



March 2021

P6 Plan

Dear Parents,

As we welcome Term 3 for all of our pupils at Victoria we want to *zoom in* on our Primary 6 pupils. I'm sure you are aware the Association for Quality Education Ltd (AQE) will open up the application process in April. Perhaps some of you are unsure about what to do, this is often the case for many parents but this year we have had the added pressure of our current climate. I want to reassure you there is no need to panic and you have plenty of time to make your decision. We are here to help.

Teachers are able to gauge children's performance through informal and formal assessment methods of which there has been very little concrete data for the past year as a result of 2 *Lockdowns*. However, please take into consideration the conversations you have had with previous teachers and how they are coping with Literacy and Numeracy during home learning. AQE will test children's ability to read in the form of Numeracy problems and 2/3 comprehension passages per test. But it is not just the case of reading, you must be able to interpret and solve. Practice Test papers will help children become familiar with questions, strategies as well as constant revision of Numeracy and Literacy Facts. This can be a hard road for many, including parents. You know your child but we are here to guide you if needed.

Term 3 is always very busy for this year group as Practice Tests are undertaken and a lot of 'test strategy' taught to prepare for AQE exams. This will continue to be the case along with the points highlighted below.

Our way forward

- Children will revisit key aspects of NI Curriculum in Literacy and Numeracy in the form of Literacy and Numeracy Facts that will be revised under the advice of the class teacher.
- P6 children to sit Progress Tests in English and Progress Tests in Maths in April. The results will then be shared with you and telephone conversations can take place, if necessary, to provide further guidance as to whether your child could cope with the process.



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- P6 will sit between 15 and 20 AQE Practice Tests and their results will be recorded, average class scores and average year group scores sent home each week to give you some sort of indication of how your child's performance.
- P6 Teachers will record an individual target on these Practice Papers, again to help your child with revision of specific areas.

The above protocols are a usual part of our practice in school but are being condensed into Term 3 as opposed to Term 2 and 3. As a result of this shorter time scale, one further support measure we plan to implement for this year group will be the addition of 2 classroom assistants, Mrs Brown and Mrs Clarke. The addition of these Staff members will be to enhance the learning of all P6 pupils.

In order to help us prepare for this busy term we would like you to consider all of the above. If you are able to tell us 'yes' you would like your child to prepare for the AQE tests or 'no' you don't think your child will be sitting the exam this will allow us to plan more effectively.

By informing us of your decision to enter your child, or not, into AQE will ensure that we provide your child with the best possible provision in school. For example, if you are not wanting to enter your child into the AQE then we will ensure that your child does not spend time completing past AQE papers and learning AQE test technique – we will be able to dedicate time to support your child in other ways.

Can I just say the decision you tell us is not definitive, you are able to change your mind at any given time. All children must be taught the NI Curriculum and this will continue to be the case.

I would ask ALL P6 parents to inform school of your initial thoughts in relation to AQE by completing a google form by [CLICKING HERE](#). Please complete this form by Friday 26th March at 12noon.

Thank you in anticipation for your support at this time. We pride ourselves in putting every effort into making our school a safe and comfortable learning environment and we believe this is helped by the continued support of our parents. Further information can be gained by visiting www.aqe.org.uk.

Kind Regards

Mrs L Kernaghan
Vice Principal