



25th September 2020

Good afternoon,

Well, it has been another very busy week at Varna with the return of more of our usual activities including some additional sports and Spanish sessions. I felt it was important to get these sessions back up and running and we have worked closely with the peripatetic staff to develop a plan following Government guidance to make sure they are safe. The sports sessions will be outdoors due to limits on how we can use the hall for different bubbles. This means that your child will need to have their PE kit, including black leggings or jogging bottoms each week.

I am very aware that at the moment it is more difficult for some of you to get to see your child's teacher at the start or end of the day. Please remember that there is a class email address for you to use to contact your child's teacher with any questions you may have. These are on your child's class page on the school website and I have put a list of them below.

nursery@varna.manchester.sch.uk

reception@varna.manchester.sch.uk

year1@varna.manchester.sch.uk

year2@varna.manchester.sch.uk

year3@varna.manchester.sch.uk

year4@varna.manchester.sch.uk

year5@varna.manchester.sch.uk

year6@varna.manchester.sch.uk



Varna Community Primary School

School website



We are going to be using the school website quite a lot this year to support us in our communication with you and I would like to know what your thoughts are about how we can make this work best for you. I will be sending a survey out later today for you to share any thoughts or ideas you may have on this. This week teachers have also put a short video onto each class page as a little introduction for you, go and take a look!

Breakfast Club

Breakfast club is now back up and running. Due to the changes in how we can operate this all attendance is only via the online booking system. Please don't forget to log on and book your places if you would like your children to attend. As always, we are not making any charge to you for Breakfast Club places.

Uniform and PE kit

Please make sure that you have put your child's name into all their uniform and PE kit. It is really difficult if things get mislaid to try to return items to you and having names in uniform, kit, coats etc is really important.

As the weather is getting a little cooler you should ensure that your children come to school dressed appropriately as we need to keep the school building well ventilated. Having doors and windows open throughout the day means that children will need to have their school jumper or cardigan with them every day. You may also want to think about additional layers such as a vest or school fleece.

Phase booklets

Every term we usually provide a booklet for your child's phase which outlines the topics they will cover, key dates and other important information. Next week we will circulate these also they will be put on each class page on the website too. Please read through them when you get time.



Homework

From next week we will be setting homework for all our children. We will not be providing paper based activities, rather we will be putting links and activities on the website for your child to do at home either by themselves or with you and their siblings.

COVID-19

As you can imagine the volume of guidance information for schools is large and we are constantly reviewed and adapting our systems in response. I would like to thank you so much for your co-operation throughout the last few weeks. Your support has meant that the children's return has been made so much easier because, as always, we have worked together.

Following the announcements by the Government this week around the stricter measures they need to introduce I thought it a good time to provide some reminders about our new routines here at school.

Drop off and collection guidance for parents and carers:

- **One adult to do the drop off/collection for each family to minimise the number of adults on the premises as much as possible.**
- **Keep to a 2 meter distance between yourself and other adults both in and around the school premises – I know it is sometimes difficult to remember this but all the guidance we have tells us that this is one of the main safety factors.**

- **Avoid getting to school very early which then may mean having to wait around for the children to finish. If you do arrive early please observe a 2 meter distance from other parents and adults as much as possible.**
- **Please do not stop to have a chat or catch up with friends etc on the premises or on the paths around our school building as this can lead to difficulties in other moving around to collect their child/children.**

Assembly

Over the last couple of weeks we have been trying out new ways to do our assemblies. I believe it is particularly important for our children and staff to remember that although we may be restricted to working within our own bubbles and not able to mix with others, we are still all part of the wider Varna family.

Our attempts have had mixed success, which if any of you have used Zoom or Google Meet etc during the lockdown period you will understand. Much hilarity was caused by loss of sound and video etc and seeing staff trying to correct things on the spot! I am pleased to say that all the difficulties have been overcome and we are now going to be having regular weekly virtual assemblies. These will be either whole school or in Phases and will be led either by Miss. Pilling, Mr. Crossley, Mr. Hindmarsh, Miss. Doherty, Mrs. Cheetham or myself. We will be celebrating birthdays and Superstars and trying to remember all the things that make us proud to be part of this school community. The sad part for us all is that we cannot yet invite parents and families in to share these celebrations with us, but as soon as it is possible we will look forward to see you all back in with us again.



In conclusion, I would just like to repeat what I have said often since our return to school that throughout the last few weeks and months which have undoubtedly been a difficult time for us all I have been so proud of the way we have worked together as a real community to find ways to establish our 'new normal'. I will be reviewing systems as the guidance dictates and will let you know if this impacts on you or your child.

Thanks again from myself and all the staff.

Very best wishes,

R. Livesey

Miss. Livesey

Headteacher