



Wednesday 6th January

Dear Parent/Carers,

Firstly, before I start to explain everything you need to know for the period of our nursery closure, can I thank you on behalf of all the staff in nursery for all your support this year. It has been an absolute pleasure getting to know you and your child. In September for two hours per day you handed responsibility over to us to further your child's education. As I said when you came to the Information evening in August, up to that stage you had been your child's main educator and because of these exceptional circumstances we now hand that responsibility back to you and your family. However, we want to support you in doing this. Please keep this information safe and treat it as your 'One Stop Shop' for information relating to home learning. Hopefully I have covered everything.

1. Weekly plans

Starting from Friday 8th January I will be uploading on a weekly basis via Evidence Me a plan, outlining activities that you can do with your child at some stage during the week. We have as far as we can, planned activities using everyday equipment that you will already have in your home. Everyone's situation will be different so please do not panic. If you are at home but not working it may be easier for you to do activities every day, others will pick and choose activities to complete at various times during the week. Just do what you can when you can. Routine is very important so I would suggest if you can, try to keep your child in a good routine. I have attached a suggested timetable below.

Every week there will be two stories uploaded to the school website being read by a member of staff for the children. Unfortunately, I cannot send the videos via Evidence Me as they will be too long. To find these videos please follow the instructions below. They can be accessed via computer, laptop, smartphone or tablet.

- Visit www.victoriaprimary.org.uk
- Click on **PARENT'S AREA** tab along the top of screen or via menu tab.
- Then click on **Nursery home and online learning** (the videos will be available to watch here)



Victoria Primary School & Nursery Unit

Coronation Road, Carrickfergus,
County Antrim, BT38 7EZ
Tel: 028 9335 1781
Email : victoriaprimary@hotmail.co.uk
Principal : Mr C. Fulton BA Hons (QTS)

Our children are just as worried as we are right now. They not only can hear everything that is going on around them, but they feel our constant tension and anxiety. They have never experienced anything like this before. Although the idea of being off for weeks may sound great, the reality of being in our homes and not seeing friends is not going to be fun.

Over the coming weeks, you may see an increase in behaviour issues. Whether it's anxiety, anger or protest that they can't do things normally – it will happen. You'll see more meltdowns, tantrums and oppositional behaviour in the coming weeks. This is normal and expected under these circumstances.

What children need right now is to feel comforted and loved. To feel like it's all going to be ok. That might mean that you tear up your perfect schedule. Play outside and go on walks. Bake cookies and paint pictures. Play games and watch movies. Read together. Snuggle up under warm blankets and do nothing.

2. Communication with Mrs Addis during the closure

It is very important that during this time that we stay in contact to try to answer as many questions as possible. In order to keep the lines of communication open, a SLIDO has been created for nursery. Please use this to ask any curriculum related questions. I will check SLIDO on a regular basis and will respond Monday to Friday between 9am and 3pm. I may also check SLIDO at other times too if possible.

Please follow the information below to contact me on SLIDO.

Go to www.sli.do

Enter the following event code to access the nursery group – **VictoriaNursery**

For questions specifically related to your child please contact me via Evidence Me.



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3. Pastoral calls

I will be checking in with you once a week by phone so if you see a call coming in on your phone with a withheld number it will probably be me.

I may also use the school text messaging service if required too.

4. Vulnerable and Key Workers children

Mr Fulton will be sending out information tomorrow regarding vulnerable and key worker's children. This information will come via the Schools NI app.

Please remember we are trying to support you and your child on their educational journey in a brand new way. We may not get it right straight away. Please give us time. Also there may come a time when we become unwell. If this is the case communication may slow a little but Mr Fulton will try to take over communication if he can. Thank you in advance for your support and understanding.

Please see the next page for a possible timetable for home learning.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs P Addis
Head of Nursery



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POSSIBLE HOME LEARNING TIMETABLE
I KNOW THIS WILL NOT SUIT EVERYONE – JUST AN IDEA.

TIME	WHAT TO DO/POSSIBLE LEARNING
Before 9	Wake up/get dressed/eat a good breakfast
9 to 10	Morning activity – maybe a walk outside/activity in the garden etc. Be a weather watcher!
Between 10 and 11	Complete some activities from the planner
11 to 12	Helping around the house or small world or role play
12 to 1	Lunch time - Relax
Between 1 and 2	Sing songs, say rhymes, read a story