Each year, The Parliamentary Review aims to showcase the best of business, journalism, education and politics, making the September release an eagerly anticipated exercise when it comes to demonstrating platforms of success and innovation across British industry. The Parliamentary Review has been an opportunity for the best and brightest business leaders, educators and healthcare professionals to speak directly to their peers and the political classes.

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Co-chairman of The Review, Lord Blunkett, has already commented on the wide range and informative articles appearing in this year's edition, stating that "The Parliamentary Review is a must for those who have the real story behind the scenes and a solid perspective for the future." Writing in The Review itself, the prime minister says that "British politics provides ample material for analysis in the pages of The Parliamentary Review."

Our involvement in this review involved writing and submitting an article which reflects the successful practice across our school; we analysed how high expectations, a personalised curriculum and outstanding teaching enables us to keep our children engaged and standards high.



This article has been included in the Parliamentary Review publication and has now been officially released. We are delighted to be part of this important review process for education and recognise this as a privilege to be able to share our recognised outstanding practice at Vernon across the country.

To read our article, please see the following link:

<http://www.theparliamentaryreview.co.uk/organisations/vernon-primary-school>

Mrs J Carvell

## Visit from Greek Hero

On Thursday October 11th, Year 5 pupils arrived at school dressed as Greek Gods and Goddesses and Greek heroes in order to welcome a very special visitor - Hermes - to share his knowledge about the myths and legends of Ancient Greece.

Hermes and his time-travelling assistant Tam explained the stories of the heroes and monsters



that the children have enjoyed reading during their English lessons. The children learnt about the battle equipment that the Spartan warriors had to use and the reasons why they were constructed in specific ways. The

children answered quiz questions to demonstrate their knowledge of the Ancient Greeks, including how the Olympic athletes were 'dressed' to run a marathon!

In the afternoon the children enthusiastically prepared their own Greek food. They thoroughly enjoyed making Tzatziki, vegetable kebabs, Greek salad and Pitta Meze as a feast fit for Zeus!

*"The food was absolutely delicious - apart from the olives!", Adam, Year 5.*

*"I really enjoyed modelling the Spartan helmet and understanding what it was like to be an Ancient Greek," Oliver, Year 5*

## Year Four

On Tuesday 13th November, Year 4 had a wonderful day at the Liverpool World Museum. We explored lots of the galleries including the dinosaurs, the aquarium and the bug house. We spent a lot of time in the Ancient Egypt gallery where we saw some real mummies! In the morning, we watched a theatre show all about mummification. Some children had to take on the role of an embalmer and had to pull the brains of a dead Egyptian prince out through his nose! All the children behaved beautifully and have learnt a lot about mummification which we will use in our work back at school.

## Magical Butterflies

In Year 1, the children received a very exciting message and clues that led them to a bug box that they could only open by saying a very special rhyme! Inside they found 5 caterpillars.

Over 4 weeks, Year 1 watched the amazing transformation of the caterpillars. Once they had eaten enough food to store energy, they climbed to the top of their home and dangled down, turning into a chrysalis. After much anticipation, the children came in to find a beautiful butterfly. They couldn't stop looking at the chrysalides, waiting for the rest to emerge.

### The day finally arrived!

The children witnessed the incredible moment when the caterpillars emerged as a beautiful butterfly. This process did not take long, so they were careful not to miss it. The children were amazed and so excited. They should be extremely proud of how well they looked after the caterpillars. We made sure they had lots of fruit so they wouldn't go hungry. When it was a sunny day, we released the butterflies near some flowers. **It was magical!**



## Photography Club

The Year 5 and 6 photography club members have been working hard this term on producing exciting images using a variety of different stimuli. During the club Mrs Harold has been teaching the children how to take photographs focusing on the different elements of photography techniques. The children are proud to display some of their more successful images in an exhibition at the Christmas fair. We hope you enjoy viewing our exciting display.

## KS2 Drama Workshops

We have recently established a link with the drama company, 'Northern Core Theatre' (NCT) a company running drama workshops for children, as well as educational workshops in schools. After a successful summer workshop in August at the Poynton Community Centre, NCT have recently launched their 'Actors Weekly Workshop' for Key Stage Two children. The workshop is already attended by a number of pupils from Vernon Primary School. In order to further enrich our children's love of drama, NCT came in to school on Thursday 4th October to offer a full day of free drama workshops to all pupils in Key Stage Two. The workshops gave children a taster of how drama can act as a tool for learning across all areas of the curriculum, a philosophy that fits with the school's creative ethos and our passion for teaching through drama. We are keen to maintain this relationship and hope to see more opportunities for working with NCT in the future.



*"The workshop was really fun and we played lots of games that taught us new drama skills. Our favourite game was 'corners' where we had to quietly tip-toe to different parts of the hall. It showed us how to make decisions in a different way." Maddy and Sophia, Year 5*

## Sportshall Success!

On 23<sup>rd</sup> November Years 3 & 4 had a fantastic morning out at Poynton High School for the sports hall athletics competition. All the children gave each other and their opposition great support and were a credit to themselves and their families. To top the morning off, the children came in 1<sup>st</sup> place out of 6 schools! Well done to all of the children for running, jumping and throwing their way to victory, it is a huge achievement. Thank you to all parents for accompanying the children to the High School and cheering them on.

## Emotional Wellbeing

Our Year 6 children participated in an innovative workshop on Monday 8th October, led by an independent Educational Psychologist, Hannah Gorham. The emotional well-being of the children at our school is incredibly important to us and we are always keen to equip our pupils with skills and strategies for positive learning. Hannah Gorham led an exciting and enriching session to explore areas that help children to do their best, as well as recognising and breaking down barriers that can sometimes stop people from achieving their potential in terms of learning. The



children looked at these areas in three stages throughout the workshop: Preparing for any new learning opportunity (such as an assessment) in a healthy and positive way; performing to the best of their ability; and analysing their achievements. The session was highly interactive and there was a focus on working together and helping each other. All the children and the Year 6 teachers involved thoroughly enjoyed the sessions and found the techniques and strategies extremely useful.

## Ahoy there!

October saw a 'Swashbuckling' week in Year 3. We have a 'Pirate Day', packed full of games, activities and some very special visitors. Captain Charles Vein and Moody surprised us in the hall and taught us to sword fight, create our own pirate shanties and many different facts about being aboard a pirate ship.

In the afternoon, we enjoyed a pirate feast and played some exciting pirate games outside.

During our English lessons this week, we are creating an information booklet all about our 'Pirate Day' experience.



saved all vegetables that had been taken hostage and returned them to safety! They then used their amazing creative skills to build a whole army of Tato heroes to help Supertato to save the day! Well done Year 2 another successful mission!



## Year 2 Superheroes



The Year 2 children have recently been engaging with some exciting drama through their English work. Please see details below:

OH NO! Evil Pea has escaped the freezer and the school's vegetables have been taken hostage! Supertato needed Year 2's help and they rose to the challenge with Super-style! The Year 2 heroes

## Engineering Club

We have been looking at different structures and what makes a building strong, safe and secure! Using balloons



the engineers put their new knowledge to the test to see who could build the tallest free-standing structure.

## Class Detectives

On Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November, in Reception Class, there was a break in at 'The Three Bears Cottage' on Fairytale Lane! Daddy Bear and Detective Brammar were called in to investigate along with all of the new detective trainees. They had to look for clues and solve the mystery of the stolen porridge! The detectives in training had to use magnifying glasses, fingerprint brushes and record their findings on clipboards. At the end of a busy day the trainees decided that Goldilocks was to blame! Great work detectives!



## Gingerbread Man

The Reception Children have been reading 'The Gingerbread Man' as part of our 'Once Upon a Time' topic. We had a very exciting morning engaging in a variety of activities linked to the 'Gingerbread Man'. The children learnt to programme Beebots, make headbands of the

characters, reenact the story using prompts, decorate biscuits and build bridges for the Gingerbread Man to escape. Mrs Carvell popped in to see us all and she was delighted to spend time with our newest pupils.



## School Notices

### Parking

Parking in the Clumber and Bulkeley Road area is at a premium during the peak school drop-off and pick-up times. Please park safely and responsibly. Please [avoid parking on double yellow lines](#), blocking the residents' driveways or causing obstructions. Thank you.



### Absence

Please report your child as absent [before 9.30am](#) on the morning of the first day of absence. Please phone the main school number 01625 872556 selecting opt 1 and leave a message stating [your name](#), your [child's name/class](#) and the [reason](#) for absence. There is no need to call again unless the reason for the absence changes or runs into another school week. This ensures your child receives the appropriate (authorised) mark in the registers.

If your child is to attend an early morning medical appointment, or is awaiting triage, they can be marked out appropriately and they do not need to attend school first.

Where possible we would be grateful if all other routine medical, dental and optical appointments can be booked [outside of school time](#) to minimise disruption to learning.

### Medication

We are only able to administer medication prescribed by a Doctor. If your child requires antibiotics [four times per day](#), and as long as they are well enough to be in school, we can administer [one dose](#) at lunchtime. Please see the Office Admin Team for the appropriate form and further instructions.

### Lunch money

Reminder that lunch money for all KS2 children must be paid for [online and in advance](#). If lunch money goes more than 2 weeks into arrears then we ask you to provide a packed lunch for your child until the lunch money is paid.

## Staff News

We are pleased to welcome Mrs Ensor to the Year 5 teaching staff this half term. Mrs Evans has stepped up to Acting Assistant Headteacher during Miss Walker's maternity leave, and Mrs Carvell will return to us in the New Year after an operation. There is also baby news from Mrs Mowat, Miss Wrigley and Miss Walker who have had between them two girls and a boy! Congratulations to you all!

## Late Marks

Please ensure your child arrives at school on time. The school doors open at 8:45am and the school day begins at 8.50am with morning registration. Late arrivals are disruptive to the morning lesson as children miss an important part of their school day.

## Dogs

Just a reminder we are a 'no dogs' site, excluding guide dogs. It has been noted that some dogs have been tied to the railings which potentially could cause distress to our children and families, including incidents of dog mess.

## Lost Property

This is located in the Food Tech room off the main school hall and can be accessed after school at 3.10pm until 3.30pm week days in term time only. Please remember to label **all items** of clothing and footwear clearly with your **child's name and class**, including all the extra cold weather items such as hats, scarves and gloves.

## Home-time Messages

Please ensure your child's teacher is aware **in advance** of any changes to your child's collection arrangements. Please see them on the door or send a note in with your child. We appreciate that, in certain circumstances, a change in arrangements can occur last minute, in which case the office team are more than happy to take a message over the phone.



## Website

Please take a few moments to explore the new Vernon Primary School website to find out all about our hallmark Vernon Vibrancy. Thanks to our website provider, School Spider, we have radically changed the way we communicate as a school. If you have not yet used your Parent login, or require any support to get up and running with the new system, please contact the Admin team in the school office. We highly recommend downloading the **School Spider App** to your smart phone or tablet to receive our newsfeeds and push notifications from school. Please note all communications from now on will be via Spider including the next parents' evening in February.



## School Payments

We ask for your support by registering to make payments to school for lunch money, school visits, residential and workshops online through the Cheshire East school ePayments facility which is free to use. Follow the link on our website to the Cheshire East School e-payments section or type this into your web browser:-

<https://online.cheshireeast.gov.uk/SchoolShop/ParentRegister.aspx>

Again, if you have not registered to use this system or you need any help or support in this area please do not hesitate to contact the Admin team.

Existing users please maintain your account by making sure your child is registered in the **correct Year group** and that any **siblings** are registered in their **own right** and in the correct Year group.

## Data Collection 2018

Thank you for your co-operation with our recent data collection which was done electronically for the first time via SIMS Parent. Although an annual exercise, please use this in future to keep the school office informed of any changes to your contact details. Please note that this can only be used to update **Parent details**. It is therefore vital you let us know if any changes occur to the contact details of any other family members/friends who are emergency contacts for your child in our SIMS database. This can be done via the school office.

# Diary Dates

December 2018	
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm KS1 Christmas show for Grandparents
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm KS1 Christmas show for Parents/carers
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup>	5.00pm KS1 Christmas show for Parents/carers
Friday 7 <sup>th</sup>	5.00pm - 7.00pm PTA Christmas Fair
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	A Christmas Carol Play for the children
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm Reception Christmas Play for Grandparents
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am Reception Christmas Play for Parents/carers
Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup>	1.30pm Yr 3/4 Christmas Carol Concert Poynton Baptist Church
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup>	1.30pm Yr 5/6 Christmas Carol Concert Poynton Baptist Church
Friday 14 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am Guitar & Ukulele Concert
Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	Magician in school
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Lunch
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup>	3.10pm School closes for Christmas
January 2019	
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup>	School reopens
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup>	5pm Year 6 SATS talk for Parents
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup>	3.30pm KS1 Phonics Talk for Parents
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Year 5 & 6 Pop Lacrosse in school