



Park View Community School

Varley Street, Miles Platting, Manchester, M40 7EJ

Tel: (0161) 519 8562

Headteacher: Ms S Navin

Friday Flyer

Friday 26th March 2021

COVID-19 Updates

As you know, we are delighted with how well the children have continued to settle back into the routines at school. We are committed to making the most of the rest of the school year by focusing on your children's wellbeing and progress in learning. We are dealing with COVID-19 concerns raised by parents/carers on a daily basis and have put together a letter (at the end of this Friday Flyer) to address these. Please take the time to have a look. It may answer questions for you and put your minds at rest.

Comic Relief 2021 Update

Thank you for all of your donations last week. We raised £311.11 for Comic relief!

Reminders

Thursday 1st April - Break up for Easter

Monday 19th April - Return to school for the Summer term

Free Easter Sessions

Throughout the Easter Holidays MCRactive are running FREE multi-sport sessions for children aged 6-11 years. All sessions will be delivered by qualified coaches and will follow Covid-19 guidelines. At each venue the sessions will run over four dates. There will be two sessions per day and a packed lunch will be provided. Please only book on ONE session per day. Each session will be the same and we want to engage as many children as possible.

For more information or to book go to: bit.ly/3eng24U

Dear Parents/Carers

We are really proud of how well the children have settled back into the routines at Park View and have engaged with their learning since their return on March 8th. It is as if they have never been away! This is a credit to the children, parents/carers and to the staff who have done a great job of teaching them well before the lockdown. Our March assessments show that the children have remembered most of what they were taught between September and December 2020 and those that engaged regularly with learning during the January to March 2021 lockdown have made progress in some areas. This is great news and teachers and support staff want to build on this progress to move the children forward even more!

We are committed to ensuring that the children receive the best possible education whilst in our care but we need your help! Our core business in school is **teaching** and **learning** but the global pandemic has introduced many other issues for us to deal with on a daily basis most of which are related to health and safety.

We want to remain focused on teaching your children to read and write; to learn about the world, & other people, to play, to make good friendships and to enjoy their time at school. We work hard to do this but each day we are diverted into dealing with issues related to COVID-19 that are raised by parents/carers. Whilst we understand that everyone has their own opinions about how things should be done, we have strict guidelines to follow which are based on the current NHS and Public Health England advice and legislation from the Health & Safety Executive and from the Department for Education (DfE). Staff in school are not trained medical professionals (though many have First Aid training) and are not trained in professionals Health and Safety Legislation. As teachers, teaching support staff, admin staff and educational leaders, we rely on the advice and guidance provided by other agencies that specialise in these fields. This is the case in all schools across the city and up and down the country.

A number of issues have been raised by parents/carers over the last few weeks and we will address them here:

PARKING

Parents/carers and local residents have logged numerous complaints about parking over the past few weeks (particularly relating to Holland Street at the back of the school). We cannot police the streets in the morning but have noticed how some cars are blocking access for others and making it dangerous for children to cross the road, particularly at the Holland Street side of school. We did not design the layout of the school and the surrounding roads so all we can do is ask that those of you who live nearby to leave your cars at home and walk to school. If it is necessary to drive, please do not arrive too early. Park a little further away from school and walk. A suggestion from a parent was that we put cones out to prevent parking and we are happy to provide cones for this purpose. Our site manager has numerous duties from the moment he arrives at work and does a 'gate' duty at the front of the school. He has no spare time to put out cones. We therefore ask for parent/carer volunteers to help facilitate this each morning. If you can spare some time to help to keep all the children safer on their way to school, please contact the office. We regularly report parking concerns to Manchester City Council and in the past this resulted in more traffic control measures and parking restrictions on Varley Street. However, Holland Street remains an issue and again this is where parent power could help! Please contact your local MP to raise concerns about parking near school. Excessive use of vehicles is a safety and an environmental hazard. If enough parents/carers are proactive and get their voices heard, changes may happen.

VENTILATION

During the day, classroom windows are open at the moment (as are some doors). This is to allow airflow around the building, which is even more important now that all children have returned to school. The Health and Safety Executive Legislation outlines why organisations must ensure that there is adequate ventilation and states that this is important because:

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Adequate ventilation reduces how much virus is in the air. It helps reduce the risk from aerosol transmission, when someone breathes in small particles (aerosols) in the air after a person with the virus has been in the same enclosed area.

We understand that on colder days, open windows reduce the warmth inside but our heating is fully on at present and children can wear extra layers under their uniforms or coats or cardigans indoors if necessary. After a check this week with children, very few reported that they felt cold in school. Those who did feel a little cold were asked to put on an extra layer of clothing and quickly settled back to their learning without further issue.

MASKS

First of all a huge thank you to all of you that are remembering your masks each morning and those of you taking the time to share your exemption information with us. We have asked that parents/carers wear a mask as soon as they enter the premises. This is to keep themselves, other adults, children and staff safe. A small number of parents/carers are not wearing masks and this has caused other parents/carers to complain to school staff, which in turn diverts us from teaching and learning. Primary school children are not required to wear masks but may choose to do so in school.

SOCIAL DISTANCING

A hug can be all it takes to pass on COVID-19 to another adult. Standing too close, for a prolonged period without a mask can also significantly increase the risk of spreading the virus. We have received a complaint from a parent that the bubbles are not working because families are arriving at the same time and crowding round gates. We have been very clear of start and finish times since September and these have not changed. We ask that you arrive just a few minutes before your child's start time (ONE ADULT ONLY) and stand as far away from other families as possible. It is tempting to chat, but if you get too close, you can spread or contract COVID-19 and then families go into isolation, children miss more teaching and learning time and earnings may be lost if parents/carers have to take time off work.

HANDWASHING

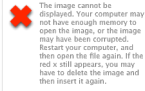
The government, NHS England and World Health Organisation advice has not changed: regular hand-washing with soap and water, reduces the risk of COVID-19 spreading. In school we are committed to ensuring that the children and staff wash their hands regularly throughout the day. Hand washing can cause hands to feel a little dry. The hand-wash we use is mild and should not cause children any irritation but if your child complains of dry hands, encourage him/her to moisturise them regularly at home.

We hope that you understand our position in the concerns you have raised. We are doing our very best under the circumstances. We want everyone to stay safe and we look forward to the day when COVID-19 is no longer a daily challenge for us all. We cannot wait until schools return back to 'normal' but until that day we must keep going with all the strategies we have introduced. We hope you understand that what we do is in the best interests of us all. We are not here to be against you - we are here for you and **more importantly for your children.** who we want to NURTURE, SUPPORT and TEACH!

We hope that you have a lovely and safe weekend.

The Park View Team

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Adults please wear a face covering when you enter the school premises (even when outside).



2M
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Stay 2 metres away from other people when bringing your child through the school grounds.



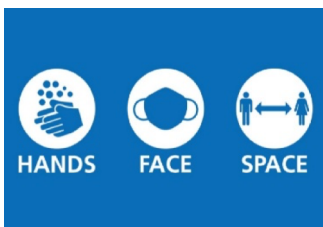
Just ONE adult at drop off and pick up times.



Children can wear a mask if they wish but it is not compulsory.



Call the school office first before coming in - many queries can be dealt with over the phone including payments.



To reduce the risk of passing on COVID to someone, follow NHS and government advice and 'Behave as if you have the virus'.