



Principal's Newsletter

End of Term 2018



Dear Parents / Carers,

As we near the end of another busy year here at Victoria Primary School and Nursery Unit, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, on behalf of the staff and Governors, for your continued support throughout this year. As a school we have had another wonderful year, sharing every moment of your child's educational journey with you. This academic year, our sports teams have had a successful experience in a range of different competitions and tournaments, the number of children taking part in music tuition has increased significantly, the overall number of extracurricular activities provided by our staff this year has increased...the list is endless! In May this year our school was inspected by the Education and Training Inspectorate and we are delighted with the outcome – more about our inspection is highlighted later in this newsletter.

This newsletter is slightly longer than previous newsletters as it provides you with all the information you need to know in preparation for your child starting back with us at the end of August. Please keep this information somewhere safe over the Summer break.

So, from me, I would like to wish you all a very happy and enjoyable Summer and I look forward to welcoming you back at the end of August.

Many thanks,

Mr C. Fulton

Principal

Contact Details and Pick Up Lists

It is really important that we have the correct contact information for all parents and carers. If these change over the Summer, please inform school as soon as the children return.

Also, please ensure that anyone collecting your child is on their pick up list. Please advise the class teacher if there are changes to be made to this.

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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Important Information

Starting Back To School – August 2018

- Nursery and Primary 1 pupils have already had their starting information. This was given to all parents and carers at an induction meeting held earlier this month.
- School will start back for all other pupils on **Tuesday 28th August** at normal time. Children will finish at **12pm** on Tues 28th, Wed 29th and Thurs 30th August.
- Children will then finish at normal finishing time on Friday 31st August 2018.

SLIGHT CHANGE IN SCHOOL TIMINGS

- From the start of the next academic year, Primary 5 – Primary 7 pupils will finish school **every Friday afternoon at 2:10pm**. Internal break timings will be adjusted throughout the school week to ensure that no overall teaching time is lost for these pupils. Finish times for P1 – P4 pupils remain unchanged. To confirm, school finishing times on a Friday are as follows:

Friday Finishing Times

Primary 1	2pm	Primary 5	2:10pm
Primary 2	2pm	Primary 6	2:10pm
Primary 3	2pm	Primary 7	2:10pm
Primary 4	2pm		

School Uniform

- In preparation for returning to school, please ensure that your child has the correct full school uniform. Just a reminder that training shoes are not allowed to be worn outside of PE lessons. Black school shoes should be worn at all other times. The PTA will be running a second hand Pop Up Uniform Shop in the school hall on Monday 2nd July from 10am – 1pm for any parents wishing to pick up some spare uniform for next academic year.

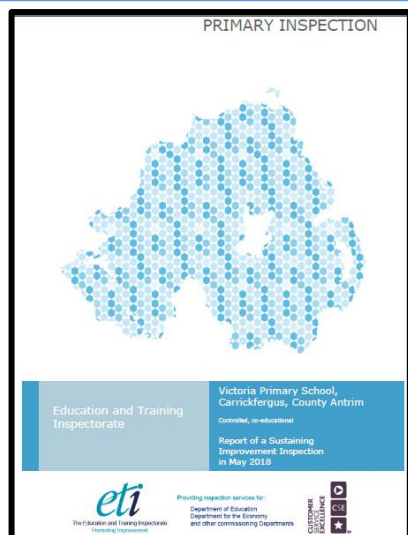
Equipment

- All children will have received a list of equipment and resources they will need when they start back to school. I would be very grateful if children could bring all their equipment with them on their first day back to school.



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Victoria Primary School and Nursery Unit – Inspection

As I mentioned in my opening comments, our school was inspected by the Education and Training Inspectorate on Thursday 24th and Friday 25th May 2018.

The inspectors met with the Principal, members of the Senior Leadership Team, a group of children from Primary 6, members of the Governing Body as well as observing teachers teach.

As a school, we are incredibly pleased with the outcome of this inspection. The inspection team confirmed our ability as a school to plan for and implement improvement. Please see some of the comments from our report below:

*'The children in the foundation stage benefit from **well planned, high quality play-based learning experiences both indoors and outdoors.**'*

*'The children develop their own **creative ideas, make independent choices, problem solve and apply their literacy and numeracy skills** in meaningful contexts.'*

*'A sample of children from key stage 2 spoke confidently and with **pride about their many contributions to school life.**'*

'Feedback from focus groups of children to the leadership and management about learning and teaching has identified priorities and informed the actions being taken to bring about improvement.'

*'There are **robust processes in place for self-evaluation** and school development planning to sustain and effective improvement.'*

*'The process is focused clearly on raising the outcomes for all of the children **in a holistic and child-centred approach.**'*

*'The sample of year six children reported that they **feel happy and safe in school** and know who to talk to if they have a concern.'*

'Victoria Primary School continues to demonstrate a high level of capacity for sustained improvement in the interest of all the learners.'



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Staffing Changes

Mrs McMechan and Mr Clarke have both decided to reduce their teaching commitment to part time. As a result of this, we will be welcoming Mr McKane to school at the start of the next academic year as our new Primary 6 teacher. Children in Mr McKane's primary 6 class will have the opportunity to meet with him this coming Friday.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast club will be available again next academic year. The cost for breakfast club will, initially, remain at £1.75 per session. As this cost has not increased within the last year, I will need to keep it under review as we move forward. Children can attend breakfast club from 8:00am each morning, however, children must arrive before 8:30am in order to be served a breakfast.

Parents are reminded that, on the first day of attendance at breakfast club, a permission slip must be signed.

School Dinners

Children are able to avail of school dinners on a daily basis. Our 5 star canteen provides delicious meals for all our children. The cost of school dinners is set by the Education Authority. At present they cost £2.60 per day.

Payment should be sent into school on a Monday morning for the total amount for the coming week. This allows staff to gauge numbers as accurately as possible.

Money Envelopes

We know it can be difficult trying to find spare envelopes around the house when sending money into school. To make life a little easier, you can purchase a booklet of money envelopes from the school office for £2.50. These envelopes, a little like Church collection envelopes, can be used for dinner money, milk money, payment for trips etc. Simply call into the school office if you would like to purchase these.

After School Activity Club – Kids' Cave

Our after school activity club, Kids' Cave will continue to operate next academic year for all our pupils. This club is open daily, from 2pm – 5:30pm (5:00pm on a Friday) at a cost of £4:50 per hour. Booking forms are available from the school office or from the Kids' Cave room and should be returned on a Thursday, along with payment, for the next week. Any bookings made after a Thursday for the next week, or an on the day booking will cost £5 per hour.

If you would like to come and have a look around Kids' Cave before making your first booking, please give school a call and we will arrange a suitable time for you to attend.



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Term Dates 2018 / 19

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

Finally, thank you all for supporting your child and the school over the past year. I hope you all have a really wonderful Summer break and I look forward to welcoming all the children back to school next academic year.

Mr C. Fulton

Principal