



Principal's Newsletter

February 2019



Dear Parents / Carers,

It seems like only yesterday that I was writing my January newsletter and wishing all of our families a very happy new year. It is very hard to believe that we are approaching our next half term break already.

Next half term is due to be a very busy one. Miss Minnis, Miss McFarlane and Mrs Skillen will be continuing to work with all the children involved in our up-coming school show '**Pirates of the Curry Bean.**' Lines are currently being memorised, costumes being created and, very shortly, the scenery and staging will become a priority. Keep an eye out over the coming weeks with information on how to order your tickets for the show on Mon 1st, Tues 2nd and Wed 3rd April.

Next half term also sees the school celebrate its 50th Birthday. We have a surprise event planned in the calendar for the end of March (more information will follow) and the children will take part in our Big Birthday Party on Friday 5th April 2019....again more information to follow.

Can I again take this opportunity to thank the parents / carers for their continuous support.

Many thanks,

Mr C. Fulton

Principal

Election Day – Advance Notice

School has received notice that Local Government Elections will be held on Thursday 2nd May 2019 and that the school is intended to be used as a Polling Station on this day.

As a result, school and Nursery will be closed to all pupils and staff as no other business can take place on the school site while polling is taking place. Kids' Cave will also not be available on this date.

Please add this date to your calendars.

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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I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of the entire school community, to say a massive THANK YOU to the parents and carers that are currently members of our school PTA.

The PTA work tirelessly throughout the school year to help raise vital funds for school, so that we can afford to purchase a range of different items throughout the school year.

I'm sure you will be aware from the news that all schools across the country are facing extremely difficult financial situations. At Victoria we really value the support that PTA members provide as we would struggle to do it all without their help.

Help and support provided by PTA:

£1800 to fix the adventure playground. (happening after half term)

£4500 to purchase classroom essentials at the start of the school year.

£330 to Youth Governors to help fund their new bike and scooter rack project.



This month's attendance fact:

Research has shown that...

- Children with good school attendance are 7 times more likely to form good social networks with their peers.

Class	%	Class	%
1JM	95.3%	1JO	96.6%
2AH	97.1%	2JS	94.3%
3PC/JMM	95.1%	3LMF	96.3%
4PMC	96.9%	4JMC/RMC	96.2%
5VD	96.6%	5JL	96.6%
6GH	97.2%	6HG	95.9%
7RMIS	96.7%	7AN	96.1%

Green = 96% +

Amber = 94% - 95.9%

Red = 93.9% and below



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Key Dates

Monday 18th – Friday 22nd February

School closed for half term.

Thursday 21st March

PTA Family Bingo 6:30pm – 8:00pm

Monday 1st – Wednesday 3rd April

School Production

Friday 5th April

50th Birthday Celebrations – Party for the children in the morning. School will close at 12:15pm for all pupils. Celebration Afternoon Tea to take place for past Governors / staff in the afternoon. School open from 5pm – 7pm for past pupils to take a walk down memory lane.

Thursday 11th April

Easter Disco in school. £1 for the disco per child. 50p each for tattoos and glow sticks. Children can wear non uniform.

Thursday 11th April

PTA Meeting @ 7:30pm

Friday 12th April

School closes at 12pm for the Easter Holidays. (Children to wear school uniform)



Danger
building works
in progress

Over the coming weeks parents and carers will notice that a few different aspects of building work will be taking place around school. As a school, a bid was placed with the Education Authorities' Minor Works Department, in order to better develop the security of our school site. The initial application for the works was submitted in March 2018 and I am delighted that our bid has been successful. Additional fencing will be added around the front playground as well as along the edge of the car park and at the rear of the school canteen to ensure that visitors to school cannot gain access to any area of the school site apart from the main front entrance. The current school office will be demolished and a new, purpose built office and visitor waiting area will be built. Once I have been given a start date by the Education Authority, I will write to parents / carers to advise them of alternative, short term access arrangements.



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Just before the Christmas holidays, Mrs Orr applied for a grant from the National Lottery in order to help redevelop the outside play area and classroom at the rear of the Primary 1 classroom block. Within the Northern Ireland Curriculum, children should have the opportunity, particularly in Nursery and Primary 1, to develop their learning outdoors. We are delighted to let the school community know that the National Lottery have awarded school **£10,000** to help develop this outdoor area.

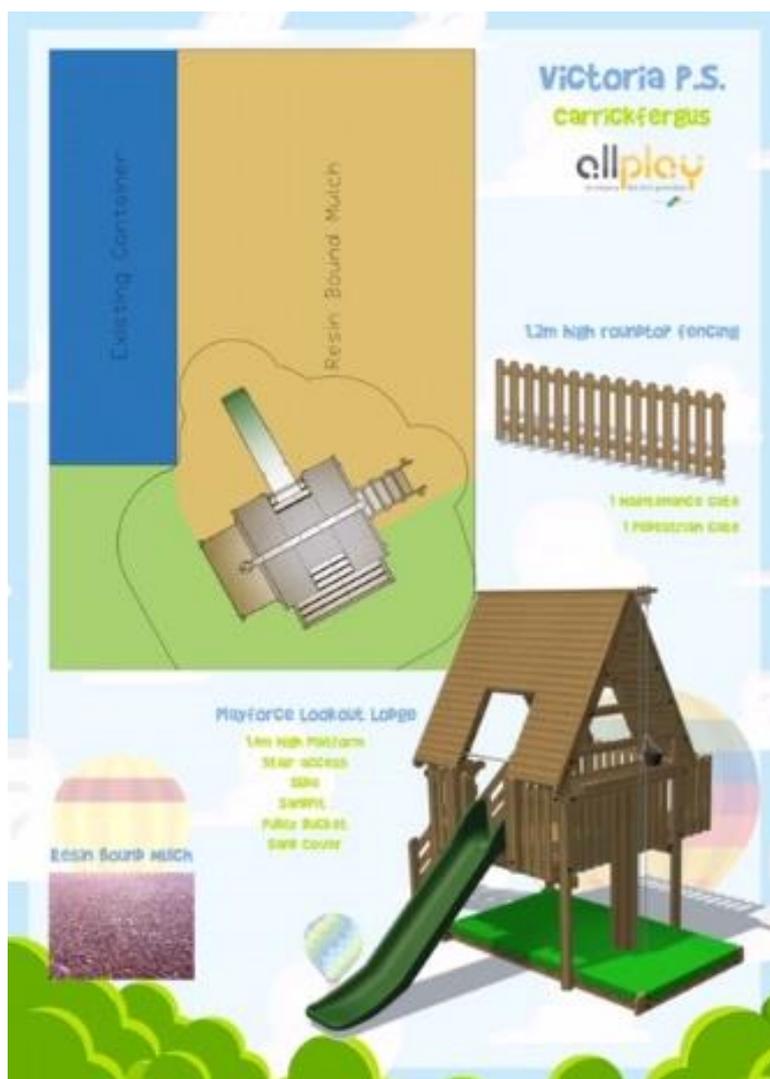
Mrs Orr has been in talks with several companies in order to get the best prices for what we want....believe it or not, £10000 doesn't go a very long way but we are delighted that we can make a start in our redevelopment.

This design from one of the companies Mrs Orr has been in touch with gives you a bit of an idea as to what the grant money will be spent on.

Construction will start in approx. 6 weeks' time and **WE CAN'T WAIT!!!!**



NATIONAL LOTTERY FUNDED





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Term Dates for next academic year, 2019 / 20:

Autumn Term	
August	<p>Wed 21st, Thurs 22nd, Fri 23rd (School Development Days – school closed)</p> <p>Mon 26th – Bank Holiday – School Closed</p> <p>Tues 27th – School re-opens for P2 – P7</p> <p>Tues 27th, Wed 28th, Thurs 29th – School closes at 12pm for all pupils</p> <p><i>(Starting information for Nursery and P1 will be sent out separately)</i></p> <p>Fri 30th – School finishes at normal time (Packed Lunches only on this day – no canteen facilities available)</p>
September	Fri 27 th – School Development Day (School Closed)
October / November	<p>Fri 25th Oct – School Closes at 2pm.</p> <p>Mon 28th - School Development Day (School Closed)</p> <p>Tues 29th, Wed 30th, Thurs 31st Oct and Fri 1st November (School Closed for Half Term)</p> <p>Mon 4th November – School reopens</p>
December	Fri 20 th – (School closes at 12pm for the Christmas Holidays)
January	<p>Mon 6th – School reopens</p> <p>Mon 27th – School Development Day (School Closed)</p>
February	<p>Fri 14th – School Closes at 2pm.</p> <p>Mon 17th Tues 18th, Wed 19th, Thurs 20th (School Closed for Half Term)</p> <p>Fri 21st - School Development Day (School Closed)</p> <p>Mon 24th – School reopens</p>
April	<p>Fri 3rd – (School closes at 12pm for Easter Holidays)</p> <p>Mon 6th - School Development Day (School Closed)</p> <p>Mon 20th – School reopens</p>
May	<p>Mon 4th – School Closed (Bank Holiday)</p> <p>Mon 25th – School Closed (Bank Holiday)</p>
June	<p>Thurs 11th, Fri 12th – School Development Days (School Closed)</p> <p>Tues 30th – (School closes at 12pm for Summer Holidays)</p>

