





# Veritas Primary Academy Newsletter

www.veritasprimaryacademy.com

email: office@veritasprimaryacademy.com

Tel: 01785 333 400

## Communication

We know for many parents it has been a very busy start to the school year. Now that we have been in school a few weeks please ensure that the school office have all your up to date details including parents contact details as well as an additional emergency contact. We will always endeavour to get hold of parents however, in an emergency may need another adult in the interim.



## Behaviour

At Veritas Primary Academy we strive for outstanding behavior and operate a behaviour management system that reinforces and praises good behaviour.

Children receive dojo points for good behaviour in class. If they receive 50 points they receive a 'Grasshopper', certificate, if they receive 100 points they receive a 'Master' certificate, if they receive 150 points they will receive an 'Expert' certificate and finally if they receive 200 points they will receive a 'Sensai' certificate and special headteacher's badge that they can wear for the rest of the year. Children who have achieved these different levels throughout the year will be invited to special good behaviour events. The first will be held at the end of Autumn term.

Class rules are displayed and regularly explained to the children. There are clear behaviour steps for children to see in their classrooms:

1. Reminder and class rule stated.
2. Reminder
3. Time out in class to consider own behaviour.
4. Buddy Class – negotiated short-term placement in buddy class to reflect on their behaviour. Parents informed by teacher.
5. Child sent to member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT). Parents contacted and a meeting held with teacher and member of SLT if deemed appropriate.

In the playground the children are also given warnings and timeouts for any unacceptable behaviour. Any incidents of racism, bullying or fighting are immediately brought to the attention of a member of the senior leadership team.



## School Parliament

Your School needs you! Each class (Years 1-6) will have the opportunity to appoint a member of school parliament for the forthcoming academic year. School Parliament elections will take place in class on the 2nd of October. If you are interested in becoming a school councillor please have a short speech ready to present to your class. Share your interests and how you can promote your classes' ideas and opinions. Your classmates will then vote on who they would like to become the new School Parliament Members.

## Getting to KNOW Team Veritas...

Each week we will feature a team member for you to get to know-

**NAME:** Angela Kerr

**ROLE:** Head of School

**FAVOURITE BOOK:** Anything by Jodi Picoult and my handy Jamie Oliver 15 minute meals

**FAVOURITE PLACE:** The beach **WHERE I WAS BORN:** Auckland, New Zealand

**FAVOURITE SUBJECT WHEN I WAS AT SCHOOL:** English **IF I WASN'T A TEACHER I WOULD BE:** Property Developer

**MY FAVOURITE THING ABOUT VERITAS SO FAR:** I am loving the new murals that have gone up around the school this week. It really feels like the building has come to life since the children arrived.





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## Picking up and Dropping off



As will know, our school driveway and the surrounding roads are very busy at peak times. Please continue to be aware of children and other road users when crossing roads, especially near the university entrance where buses and cars can enter at speed. Please ensure you park in the school car park when picking up and dropping off children not in the nursery drop off zone (opposite the main school entrance) as this can cause congestion in the driveway and is not safe for children to run across unattended.

It has also come to our attention that some cars have been identified performing turns in the police driveway. This is a concern as emergency vehicles access this entrance throughout the day and also holds up the flow of traffic into the police station. It takes only a few moments more to go down to the roundabout and back up.

We have also spoken to the council about our concerns for parents crossing Beaconside Road and are waiting for a representative from highways to come out and make an assessment.

## Term time Holidays

We understand there are many reasons why you might like to take your children out of school during term time. Please note that frequent interruptions to children's schooling can have a dramatic impact on their education and we would kindly ask that unless absolutely necessary you plan holidays for outside term time.



## School Dinners

A selection of healthy school meals will be provided by our own Chef, Rebecca Pearson who is assisted in the kitchen by our catering Supervisor Sarah McGregor and Elaine Brailsford at a cost of £2.30 per meal for those who don't qualify for a free school meal. Please ensure that all dinner monies are paid to the school office. Reception - Year 6 parents will also have an opportunity to sample the school meals available on dates to follow shortly. The school is committed to meeting the needs of all its pupils and always meet with national nutritional guidelines. Menus are available from the school office.

Please note that on occasion we may alter the menu according to the suppliers' food availability. We would appreciate your understanding regarding this.



## Packed Lunch

Please ensure that your child has a healthy packed lunch. This could include a sandwich, fruit, water/juice, yoghurt and fresh vegetables. We would like to promote the benefits of healthy eating in these formative years. If you could also please ensure that your child does not bring any nuts to school as we have a number of children with nut allergies. Kindly label all lunch boxes clearly.

## Reading Books

Please note we are currently assessing all children in their reading using the PM Benchmark Scheme, therefore reading books will be sent home in the near future. In KS1 this will consist of a Read Write Inc phonics story. Guided Reading will also be taught in class. All children should be reading at home each night.

## Administering Medicines

It is preferable that any medicines are administered at home but if you require us to administer medicine to your child throughout the day you must ensure that the correct form is completed at the school office.

## Asthma Pumps



Please could you ensure that children with asthma pumps have a clearly named pump in school to be kept in the classroom. Please ensure before sending into school that pumps are in date and not expired.



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## Free School Meals

School meals are now free to all children from Reception up to and including Year 2.

However, if you would have qualified for free school meals in the past the school would receive extra funding for every child who qualified, this funding is called Pupil Premium. This funding can be used to support children from lower income families providing extra support in school or for things like trips or uniforms.

### How does it work?

1. Check if you qualify and help your school to receive extra funding - it is not just if you are unemployed, so please look at the list:
  - Income support
  - Income based on Jobseeker's Allowance
  - Income related Employment and Support Allowance
  - The Guarantee element of State Pension Credit
  - Child Tax credit and not working tax credit with a household income of less than £16,190 and working less than 16 hours per week.
  - Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
2. Registering is really quick and easy - if you think you qualify you can apply on line by visiting [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmealsapplication](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmealsapplication) , pick up an application form from the school office or phone the council on 03001118000.
3. The school gets £600 extra in its budget.
4. No one will know you have registered and it will not affect any other benefits you are claiming.
5. Come and talk to us if you are not sure.

Children in Year 3 and above will still have to apply for Free School Meals in the old way and can apply online at [www.staffordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmealsapplication](http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/freeschoolmealsapplication)

## Pupil Premium - Purpose

The Government believes that the Pupil Premium, which is additional to main school funding, is the best way to address the current underlying inequalities between children eligible for free school meals (FSM) and their peers by ensuring that funding to tackle disadvantage reaches the pupils who need it most.

The Pupil Premium was introduced in April 2011 and is allocated to schools to work with pupils who have been registered for free school meals at any point in the last six years (known as 'Ever 6 FSM').

Schools also receive funding for children who have been in the care of the Local Authority continuously for more than six months, and children of service personnel.



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## Jobs at Veritas

We have a few job vacancies at Veritas and would love people from our school community to fill the positions. If you are interested please ask at the office for more details or an application pack.

### Midday Supervisor (x2)

11 1/4 Hours per week (term time only plus 5 inset days) 11.15 - 1.30

Salary - Spinal point 11, £15, 207 per annum pro rata = **£3, 959 per annum actual salary**

### Breakfast Club Playworker- closing date Monday 5th October

6 1/4 Hours per week (term time only plus 5 inset days) 7.45am-9am

Salary - Spinal point 11, £15, 207 per annum pro rata = **£2,999 per annum actual salary**

### Afterschool Club Playworker - closing date Monday 5th October

13 3/4 Hours per week (term time only plus 5 inset days) 3.15am - 6pm

Salary - Spinal point 11, £15, 207 per annum pro rata = **£4, 839 per annum actual salary**

### Early Years Practitioner - closing date Monday 5th October

22.5 Hours per week (term time only plus 5 inset days) 8am-12pm (on-going)

Salary - Grade 5, Point 16 to 20, £16,969 to 19, 048 per annum pro rata = **£8836 to 9919 per annum actual salary**

### Reception 1:1 support Teaching Assistant - closing date Monday 5th October

27.5 Hours per week (term time only) 9am - 3.30pm (1 year contract)

Salary - Grade 4, Point 13 to 16, £15, 941 to £16, 969 per annum pro rata = **£10, 146 to £10, 800 per annum actual salary**

## Veritas Volunteers

We know lots of parents would like to be involved in school in lots of different ways. If you have some spare time that you are able to commit regularly to the school we would love to have you in school.

To get an idea of numbers and interests please fill out the table below and return to school.

My Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Child's Name & Year: \_\_\_\_\_

I am available for (please circle):

*If you have any other specialist skills or talents that you think would be perfect to share with the children at Veritas please let a member of staff know!*

1:1 readers (1:10 pm)	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri
KS1 phonics (9:10 - 10:15)	Mon	Tues	Weds		
Crossing Patrol University Entrance (8:30 - 8:55)	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri
Crossing Patrol University Entrance (3:25 - 3:45)	Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Fri