

Vernon Park Primary School



“An exciting
place to learn,
an exciting
place to be!”



Welcome to KS1



Welcome to KS1

Welcome to Key Stage 1! At Vernon Park, we aim to make our school a safe, friendly place where every child is valued, nurtured, and encouraged to thrive. Our core values - Kindness & Empathy, Friendship & Respect, Honesty & Responsibility, Tolerance & Fairness, Support & Inclusion, and Challenge & Resilience - shine through our curriculum and shape our daily school life.

KS1 marks the exciting start of the main school journey. While we build on the continuous provision of Reception, we gently transition towards a more structured timetable of lessons. This year, our KS1 is made up of a Year 1 class, a mixed Year 1/2 class, and a Year 2 class. To ensure every child thrives, Maths and English are taught in flexible groups. This allows all children to access their age-appropriate curriculum at a pace and level that perfectly supports their individual learning needs.

The Curriculum

Our broad and balanced curriculum is designed for children to make progress in skills and knowledge through meaningful, purposeful learning experiences. Building upon the solid foundations of the EYFS, we deliver daily phonics, English, and maths lessons. From half term this is enhanced by daily guided reading sessions, which specifically target advanced reading comprehension alongside the fluency built through phonics.

Our vibrant timetable offers a rich mix of subjects, including science, computing, history, geography, art, design technology, music, RE, PE, and PSHE. Together, these provide engagement and challenge across all areas, helping children develop a resilient growth mindset. By providing opportunities to work both independently and collaboratively, we aspire to develop a lifelong love of learning in every child.

What the Day Looks Like

Children have daily lessons in phonics, English and maths. We also have afternoon sessions of mastery in number to support confidence and regular opportunities for spelling, handwriting and reading lessons. Children have access to water at all times – please send in a clearly named water bottle with your child to be refilled throughout the day.

Homework

Read, read, READ!!!! Children will have a reading book linked to their phonics fluency and a free choice reading book from the school library.

School Dinners

School dinners are prepared fresh on site by Tony and Lusi, our school cooks. Meals should be ordered in advance via the SchoolGrid app or website (schoolgrid.co.uk). If your child doesn't enjoy their meal choice on a particular day, their class teacher or the lunchtime staff will let you know via a quick note home.

All children in KS1 are entitled to a Universal Free School Meal, though you are welcome to send your child with a healthy packed lunch in a named container if preferred. Please remember that we are a healthy school and a **strictly nut and seed-free site**.

A healthy morning snack is also provided daily for all children through the government healthy eating scheme. Finally, if you believe your family may be entitled to **Pupil Premium** (income-related free school meals), please let the office know, as this provides vital extra funding for the school and benefits your child.

Meet the Team



Mrs. Lee
Head Teacher

Mrs. Cheetham
Head Teacher

Miss Green
Deputy Head Teacher
Y2 Teacher

Mrs. Mickle
Assistant Head Teacher
SENDCo / Y2 Teacher

Miss Brough
Pastoral Manager
Safeguarding Lead

Mrs. Johnson
Y1/2 Class Teacher

Mrs. Freeman
Y1 Teacher

Class based support staff in our school

Miss Bohuslaw
Mrs. Armstrong
Miss Lee
Mr. Roscoe
Mrs. Ford
Mrs. Smith
Mrs. Thomas
Miss Vesey
Miss Pelmear
Miss Moffat
Miss Jones
Miss Meredith
Miss Elliot
Ms Fedrigo
Mrs. Arthington
Miss Humphrey
Mrs. Atkins
Mrs. Al-Ani

School Uniform

At Vernon Park Primary School, we expect our children to maintain a high standard of appearance by wearing the correct school uniform. If the policy is not followed, the family will be telephoned to bring the correct uniform in and or we will ask the child to get changed into a spare uniform in school

Uniform

- Grey trousers (summer alternative – shorts) or grey/ navy skirt / pinafore dress (summer alternative – blue and white checked / striped summer dress)
- White polo shirt (no tailored shirts or pale blue polo shirts)
- Navy sweatshirt / navy cardigan with school logo or plain
- Black / grey / white / navy socks or tights
- Plain black school shoes
- Navy/ black hair ties, clips or scrunchies and headbands
- No jewellery, except small studs for children with their ears pierced. Larger studs, hoops or dangling earrings are not allowed in any circumstance.
- Nail varnish and false nails are not allowed.



PE

- Plain black / grey or navy tracksuit trousers / knee-length shorts
- Plain white t-shirt
- Outdoor trainers
- A tracksuit for inclement weather

Children should wear their PE kits into school on their designated PE days. Class teachers will communicate which days the children will be taught PE at the beginning of each term via Class Dojo.

PE lessons are a compulsory part of our curriculum and children **must** be suitable dressed for health and safety reasons.

Children **must be able to remove earrings themselves for PE** and will not be allowed to take part in the lesson if earrings are unable to be removed.

Forest School

KS1 spend time learning outdoors in our environmental area, whatever the weather, with our Forest School teacher, Mrs Stone. Therefore, it is important that your child has appropriate outdoor clothing.

On Forest School days, they will need to wear:

- Long-sleeved top and full-length trousers - children must have arms and legs covered;
- A warm, waterproof coat with a hood (weather dependent);
- A woolly hat, scarf and gloves (weather dependent);
- Trainers or pumps to wear indoors;
- Wellington boots or suitable outdoor walking shoes.

They may also like to have all-in-one waterproof or waterproof trousers, although this is not compulsory.

Outdoor shoes must be named and should be kept in school.

Teachers will provide more information about Forest School at the start of the year.

Mrs. Stone leads Forest School

- A watch or Fitbit may be worn (providing they do not have photo-taking facilities), but are worn at the owners' risk as school will not accept liability for lost or broken items.
- For hygiene reasons, hair that is long enough, **must** be worn tied back with a small hair fastening

Children should come into school wearing their PE kits on PE days. Class Teachers will notify parents at the start of each term which days PE is taught.

We ask that all items of clothing and equipment are clearly labelled with your child's name, including coats, lunch boxes and shoes. Lost items can then be returned easily. Lost property is stored in the safe box in the KS1 playground. Unclaimed and unnamed lost property will be disposed of at the end of each term if not claimed.

Drop Off and Collection

The school day runs from 8.55am - 3.25pm. In the morning, children may be dropped off at the EYFS gate to the KS1 playground from 8.45am, where teaching staff will greet them. Parent/Carers will not be able to access the playground before school. Children will be dismissed from the playground at 3.25pm where parents may meet them, playground gates will open at 3.20pm. Information about Breakfast Club and After School Club is available from the school office for those families who require wraparound care.

Water Bottles

Children have access to drinking water throughout the day. Please send a water bottle to school each day with your child's name clearly labelled. We ask that you do not put this into their book bag in case of leakages and please only put water in the bottle, no juice or flavoured water.

Book Bags and Reading Books

All children will need a book bag, which will come to school with them every day. If you would like a school emblem book bag, these can be purchased through the office. Please ensure that you child's book bag is envelope style as we keep our bags in drawers and other bag styles do not fit.

We will send all printed correspondence, as well as reading books and diaries, home in book bags, so please check it daily for anything new and empty it regularly.

Inhalers and Medication

If your child has asthma, please ensure that they bring a full, in-date inhaler and spacer into school on their first day. These must be kept in school, so if you require an extra inhaler and spacer, please speak to your doctor. The inhaler must be kept in its original packaging with your child's name clearly displayed. We will send them home at the end of each term for you to check how much is left, monitor use-by-dates and to clean the spacer.

If your child needs to use their inhaler during the school day, staff will record the date and time of use on Medical Tracker.

An adult must bring any other medication prescribed to your child to the school office. All medicines must be kept in their original packaging and be labelled with your child's name.

Staff cannot administer medicine to a child unless a medical form has been completed with the school office.

Communication with families at home.

Class Dojo

We use Class Dojo across the school as a classroom reward system. You can download the Class Dojo app to share your child's achievements. Class teachers will provide parent invitations in September. We also use Class Dojo to communicate directly with families at home and update general notifications of events and changes in school.

Seesaw

Our online learning platform is Seesaw. Your child will have a unique log in and QR code to allow you to access seesaw. Class teachers will be providing you with more information about this in September and will be asking you to support your child by viewing and commenting on their work.

Office

Our school office will send communications (including termly newsletters, information on trips and school reports) home via email. Please make sure the office has an up-to-date email and telephone number on record.

School Website:

www.vernonpark.stockport.sch.uk

Miss Brough is our Pastoral Manager and Safeguarding lead who works closely with children and families who require additional support. She offers a family drop in service from 8.30am – 9.30am on a Wednesday.

Monster Phonics

We are thrilled to be introducing **Monster Phonics** as our new phonics scheme! This award-winning programme uses color-coding and 10 fun monster characters to make learning to read and spell deeply engaging, memorable, and fun.

Because children make the fastest progress when home and school work together, here is how you can best support them:

- **Embrace the Color-Coding:** Monster Phonics uses specific colours to group similar sounds together (like the long 'A' sound). Encourage your child to point out the colourful 'monster sounds' when reading their school books at home.
- **Keep it Daily and Bite-Sized:** Reading for just 5 to 10 minutes every day makes a massive difference. Focus on praising their effort as they blend sounds together.
- **Use "Pure" Sounds:** Try to avoid adding an "uh" to the end of letters (say /m/ instead of "muh", or /s/ instead of "suh"). This makes it much easier for your child to smoothly join the sounds together to read words.

Thank you for your continued support in helping your child grow into a confident, independent reader!

Mrs. Mickle is our SEND and Inclusion Lead. She will liaise with families of children with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND), Cared for Children, and children who have English as an additional language (EAL).

And finally...

The KS1 team are here to support you and your family. If you have any questions or comments, please speak to us. We are available in the playground at the end of each day, however, you are also able to contact us via the school office and on Class Dojo. All members of staff will endeavor to answer queries promptly within the normal working hours of the school week.

If you require any further information about starting school, please jot down your questions below to ask one of the team in September.

We cannot wait to meet you all and we are looking forward to another exciting year in KS1!

Questions:



www.vernonpark.stockport.sch.uk