



**VICTORIA PRIMARY COVID-19 CONTINGENCY PLAN**

**INFORMATION FOR PARENTS (5th Letter – updated 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020)**

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS – We will continue to update this list over time.**

**PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT, AT THE TIME THIS LETTER WENT TO PRINT, SCHOOL REMAINS OPEN**

**Questions / answers / updates below updated 17<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

1. Do you have any idea when schools will close?

No – I'm afraid we do not. However, please pay particular attention to the following information.

Victoria Primary School will be CLOSED to all pupils this Thursday and Friday. (19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> March). We have two staff training days planned for towards the end of the school year that we are bringing forward. School is under immense pressure to ensure that work is prepared for children in the event of a prolonged closure. From tomorrow, we will have 8 members of staff self-isolating at home as a result of the advice and guidance issued by the Prime Minister yesterday. This is placing a huge strain on school resources to ensure that we can operate a safe school environment moving forward. I am sure you are aware that we would not take this decision unless it was absolutely necessary. This will allow staff the time to prepare another two weeks' worth of work on paper and to start preparing online learning for pupils. **SCHOOL CLOSED THIS THURSDAY (19<sup>TH</sup>) AND FRIDAY (20<sup>TH</sup>) MARCH FOR ALL PUPILS.**

2. If my child is self-isolating, can I have some more work sent home?

If your child is currently off school for 14 days, please **do not complete the packs of work already sent home**. These packs of work are for a time when school is forced to close for a prolonged period of time. We will instruct you when to start using the packs. You already have 2 weeks' worth of work sent home and another 2 weeks' worth is currently being prepared. In the event of a prolonged closure, this will give teachers a 4-week timescale to get online learning fully up and running.

If your child is currently self-isolating, please take time to revise spellings, maths facts etc from your child's planner. Your child can complete some online learning via websites etc. We will provide a list of websites in due course.

Once again, I am very sorry that we cannot be more specific at this time with help from home. This is a situation that we never thought we would find ourselves in.



## Questions and answers below updated on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020

1. Would it be possible to be given an outline of a class timetable to follow if schools close as my child would really benefit from consistency?

Of course. Class timetables are currently being collated and will be sent out via the school app.

2. With everyone stockpiling, I am struggling to make my child's packed lunch. Is there anything school can do to help?

Yes – we can provide all children with a snack on a daily basis (bread based product such as toast, pancake etc) and a small piece of fruit. The cost of this is £3 per week. We can also provide each child with a school lunch at a cost of £2.60 per day. Normally children are required to order their lunches and pay for it on a Monday for the full week, however, in this instance, we will allow parents to pay for lunches and order lunches on a daily basis.

3. If school closes for 16 weeks, what support will be put in place to continue education provision, especially for children in P6 working towards AQE.

This is an ever changing situation. As a school we will do everything in our power to ensure that we continue to provide updates for all children throughout a school closure. At present, we have sent home work to cover a two week closure. We are working with our website provider in order to add specific pages for home learning for each year group and we will share this with parents and carers when we know more. In terms of P6, we will be sending home copies of transfer papers that we would usually work on in school. This will provide children with resources to continue to work on over the coming weeks and months, if required. This will develop over time.

4. Will we have some kind of e-mail contact with a child's class teacher while school is closed for support in any curriculum areas that parents may find difficult to explain?

We will not leave you stranded. We intend to set up an online question and answer system via SLIDO [www.sli.do](http://www.sli.do) for each class in school. This will allow parents to communicate with school staff and allow staff the opportunity to respond, during normal school working hours, to any

concerns. This will also allow other parents the opportunity to see questions asked and answers given. More information on this will follow.

5. What if we wanted to remove our children from school earlier than an official school closure?



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We currently have some parents that are deciding to do exactly that. Many are as a result of other members of the extended family with less resilient immune systems. However, I will respect a family's decision. The department of education have given school a specific code to use on our attendance systems if a child is off school in any way linked to COVID-19. The official government advice is for children to remain off school if they have a new cough and / or a fever.

6. I'm concerned about my child washing their hands on a regular basis in school. Will school be monitoring this?

We are putting hand sanitising products into our classrooms. Members of school staff will be reminding pupils to wash and dry their hands on a regular basis. Please continue to remind your child about the importance of hand washing.

7. Is there any update on planned school trips?

Yes – all single day planned school trips have been cancelled. If you have paid for any single day school trips this money will be refunded to you.

After speaking with the Education Authority on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020 @ 1pm I can confirm that our P7 trip to Loch Insh has been cancelled. Please work with us as we contact Loch Insh about any possible refunds. We will be in touch with you as soon as we know more.

8. If P7 swimming does not go ahead will a refund be issued?

Of course. As there are only a couple of weeks of swimming left for this term parents and carers can get a refund from school of £4.80. A letter is being sent home with Primary 7 parents asking them if they would like this refund or if they would be happy for the £4.80 to be added to school funds. Primary 7 parents are asked to return the letter to school.

9. Could you tell me the procedure for collecting children from the Nursery as school have requested that parents do not enter the school building?

Parents will be asked to wait outside the main doors of Nursery. Staff will bring all children to the waiting area and have them ready to go home with their coats and bags. Staff will then dismiss the children to parents / carers at the main door. Nursery staff will change your child's Big Bedtime Read book for you from this point on.



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10. Would it make more sense to ask children to bring in a donation of food on Green Day rather than them bringing in creations made out of fruit or vegetables?

Yes – we agree. We would ask that children bring in a donation of food as listed on Letter 4 that went out to all parents. However, if children have already made their creation they are very welcome to still bring it in tomorrow.

More information about Green day:

- Children to come to school wearing something green - £1 donation.
- Stationary made out of recyclable material will be in sale. Pencils – 20p. Rulers – 60p. Pens – 70p. Please send in money with your child if you would like them to purchase an item.

11. Can we as parents / carers do anything else to help school at this time?

We are just delighted that we are still able to remain open to support our school community. However, if you do have any soap, hand sanitiser, boxes of tissues etc at home that are 'spare' then we will not turn them away. Constant washing of over 400 pairs of hands on a regular basis is eating into our soap supplies.

Also, it is extremely important that we continue to follow advice and guidance given to us by local Public Health Teams. If your child had a cough and / or a fever, then please ensure they remain off for at least 7 days. As always, if your child has been sick, please ensure that they stay at home for at least 48 hours once sickness has stopped.