

PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

JANUARY 2023

A MESSAGE FROM MR FULTON



A very HAPPY NEW YEAR to all in the VPS community. I hope that you all managed to find some time, over the Christmas break, to rest and relax with family and friends.

It has been lovely to welcome the children back to school this week. From chatting to children from across school it is clear that they really enjoyed their Christmas holidays.

On Monday this week, we welcomed parents and children to our Nursery and Primary 1 Open Morning. It was a really lovely morning with a bigger than ever crowd coming through the doors to have a look around and to see what VPS has to offer.

A reminder that our teacher-led afterschool clubs start again this week. Payment for the next 10 weeks is £5 and a letter will be sent out by the teacher running the club as a reminder.

Thanks,

Mr C. Fulton
Principal

REMINDERS



SNACK SERVICE – School can provide your child with a daily snack. Cost £3 per week, sent into school on a Monday.



SCHOOL LUNCHES – School lunch menu is available on the school website.



KIDS' CAVE – A reminder that Homework Club / Kids' Cave booking envelopes are available from the school office.

NEW YEAR...NEW FACES

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Storey to our teaching team.

Mrs Storey started with us on Monday 9th January and will be teaching in Primary 6.



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**Key Dates for Admissions
in September 2023**

Applications Deadline

Applications deadline for 12 noon. **Supporting documents** to be uploaded by 31 Jan

10
Jan

Applications Open

Pre-school and primary school applications open on **EA Connect**

27
Jan

27
Apr

Applications Outcome

Parents/carers informed of application outcome via email

Nursery and Primary 1 Admissions 2023

The online portal for applications into Nursery and Primary 1 for September 2023 is now LIVE on the Education Authority Website.

Although the portal has only been open for 1 day, we are AMAZED and DELIGHTED with the number of applications that have been made so far.

You can [CLICK HERE](#) to be taken to the online portal to make your application into Nursery or Primary 1.

Need To Talk?



Mrs Jayne Orr

[Designated Teacher for
Child Protection / Pastoral
Care](#)

If you feel that you need to talk to school about any pastoral care concerns in relation to your child OR you have concerns in relation to any Child Protection matter, please make contact with Mrs Jayne Orr by calling school on 028 9335 1781.

Mrs Addis, Mrs Kernaghan, Mr Clarke and Mr Fulton are also members of the school's Safeguarding Team and can assist if Mrs Orr is unavailable.

Upcoming Parent Interviews

Our next round of Parent Interviews will be taking place the week beginning Monday 6th February. Keep an eye out for a letter coming home with your child with more information.

Children will also finish at 12:30pm each day that week.



Houston, we have a problem...

Parents / carers will be aware that we recently changed our school holiday dates for May this year.

This was as a result of the electoral office informing school that a local election would be held on Thursday 4th May and that an additional bank holiday was being applied in celebration of the King's Coronation. The decision to change the school holiday dates was to try and limit the number of broken weeks in school in May - especially as this is the time of year when children complete their end of year assessments.

Since making the change to the holiday list, the Northern Ireland Office has changed the date of the election. This is because the count from the election would run into the King's Coronation day.

So, as to not confuse thing any further, and make more changes to the holiday dates, as well as to try to continue to limit the number of broken teaching weeks in May, school will continue to be closed on Thursday 4th May, which means school will continue to be closed for that full week.

In order to make back any lost time, school will not close for half days at the end of term before Easter and Summer holidays as previously planned. School will remain open until normal time on both these days. Also, should parents wish, some additional work will be sent home with pupils over the May week holiday.

The school term date list has been updated at the end of this newsletter and on the school website.

PTA UPDATE

Are you on Facebook? If so, please give our new school PTA Facebook page a visit and a follow.

This page will keep you up to speed with all PTA events taking place in school. [Click here to visit their page.](#)



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Over the coming weeks, each year group will have the opportunity to learn about a particular artist. This will result in the children recreating a piece of art in the style of this artist.

During Parent Interview Week, your child's art will be on display in our school hall and can be purchased for £5 on the day of your parent interview. If your parent interview is by telephone, you can send your £5 into the class teacher and your child's framed piece of art will be sent home to you.



We are delighted to have been awarded OFFICIAL FOREST SCHOOL STATUS by the Northern Ireland Forest School Association.

Mrs Neilly, along with other members of staff, have been working extremely hard in recent years in working towards this recognition.

Well done to all involved.

P6 and P7 Parents - Many of our local post primary schools are currently advertising their Open Days. Have a look on their websites to find out more information.



Term Dates 2022 - 23

Term Dates	
August	<p>Wed 24th – P2 – P7 return (half day and half classes - surnames A – J only)</p> <p>Thurs 25th – P2 – P7 return (half day and half classes – surnames K – Z only)</p> <p>Fri 26th – P2 – P7 return (half day and full classes)</p> <p>Mon 29th – School Closed (Public Holiday)</p> <p>Tues 30th – P2 – P7 return to school full days.</p>
September	<p>Thurs 1st – P1 and Nursery children begin school. Specific dates and times will be communicated to individual parents.</p> <p>Fri 30th – School Development Day (School Closed)</p>
October	Mon 31 st – School closed for half term
November	<p>Tues 1st – Thurs 3rd – School closed for half term</p> <p>Fri 4th – School Development Day (School Closed)</p>
December	<p>Thurs 22nd – School closes at 12noon for all pupils.</p> <p>Fri 23rd – Fri 30th – School closed for Christmas Holidays</p>
January	<p>Mon 2nd – Thurs 5th – School closed for Christmas Holidays</p> <p>Fri 6th – School Development Day (School Closed)</p> <p>Mon 9th – P2 – P7 pupils return to school. OPEN DAY (Nursery and P1 pupils off today)</p> <p>Tues 10th – Nursery and P1 pupils return to school.</p>
February	<p>Mon 13th – School Development Day (School Closed)</p> <p>Tues 14th – Fri 17th – School closed for half term</p>
April	<p>Mon 3rd – School Development Day (School Closed)</p> <p>Tues 4th – Fri 14th – School Closed for Easter Holidays.</p>
May	<p>Mon 1st – Bank Holiday (School Closed)</p> <p>Tues 2nd, Wed 3rd & Thurs 4th (School Closed)</p> <p>Fri 5th – Holiday Day (School Closed)</p> <p>Mon 8th – Bank Holiday (School likely to be closed for additional Bank Holiday for King's Coronation)</p> <p>Thurs 18th – Local Election (School Closed)</p> <p>Mon 29th – School Development Day (School Closed)</p>
June	<p>Tues 27th – P7 pupils finish at 12noon.</p> <p>Fri 30th – School closes for Summer Holidays</p>

