



VPS Update (September 2021)

We are now well and truly into the swing of things! Well done to everybody for a successful start back to the new term.

We are hoping that now we are getting to grips with the latest way of working, there will not be any need for closures this year. We have many plans in place for the year ahead and, fingers crossed, we will be able to carry these out without disruption.

Our plans:

1. It's all about learning. We plan to re-launch our school motto as a reminder that coming to school is all about learning. We will have a focus on the key skills in each subject and during the Spring term there will be a focus on the non-core subject areas of Music, Art, PE and World Around US. We have started this term with a focus on Coding in ICT.
2. Rights Respecting Schools. We are aiming for our silver award this year after obtaining bronze last year. We have begun the year with a focus on Article one - all children have rights and article two - discrimination. We will keep you posted with updates and our progress towards the award on the Pastoral Care page of our school website.
3. Wellbeing project. We will continue to work on the wellbeing project throughout the year. Plans include a focus on outdoor learning a relaunch of the Daily mile, a comprehensive pastoral care programme, a new Designated Teacher for Child Protection and a new Deputy Designated Teacher, Nurture group provision for children requiring support, a new Breakfast Club and updated PE programmes for dance and gymnastics.
4. Engage programme. Small booster groups will run throughout the year for children who are doing well in school but who have seen a drop in their scores since the lockdowns.
5. Composite classes. The children have settled well into their new classes and the teachers report that they are getting along well making new friends and widening their social groups. We will continue to monitor how the composite classes work as we move through the school year.
6. Assemblies. In order to keep consistent class groups and limit numbers of adults in school, we are no longer having regular visitors in school. Instead, each teacher is taking it in turn to lead assemblies with a

focus on learning or their area of responsibility in school. Friday achievement assemblies are now celebrated in class or on zoom and we are sharing our good news by video link in the mornings. As we miss having our parents in school, we are hoping to have smaller, class assemblies throughout the year. We will keep you posted as to how we can arrange these. The dates for those are on The Year Ahead planner on the website and school Facebook page.

7. Following the retirement of Mrs Bell, we hope to promote some of our teachers to Senior posts to oversee wider aspects of the running of the school.
8. Greater parental involvement. We are hoping to find more avenues for you to work with us to get the best for your children. We aim to hold curriculum information evenings, create links with local groups in the community, launch a new PFA committee, have a parent steering group for wellbeing and more polls and questionnaires to gather your opinions. All of this will be dependent on some more school restrictions lifting and the year running smoothly. We can but hope!

As you can imagine, finding our way through all the restrictions and guidelines is taking up a huge amount of time so please bear with us as we try to keep things running as smoothly as possible. We are going to have to get used to having sub teachers in school as staff illness and rules on testing are having an impact. Catching up with training and teachers taking on new leadership roles will also lead to sub teachers being required. This is usual practice for most schools and is likely to be the norm for a little while. We will do our best to keep things as consistent as possible.

A monthly newsletter will keep you updated on the website but shorter, more regular updates will go out on the school app. Please make sure you have downloaded the app so that you don't miss out any information. We will keep you posted of progress through pictures from the classes on Facebook and the website. Please keep popping on to check out what we have been up to.

Thanks for being part of our V.P.S family.
Mrs Weir and the V.P.S team