



Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

**SCHOOL CLOSURE**  
**MONDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER – FRIDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**

This morning, The Northern Ireland Executive and The Department of Education confirmed that schools would be closed for an extended half term break on the above mentioned dates.

Although, in some ways, this was expected, the finer details of the closure took me a little by surprise. I assumed that, during an additional break from school, children would be expected to complete online / remote learning from home. The Minister of Education, Peter Weir, has confirmed today that **this is not the case** and that it is an extension to the half term holiday and not a time for remote learning.

**AS A RESULT OF THIS, PLEASE DO NOT COMPLETE THE PACK OF WORK ALREADY SENT HOME WITH YOUR CHILDREN. PLEASE KEEP THIS JUST IN CASE THE SCHOOL CLOSURE IS EXTENDED BEYOND FRIDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER.**

Although I do not totally agree with the fact that no home learning will be taking place next week, I am directed by the Department of Education at this point. However, as a staff team, we have decided that we will upload some **voluntary home learning activities** onto the Year Group pages on the school website. Parents may use these activities with their children if they would like their children to be engaged in some learning activities during next week's school closure. This is not compulsory.

Additional support is being put in place for children in Primary 7 currently preparing for the AQE. These pupils, alongside the work being placed on the school website, will be sent home with:

- 2 x AQE Papers (answers will be uploaded onto the school website)
- Key revision material booklet.

Again, it is up to parents if they want their P7 children to complete the above activities, however, I would actively encourage **ALL** children to engage in some form of learning activities next week.

Our 1<sup>st</sup> round of parent interviews had been due to take place next week. These interviews will now **not** go ahead. To replace these interviews, class teachers will collect in your child's planner and write in their new literacy and numeracy targets. If parents feel they would like to discuss these targets further with the class teacher, please contact school and a phone interview will be timetabled at a time agreeable by both parent and class teacher at some point after the half term break. We are sorry that we will be unable to go ahead with these interviews at this time.



## Victoria Primary School & Nursery Unit

Coronation Road, Carrickfergus,  
County Antrim, BT38 7EZ  
Tel: 028 9335 1781  
Email : victoriaprimar@hotmai.co.uk  
**Principal** : Mr C. Fulton BA Hons (QTS)

Similarly, if the class teacher feels that they need to discuss a pressing issue with a parent / carer, the class teacher will make contact with you at a point in time after the half term break.

I'm very sorry that our first half term has ended like this. I have been delighted with the progress children have made since returning to school after our first lockdown. Can I take this opportunity to thank all the pupils, parents and carers for working with us to ensure that we have had such a positive return to school.

It is, however, vitally important that children take some opportunity over the half term break to rest and relax. They will need to recharge their batteries ready for a new half term to begin.

I look forward to welcoming children back to school at the start of the new half term.

Yours sincerely,

Mr C. Fulton  
Principal

**REMEMBER – to access home learning pages on the school website please click on the yellow box below**

