



# Principal's Newsletter

October 2020



Dear Parents / Carers,

Can you believe that it is October already and that we have been back to school for over a month now? The time really is going very quickly.

As I had already mentioned before, I am delighted with how well the children have returned to school after such a long time away. It is really clear that everyone was ready to come back.

If you have been around school lately you will have noticed some lovely new sanitising stations at each of our entrances. Please continue to remind your children to use these machines to sanitise their hands as they come into school. This saves a big queue at the classroom sink first thing in the morning. 😊

Something else 'new' that is starting from next week...the return of HOT SCHOOL MEALS being served in our canteen. Our new school meals menu is on the school website and a copy of the information sent out with the menu is repeated further down this newsletter. Please do take the time to read that information again, as with everything Covid linked, we have had to make some changes.

Many thanks

Mr C. Fulton

Principal

## Office Hours Reminder

This year, to assist in our full school return, Mrs Ritchie is assisting in supervising classes during break and lunch. This means that the school office will be closed between **10.30am – 11.00am and 12pm – 1pm.**

Please leave a message on the answering machine during this time and someone will get back to you.

## SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

### Principal

Mr C. Fulton

### Vice Principal

Mrs L. Kernaghan

### 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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### School Packed Lunches

Please continue to send your child into school with their packed lunch in a disposable container that can be put in the bin at the end of lunchtime. This has been working really really well for us in school and I thank you all for your continued support.

### Class Charity Information

We will be continuing to collect any spare change, on a weekly basis (Wednesday) to go towards our collections for this year. A reminder that all the money raised will be going towards helping with the refurbishment of our ICT Suite. I can't wait to get to a point when I can share the plans of our redesigned ICT suite with you all. ☺

### School Fund Contributions

Last week, you should've received a letter from school requesting school fund contributions. This year, we are requesting £30 from each family in school to go towards our school fund balance. Thank you very much to the parents and carers that have already sent in their donation. Please continue to send in your donation over the next week.

Like our charity collections, the majority of our school fund contributions will be going towards the redevelopment of our ICT Suite. So, if you can, please do send in a school fund donation.

### Kids' Cave in Parent Interview Week

During Parent Interview Week, week beginning 19<sup>th</sup> October, Kids' Cave will continue to operate, however, with different timings.

- Kids' Cave will operate from 1pm – 3pm each day during parent interview week.
- Although children are finishing before 1pm each day that week, any children going on to Kids' Cave will stay with their class teacher until 1pm and the class teacher will take them to Kids' Cave.
- We do expect this to be a busy week in Kids' Cave and our numbers are limited. Please ensure you have your booking envelopes into school by 12pm on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October.
- **Booking Envelopes** – Please use the normal booking envelopes. Continue to circle if you want your child to stay for 1 hour or 2 hours. (Although the normal booking envelopes will say 3-4pm / 3-5pm, staff will be aware, for example, if you circle 3-4pm that your child will only be staying for 1 hour, until 2pm, and so on)

### Money Coming Into School

Wow! Thank you to the school community for sending in money to school, in an envelope, clearly labelled with your child's information on the front. All the staff are really grateful and this is working really well for us in school.

If your child arrives back home with money that you sent into school, it may be because it wasn't provided in an envelope. If this is the case, please envelope it up and send it back to school again. We still need to leave 72 hours before touching the money that comes into school.



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## ONLINE SAFETY

In recent days in school, children in all our classes have been learning about **ONLINE SAFETY**.

Please take some time at home to talk to your children about what they have learned. Also, when you come in for your parent interview, you will notice that the work your child's class completed will be on display outside their rooms. (P2 – P7 rooms).

Also, over the past year, in order to support parents / carers with keeping children safe online, we have been working in partnership with Knowsley City Learning Centres to produce a monthly Online Safety Newsletter for parents. These are **REALLY SUPER** newsletters. Please do take time to read them.

Our collection of newsletters so far can be found on the school website by [clicking here](#).

The thumbnail shows the cover of the 'Online Safety Newsletter' for October 2020. It features the Victoria Primary School logo and the Knowsley City Learning Centres logo. The main title is 'Online Safety Newsletter' with a blue arrow pointing right, and the date 'October 2020' is in the top right corner. The central illustration is a cartoon girl with blonde hair, glasses, and a microphone, representing a social media user. The main heading is 'Triller'. Below this, there is a section 'What is Triller?' with a short paragraph. To the right of this is a small icon of a person. Below the main heading, there are several boxes with safety tips: 'What should I be aware of?' (with a sub-section 'In app purchases'), 'Direct messages/commenting', 'Inappropriate content:', 'Reporting/Blocking:', 'Saving:', and 'Public profiles:'. At the bottom, there is a 'Further information' section with links to community guidelines, a FAQ, and a Triller article. A small disclaimer at the very bottom states 'Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into. Content as of the date released 1.10.20.'

## REMEMBER....

In order to ensure that we, as a school, can remain open for as long as possible, please DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL

IF:

- They have a continuous cough
- They have a high temperature
- They have a loss of their normal sense of taste and/or smell.



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**Below is a copy of the message sent to parents / carers, via the school app, about what to expect when school meals start up in the canteen on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October.**

From next Monday (5th October) we will be returning to hot school lunches being served in the canteen. This follows guidance from the Department of Education asking schools to resume hot lunches as soon as possible.

Obviously, with all things COVID related, there are some changes that have had to be made to make this possible. Please read the below points carefully. **If you feel that the changes outlined below will not suit your child, then please do not send your child for hot school lunches just yet.**

1) Due to the tables needing to be sanitized in between sittings, children will only have a maximum of 20 minutes to eat their lunch in the canteen. (Apart from our youngest children in P1 and P2; they will have 30 minutes). I'm afraid, due to the need to clean the place thoroughly, children will need to leave after 20 mins even if they have not finished.

2) There will only be 1 choice on the menu.

3) Children will not queue up to collect their lunch. Lunch will be on the table ready for them when they come into the canteen. This is to stop different class bubbles mixing.

Like all other aspects of school life that have changed, I am confident that all the children will take to the new system in the canteen really well.

The new school lunch menu is on the school website.

As always, please send in lunch money, on a Monday, in an envelope clearly marked with your child's name, the days they are attending school lunches and the amount of money enclosed.

A reminder that we are still unable to issue change so please ensure that correct money is sent in. If an over payment is sent, it will be assumed that you are happy for any over payment to be placed into school fund.



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### Term Dates 2020 / 21

<b>Term Dates</b>	
<b>August</b>	Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> August – Primary 7 pupils return to school. P2 – P6 begin revision online learning, Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> August – school re-opens for pupils in P1 – P6 (Please see individual year group starting information as per Principal's Newsletter sent 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2020.)
<b>October / November</b>	Mon 26 <sup>th</sup> - <b>School Development Day (School Closed)</b> Tues 27 <sup>th</sup> , Wed 28 <sup>th</sup> , Thurs 29 <sup>th</sup> , Fri 30 <sup>th</sup> November ( <b>School Closed for Half Term</b> ) Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> November – School reopens
<b>December</b>	Fri 18 <sup>th</sup> – ( <b>School closes at 12pm for the Christmas Holidays</b> )
<b>January</b>	Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> – ( <b>School Development Day – school closed</b> ) Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> – School reopens.
<b>February</b>	Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> – ( <b>School Development Day – school closed</b> ) Tues 16 <sup>th</sup> , Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> , Thurs 18 <sup>th</sup> , Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> – ( <b>School Closed for half term</b> ) Mon 22 <sup>nd</sup> – School reopens
<b>March / April</b>	Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> March – ( <b>School closes at 12pm for Easter Holidays</b> ) Mon 29 <sup>th</sup> – ( <b>School Development Day – school closed</b> ) Tues 30 <sup>th</sup> March – Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> April – ( <b>School Closed for half term</b> ) Mon 12 <sup>th</sup> – School reopens
<b>May</b>	Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> – <b>School Closed (Bank Holiday)</b> Mon 31 <sup>st</sup> – ( <b>School Development Day – school closed</b> )
<b>June</b>	Fri 11 <sup>th</sup> – <b>School Development Days (School Closed)</b> Fri 25 <sup>th</sup> – ( <b>School closes at 12pm for Summer Holidays</b> )