

PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

JUNE 2023

A MESSAGE FROM MR FULTON



Can you believe that we are in to the month of June already? Only 1 more month to go before the children (and staff) break for their summer holidays. As with most school years, this year has past us by very quickly and we are ready for all our children to move up to their next year group.

June is a busy month with a lot of different events taking place both in and out of school time. Keep an eye on SeeSaw and the school website for up-to-date information on everything related to the summer term.

This newsletter will give you all the information you need to know for the rest of this term as well as some additional information for the start of the next academic year.

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 Kids' Cave booking envelopes are available from the school office.

FOOD BANK VOUCHERS

A reminder that we, as a school, are an authorised supplier of food bank vouchers for Carrickfergus Food Bank.

If you would like access to these vouchers, please do reach out. You can call school on 028 9335 1781 or e-mail Mr Fulton directly on cfulton579@c2kni.net.

Your request will be treated with the strictest confidence.



PTA Summer Bash

VPS SUMMER BASH!

COLOUR
Run!

Thursday
8th June
@ 6pm!

£3 to enter the colour run!

Please wear a white t-shirt (e.g. PE top), shoes
you can run safely in, some protective eye wear
(glasses/goggles).

Raffle

Everyone welcome to join in!

Ice cream
truck

The powder thrown is safe and details can be
given of ingredients on the night.
Please also keep in mind it may be messy getting
into cars so maybe a bag to cover your seat might
help.

BBQ

Follow us on Facebook to keep up to date!

Young
enterprise
stands

Games

 @victoriaprimarypta

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.



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Some important dates for this term.

Thursday 8th June	PTA Summer Event - see previous info sent out
Friday 9th June	Nursery and Primary 1 children OFF TODAY
Mon 19th - Fri 23rd June	All children finish at 2pm this week.
Monday 26th June	School reports sent home today.
Tuesday 27th June	Primary 7 children finish school today.
Friday 30th June	P1 - P6 children finish school today.

VPS School Uniform Donations

We are looking for uniform donations!

The PTA will be setting up a pre-loved uniform section in mobile 5 so our school community can reuse these items for their children!

As we know school uniforms can be in good condition at the end of the school year, but they have been out grown or maybe are no longer required.

There will be no charge for any of these items and you will be able to get access to the mobile before school starts again.

Shoes, school bags, lunch bags, etc are all welcome too.

Please bring your item donations into the school office and we will let everyone know what dates the mobile can be accessed.

DON'T LOSE IT. REUSE IT!

In order to support parents / carers in sending in CLEAN donations of uniform etc, children can come to school in non-uniform on **Thursday 29th and Friday 30th June.**

VPS SUMMER SCHEME IS NOW FULLY BOOKED

Our VPS operated summer schemes are fully booked. If your child got a space, letters will be going out this week asking for payments. If your child did not get a space, you will also get a letter informing you of this.



Eligible for FREE SCHOOL MEALS? Remember that you need to apply for each school year.

Free School Meals and Uniform Allowance 2023



If you are making an application for September 2023, you may need a Proof of Benefit Letter

Proof of Benefit Letter

If you are in receipt of any of the following benefits, a Proof of Benefit letter will be required alongside your application:

- Income Support
- Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance
- Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit

Please note, if you are in receipt of Tax Credits or Universal Credit, you do not need this letter.

CONGRATULATIONS!

A huge congratulations to Miss Carey who, after a very tough recruitment process, has secured a permanent teaching post here at VPS.



CLASS WHATSAPP GROUPS

I am aware that some parents in school are part of Whatsapp Groups linked to their child's class. While I am sensitive to the fact that these may be beneficial to chat with other parents in relation to homeworks, school trips etc, these are not platforms to discuss individual members of school staff. Please be advised, if information comes to my attention, that any member of school staff is being talked about in a manner that could be deemed derogatory/offensive, I will make every effort to support members of staff by making contact with the Education Authority's Legal Services Department.

EQUIPMENT REQUIRED FOR SEPTEMBER

All children will receive a list of equipment and resources they will need when they start back to school. This will be sent home in your child's Annual School Report. I would be very grateful if children could bring all their equipment with them on their first day back to school. Please be advised that all parents will be required to purchase a school planner for their children in September. These will be priced at £4.00 per planner and will be sent home at the start of the new academic year. These can be paid for in September.

MONEY ENVELOPES

We know it can be difficult trying to find spare envelopes around the house when sending money into school. To make life a little easier, you can purchase a booklet of money envelopes from the school office for £3. These envelopes, a little like Church collection envelopes, can be used for dinner money, milk money, payment for trips etc. Simply call into the school office if you would like to purchase these.

PRIMARY 7 PUPILS BEGIN TO MOVE ON

June is always a sad time for our P7 pupils. This is the time of the year when they start to think about leaving VPS and moving on to their new school.



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Important Information
Starting Back To School – August 2023

- Nursery and Primary 1 pupils will get their starting information at induction nights being held in June.
- School will start back, in a staggered way, from Wednesday 23rd August for children in P2 – P7. Please see points below for your information:
 - *Wednesday 23rd August – Children with surnames beginning with letters A – J will come to school for half a day – leaving at 12noon. The rest of the children will not come to school.
 - * Thursday 24th August – Children with surnames beginning with K – Z will come to school for half a day – leaving school at 12noon. The rest of the children will not come to school.
 - *Thursday 24th August – From 1pm – 2:30pm – Parent Drop In session. If you feel you need to speak to the class teacher to update school on anything that has happened over the Summer Holidays in relation to your child, your child’s class teacher will be available for a drop in.
 - * Friday 25th August – ALL children will come to school for half a day – leaving at 12noon.



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Important Information Continued Starting Back To School – August 2023

*For any families with siblings with different surnames, you are welcome to pick which day you would like to send them to school (they can attend on the same day to make it easier to manage).

As with last year, the ability of bringing in smaller groups of children for the first day allowed the class teacher the opportunity to get to know each child better.

- All children will then return to school, for full days, on Tuesday 29th August. School is closed on Monday 28th August for the Bank Holiday.
- There will be no school dinners until Friday 1st September.



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Term Dates 2022 - 23

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

