



Principal's Newsletter

September 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

A huge WELCOME BACK to our entire VPS community. I hope that each and every member of the VPS family managed to have an enjoyable break over the summer and found time to rest, relax and spend time with family and friends.

The beginning of a new school year is always busy. Getting back into routines, meeting new teachers, welcoming new children to our classes and school and getting to grips with what is expected of the year ahead.

May I extend my thanks to you, as parents and carers, for your continued support. We simply couldn't do it all without you.

As we now settle into the term, you should now have a clear overview of expectations for the year. This includes information on homework, school uniform, attendance and punctuality etc. If, at any point, you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to message your child's class teacher via SeeSaw. Teachers will endeavour to respond as soon as possible, within working hours.

Many thanks,

Mr C. Fulton

Principal

SCHOOL MONEY APP

For a few years now, many parents / carers had been asking when we would move to a cashless payment system. You will be aware that this move has taken place for the start of this new school year.

We are really delighted with this cashless app so far and feel that it makes the whole process of payments easier for our parents / carers.

If you are having any problems with the app or any general queries in relation to the cashless payment system, please feel free to give the school office a call and they will do their best to help you out.

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Principal

Mr C. Fulton

Vice Principal and Special Needs Co- ordinator

Mrs L. Kernaghan

Head of Foundation & Key Stage 1

Mrs R. Miskelly

Nursery Lead

Mrs P. Addis

Head of Key Stage 2

Mr J. Clarke

Pastoral Lead

Mrs J. Orr

I'M WORRIED ABOUT A CHILD IN SCHOOL.



If you are concerned about the welfare of a pupil in school, please speak with Mrs Orr (Designated Teacher for Child Protection and Pastoral Lead).



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OUR WHOLE SCHOOL CHARITY 2023/24

This year, we will be supporting the charity Assistance Dogs Northern Ireland as our whole school charity.

Assistance Dogs NI is the charity that, very kindly, provided us with Kobby.

We want to try to give back to ADNI so that they can continue their amazing work in training a range of dogs to support children and their families both at home and in school.

Charity collection day is a Wednesday and children are encouraged to bring small change into school. **Alternatively, parents can make a £1 donation via the SHOP option in the School Money app.**

VPS NOMINATED CHARITY 2023 - 24



**ASSISTANCE DOGS
NORTHERN IRELAND**

✓ Send in your charity money with your child on a Wednesday

or

✓ Use the SHOP in the School Money app to make a £1 donation each week.

www.adni.org.uk



Parents / Carers in P3 – P7 received a text message with a link to an online form giving more information about after school clubs available to their children.

Clubs will start next week, w/b Monday 25th September 2023 and teacher will send a note to your child if they have been successful in gaining a space in the club.

I would like to thank school staff for giving of their time to run after school clubs.



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WELCOME TO NEW NURSERY AND PRIMARY 1 PUPILS

From Friday 1st September, we have had the great pleasure of welcoming new faces into our Nursery and Primary 1 classes. It is always lovely to see such smiling faces, smart uniforms....and new school year hair cuts! 😊 Have a look at some of the photos below.









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Policy of The Month

Each month, I am going to give you a bit of an oversight of 1 policy within school. This month I want to update you on our policy: **Administration of Medicine.**

This policy outlines the many different ways, in school, that we will support the pastoral care of your child with a focus on how we administer any prescribed medication. This policy directs school in managing the administration of medicine by:

- Informing parents of the forms that need to be completed should you wish school to administer medicine to your child.
- Letting parents know that, as a school, we are only able to administer medication that is prescribed by a doctor and that has the prescription label attached.



Administration of Medicine Policy

Date of next policy review	2025
Name of person responsible for this policy	Christopher Faldut
Other related policies	Pastoral Care, Safeguarding, Intimate Care
Issued to	Staff, governors, parents
Date of issue	September 2023

Click on the image of the policy to be taken to an online copy.

Start of the Day

A reminder that children in P2 – P7 **should not** go through the double gates by Mrs Ritchie's office, in the morning, until the bell goes. We do not have any members of staff in the playground to supervise children until this time.

Parents / carers should not pass the double gates.



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Summerhill Programme

Victoria Primary School will run this 4 week programme in the Assembly Hall starting on Monday 6th November 6.30pm - 8.30pm.

Summerhill Foundation Programme (4 weeks x 2 hours)

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK](#)

The role of parents is crucial in the happiness and early years development of their children. With increasing pressures on families due to the rising cost of living the Summerhill Foundation have collaborated with Parenting NI to provide practical support to parents in the form of a 4-week programme. This programme will allow parents to meet and discuss family life in a safe environment. Picking up tips on how to reduce household bills and expenses, play and connect with your child, practice self-care and become more confident in handling the daily pressures parents face. By offering this programme it is our hope that families will benefit from a happier home life and children will feel more secure as they are given the support and love to enable them to reach their full potential in life.

Parents will receive a certificate and a £20.00 gift card on completion of the full 4 weeks.

Programme Overview

Week 1 Nutrition and Healthy Eating - Monday 6th November 6.30pm - 8.30pm

Week 2 Play and Reading - Monday 13th November 6.30pm - 8.30pm

Week 3 Cost of living - Monday 20th November 6.30pm - 8.30pm

Week 4 Fitness and Wellbeing - Monday 27th November 6.30pm - 8.30pm



We do love dogs here at VPS! We love them so much that we have our very own Kobby in school every day. As you know, Kobby is a fully trained assistance dog.

No other dogs, other than fully trained assistance dogs, should be brought onto the school grounds at any point.

Thanks for your understanding.



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TERM DATES FOR 2023 / 24

Term Dates	
September	Fri 1 st – P1 and Nursery children begin school. Specific dates and times will be communicated to individual parents. Fri 29 ^h – School Development Day (School Closed)
October	Mon 30 th & Tues 31 st – School Closed (Half Term)
November	Wed 1 st , Thurs 2 nd , Fri 3 rd – School Closed (Half Term)
December	Fri 22 nd – School closes from 11:50am - 12noon for all pupils. Mon 25 th – Fri 29 th – School Closed (Christmas Holidays)
January	Mon 1 st – Fri 5 th – School Closed (Christmas Holidays) Mon 8 th – P2 – P7 pupils return to school. OPEN DAY (Nursery and P1 pupils off today) Tues 9 th – Nursery and P1 pupils return to school.
February	Mon 12 th – Fri 16 th – School Closed (Half Term)
March	Mon 18 th – School closes from 11:50am-12noon for all pupils (No school canteen and transport) Fri 22 nd - School closes from 11:50am-12noon for all pupils. Mon 25 th – Fri 29 th – School Closed (Easter Holidays)
April	Mon 1 st – Fri 5 th – School Closed (Easter Holidays)
May	Mon 6 th – School Closed (Bank Holiday) Mon 27 th – Fri 31 st – School Closed (Half Term)
June	Tues 25 th – P7 pupils finish at 12noon. Fri 28 th – School closes for Summer Holidays