



Principal's Newsletter

September 2018



Dear Parents / Carers,

Can you believe it.....we are into September already! Time really does fly by. I'm sure I heard someone mention recently that there are only 16 weeks until Christmas – but let's not talk too loudly about that one just yet!

As the children start back into their first full week of school, I would like to send a huge message of thanks to you, the parents and carers, for providing your children with everything they need for a really positive start to the new academic year. Our first few days have been wonderful – the children all look fantastic in their school uniforms and they really have settled into school life really well.

Our new Nursery and Primary 1 pupils have started on their education journey. I have had the opportunity to pop down into the classrooms to say hello and they have all been having a really wonderful time.

Last Friday saw a few members of staff leave us, Mrs Lyons (P4 Teacher), Mrs Moffett (School Secretary) and classroom assistants, Mrs Arkins, Mrs Barlow and Mrs Williams. On behalf of the entire school community I would like to wish them well in their future endeavours and thank them for the hard work and dedication shown during their time at Victoria Primary.

In the coming weeks you will be receiving a range of letters home – meet the teacher invites, afterschool club lists, school fund contribution letters etc. The start of the school year is always a busy one. Please keep looking in your child's bag over the coming weeks to see if any letters have been sent home.

Many thanks,

Mr C. Fulton

Principal

Break Time Reminder

Can parents / carers please ensure that any items that children bring in for their short morning break can be eaten easily outside – eg, apple, banana, fruit yoghurt etc, and that it can be thrown in the bin when finished.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Principal

Mr C. Fulton

Acting Vice Principal / Head of Foundation & Key Stage 1

Mrs J. Orr

Special Needs Co- ordinator and Designated Teacher for Child Protection

Miss J. Minnis

Nursery Lead

Mrs P. Addis

Head of Key Stage 2

Mrs R. Miskelly

I'M WORRIED ABOUT A CHILD IN SCHOOL.

If you are concerned about the welfare of a pupil in school, please speak with Miss Minnis (Designated Teacher for Child Protection)



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Afterschool Clubs

The majority of our afterschool clubs will begin on the week beginning **MONDAY 1st OCTOBER**. A few clubs will begin earlier and any children that this will impact will bring a letter home soon – if not already!

Last year, we increased the number of clubs we provide across the school substantially – every member of our teaching staff takes 1, if not 2, afterschool clubs. Our school hall is occupied every afternoon to accommodate a sporting club. I am delighted that we are able to offer such a wide range of clubs for our almost 400 children.

I am aware, however, that the clubs we provide may not always be of interest to all of our children. Of course we will do our best to provide clubs that our children want to attend, and I believe that we do very well at this.

In terms of staffing, we are at maximum capacity in terms of the number of clubs we can provide via our own staff. A few parents commented on the end of year parent questionnaire that we did not provide enough clubs for their children.

As I have already mentioned, we have no more capacity in terms of in school staff to increase the number of clubs we offer. That doesn't mean we will give up! **If you, as a parent or carer, would like to offer your services and run an additional afterschool club we, as a school, will take you up on your offer.**

We will offer you full child protection training and complete an AccessNI check (police check) for you. If you would be interested in running an afterschool club, please call school and have a quick chat with me at some point this week. I hope to get letters out to parents listing all our afterschool clubs at some point next week.





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Meet The Teacher

Our meet the teacher events will be taking place this year on Thursday 27th September for P2 – P7. They will run from 3pm onwards and each year group will be given an allocated time.

Please keep an eye out for letters arriving home within the next week giving you more information.

It is really important that a member of your family attends this event as parents/carers will be given important information relating to the year ahead.

Adventure Playground

I'm afraid that our adventure playground is currently out of action at the moment.

We are waiting for a maintenance team to come and make some repairs.

Please ensure that children do not use the adventure playground before school or afterschool.

I will let all parents know when this has changed.

Class Charities

Last year, as a school, we raised £3,484.52 for our class charities. Over the coming weeks, children from Nursery to Primary 7 will be deciding on their nominated class charity for this year. Our collection of copper coins on a weekly basis (Wednesday's) will begin again on Wednesday 3rd October. This will give classes time to decide upon and research their chosen charity.

If there is a particular registered charity that has a special meaning to your child / family, ask your child to mention it to the class teacher and it may become your child's class charity for this academic year.

Compliments and Concerns

As you will be aware, as a school, we have an open door policy when it comes to listening to the view of the entire school community. We love to hear about all aspects of school life that you as parents and carers really enjoy. We also believe that it is important to be open to listening to concerns – if they arise.

As we start a new school year, please take a moment to review the flow chart below so that you speak to the correct person when highlighting a compliment or a concern.

If your child is in Nursery, P1, P2, P3 or P4

Class Teacher —————> Mrs Orr (Vice Principal) —————> Mr Fulton (Principal)

If your child is in P5, P6 or P7

Class Teacher —————> Mrs Miskelly (Head of Key Stage 2) —————> Mr Fulton (Principal)

It is very important that you make contact with the class teacher first. We will try our best to meet with you straight away, however, at times an appointment may need to be made.



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Term Dates 2018 / 19

August	<p>Wed 22nd, Thurs 23rd, Fri 24th August – School Development Days (School Closed)</p> <p>Mon 27th August – Bank Holiday (School Closed)</p> <p>Tues 28th August – School reopens for P2 – P7 pupils (School will close at 12pm on 28th, 29th and 30th of August)</p>
September	Fri 28 th September – School Development Day (School Closed)
October / November	<p>Fri 26th Oct – School Closes at 2pm.</p> <p>Mon 29th, Tues 30th, Wed 31st Oct, Thurs 1st, Fri 2nd November (School Closed for Half Term)</p> <p>Mon 5th November – School reopens</p>
December	Fri 21 st December – (School closes at 12pm for the Christmas Holidays)
January	<p>Thurs 3rd January – School reopens</p> <p>Mon 21st January – School Development Day (School Closed)</p>
February	<p>Fri 15th February – School Closes at 2pm.</p> <p>Mon 18th February – School Development Day (School Closed)</p> <p>Tues 19th, Wed 20th, Thurs 21st, Fri 22nd February (School Closed for Half Term)</p> <p>Mon 25th February – School reopens</p>
April	<p>Fri 12th April – (School closes at 12pm for Easter Holidays)</p> <p>Mon 29th April – School reopens</p>
May	<p>Mon 6th May – School Closed (Bank Holiday)</p> <p>Mon 27th May – School Development Day (School Closed)</p>
June	<p>Thurs 6th, Fri 7th June – School Development Days (School Closed)</p> <p>Fri 28th June – (School closes at 12pm for Summer Holidays)</p>