



Principal's Newsletter

October 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

It is hard to believe that we have now been back to school, in this new academic year, for over 1 month now. It has been a really great start to the new school year so far.

It has been lovely to welcome our new children into Nursery and Primary 1 as well as welcome a large number of new children into other year groups across school. We are all delighted to see VPS continue to grow and become a school of choice for so many families.

Last week saw the start of the majority of our extra curricular clubs. We have approximately 220 children taking part in some form of extra curricular activity. As always, it is important to say THANK YOU to my school staff for giving of their time to run these clubs for your children.

We do charge a small £5 fee for all our school-led clubs. Parents have had a notification sent to them via the School Money app requesting payment. If you have yet to pay the £5 fee for your child's club, please log on and make this payment as soon as possible.

Many thanks,

Mr C. Fulton

Principal

SCHOOL FUND CONTRIBUTION 2023 / 24

I am writing to the parents and carers of all children here at Victoria Primary School to, once again, ask for your support and generosity in supporting our request for a contribution towards our School Fund.

Our School Fund is used for a variety of different purposes to enhance the quality of the experiences your child has here at VPS.

This academic year, we are asking for a school fund donation of £20 per child. A request for this contribution will be sent out via School Money.

As always, thank you for your continued support and generosity.

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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PARENT / TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Parent / Teacher interviews will take place, for children in P1 – P6, on the week beginning Monday 23rd October 2023.

Children in these year groups will finish school at 12:30pm / 12:40pm each day during parent interview week.

Children will still have lunch in school before they go home.

Parent interview times will be

sent home, via SeeSaw, on Monday 9th October – please keep an eye out for your interview time.

Parents are requested to wait outside the main school entrance prior to their parent interview. A member of school staff will let you in when it is your interview time. After 10 minutes, the school bell will ring to signal the end of your interview. If you feel that you need more time to discuss your child's progress, please arrange a further meeting with your child's class teacher.

VPS – AN ACT OF REMEMBRANCE 2023

On Friday 10th November 2023, our school community will come together, just before 11am, to take part in our act of remembrance 2023.

Members of the local community are welcome to join us. We will gather outside the main entrance of school from 10:45am, with our moment of silence happening at 11am.

We hope as many members of the local community as possible can join us.



REMEMBRANCE DAY
Let's We Forget



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What's happening in school this term....

- | | |
|--|--|
| • Wed 4 th /Thurs 5 th October | Flu jabs taking place |
| • W/b 23 rd October | Parent interviews taking place for P1 – P6 pupils. Children will finish early 12:30/12:40. |
| • Wed 25 th October | P1 and P2 Discos. Children can wear non-uniform. Cost £1. Glow sticks 50p each. Send payment into class teacher. |
| • Thurs 26 th October | P3, 4 and 5 Discos. Children can wear non-uniform. Cost £1. Glow sticks 50p each. Send payment into class teacher. |
| • Fri 27 th October | P6 and 7 Discos. Children can wear non-uniform. Cost £1. Glow sticks 50p each. Send payment into class teacher. |
| • Monday 6 th November | School photographer in school. |
| • Friday 10 th November | Act of Remembrance @ 10.45am |
| • Wednesday 6 th December | Carol Service at North Street Presbyterian Church @ 6.30pm |
| • Tuesday 12 th December | Primary 1 Christmas Show |
| • Wednesday 13 th December | Primary 2 Christmas Show |
| • Thursday 14 th December | Primary 3 Christmas Show |
| • Friday 15 th December | Nursery Christmas Show |



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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: **Homework.**

This policy outlines the many different ways, in school, that we support the continued attainment and progress of your child with a focus on our homework expectations. This policy directs school in managing the provision of homework.



Homework Policy

Date the policy came into effect	September 2022
Date of next policy review	2025
Name of person responsible for this policy	Christopher Fulton
Other related policies	T&L, Curriculum
Issued to	Staff, governors, parents

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	
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