



# Principal's Newsletter

May 2021

SENIOR LEADERSHIP  
TEAM



Dear Parents / Carers,

Welcome to the month of May! Time really is going by so quickly. It is hard to believe that the children have been back to school for 3 weeks since the Easter break.

Since returning to school, the children have settled in really well. It has been wonderful to see all our pupils meeting back up with their friends and really lovely to have time to listen to the stories children had to tell from their time away from school.

As I mentioned in my last newsletter, the children in P2 – P7 would have the opportunity to complete their end of year assessments during this term. Many of our classes have had the opportunity to complete theirs already. This will give class teachers the opportunity to review any aspects of learning that will need covered again as a result of the most recent lockdown. It will also give parents / carers an idea of what to work on at home.

Finally, can I, once again, send out my thanks to all the parents / carers for continuing to work with us on all our Covid-19 Risk Mitigation measures. As you know, we have not yet had to close a full class bubble due to a positive case being identified in school. I hope, with the continuation of the measures we have in place, we can keep all classes open, to all pupils, for the rest of this school year.

Many thanks

Mr C. Fulton

Principal

## Class Charity Money

Wednesday continues to be the day that we collect in money for our class charities.

Remember, if you have any spare copper coins at home, please send them into school with your child on a Wednesday.

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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## Parent Interview Week and Early School Closure

On the week beginning Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May, school will close early for all children in order to facilitate telephone parent / teacher meetings. Your child's class teacher will issue you with a time and day for your telephone appointment. **Please be advised that the call from your child's class teacher may come from a private number / no caller ID.** Please pick up.....we really want to have the chance to speak with you. 😊

As a result of school closing early, children eligible for free school meals have the opportunity to avail of a packed lunch provided by the canteen to take home with them. No lunches will be needed during this week. A text message and a link to a form was sent to all parents eligible for free school meals on 14<sup>th</sup> April asking parents to complete a form to let school know if they wanted their child to have a packed lunch provided. Thank you to those parents that completed the form. If you selected 'YES' then your child will be sent home with a packed lunch each day during parent interview week.

### Early Finish Times for Parent Interview Week

P1 and P2 – 11.45am

P3 – 11.50am

P4 – 11.55am

P5 – 12noon

P6 – 12.05pm

P7 – 12.10pm

## Breakfast Club and Afterschool Club During Parent Interview Week

Breakfast Club will operate as normal during Parent Interview Week.

Kids' Cave will operate between 12noon and 2pm during Parent Interview Week. If any children finish after 12noon, they will leave their class and go to Kids' Cave at 12noon. For any children finishing before 12 noon they will stay with their teacher until 12noon. The cost is £4.50 per hour and must be booked by 12noon on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> May (as per usual Kids' Cave booking conditions). Parents should use the normal Kids' Cave booking envelopes. Please write on the envelope the hours you require, instead of circling the times. If you need any further clarification, please speak to the Kids' Cave staff or give school a call. **All children attending Kids' Cave during Parent Interview week will need a packed lunch.**



## Primary 7 Leaver Hoodies

As we approach the end of another school year, we are preparing to say goodbye to our Primary 7 pupils.

I am delighted to say that the children in Primary 7 have received their end of year leaver hoodies. You will see them wearing them with pride over the next couple of months as they begin the process of saying goodbye to VPS



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In recent years we have been big supporters of Carrickfergus Foodbank. Our school community has helped to raise a large amount of donations for this really wonderful cause.

As a result of our school's support, Carrickfergus Foodbank has granted us the permission to be able to issue foodbank vouchers to any members of our school community who feel they require the foodbanks support.

Times can be tough for us all at different period of our lives. It is really good to know that, when we fall on difficult times, people and services are here to help. We are delighted to be one of those services.

So, if you ever feel you need our support, our doors will always be open – with no questions asked. If you feel that you need the support of a foodbank voucher, please call into the school office and ask to speak with either Mr Fulton or Mrs Kernaghan and we will be more than happy to help you out.





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## Term Dates 2020 / 21

<u>Term Dates</u>	
<b>May</b>	Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> – School Closed (Bank Holiday) Mon 31 <sup>st</sup> – (School Development Day – school closed)
<b>June</b>	Fri 11 <sup>th</sup> – School Development Days (School Closed) Tues 22 <sup>nd</sup> – Primary 7 children finish at 12noon. Fri 25 <sup>th</sup> – (School closes at 12pm for Summer Holidays)

**PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT PRIMARY 7 CHILDREN WILL FINISH AT 12NOON ON TUESDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> JUNE. It is anticipated that we will have a P7 Leavers' Party in the evening of 22<sup>nd</sup> June as long as social distancing rules allow. More info will follow.**

## **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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## School Term Dates for NEXT YEAR – 2021 / 22

<b>Term Dates</b>	
<b>August</b>	Wed 25 <sup>th</sup> – P2 – P7 return (half day and half classes – more info to follow) Thurs 26 <sup>th</sup> – P2 – P7 return (half day and half classes – more info to follow) Fri 27 <sup>th</sup> – P2 – P7 return (half day and full classes) Mon 30 <sup>th</sup> – <b>School Closed (Public Holiday)</b>
<b>September</b>	Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> – P1 and Nursery children begin school. Specific dates and times will be communicated to individual parents. Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> – <b>School Development Day (School Closed)</b>
<b>October</b>	Mon 25 <sup>th</sup> – <b>School Development Day (School Closed)</b> Tues 26 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 29 <sup>th</sup> – Half Term ( <b>School Closed</b> )
<b>December</b>	Tues 21 <sup>st</sup> – School closes at 12pm for Christmas Holidays Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> – <b>School Development Day (School Closed)</b>
<b>January</b>	Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> – School reopens for all pupils in P2 – P7. Nursery and P1 closed for Open Day. Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup> – School reopens for pupils in Nursery and P1.
<b>February</b>	Mon 14 <sup>th</sup> & Tues 15 <sup>th</sup> – <b>School Development Day (School Closed)</b> Wed 16 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 18 <sup>th</sup> – Half Term ( <b>School Closed</b> )
<b>April</b>	Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> – School closes at 12pm for Easter Holidays Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> – <b>School Development Day (School Closed)</b> Tues 12 <sup>th</sup> – Fri 22 <sup>nd</sup> – Easter Holidays ( <b>School Closed</b> )
<b>May</b>	Mon 2 <sup>nd</sup> – <b>School Closed (Bank Holiday)</b> Mon 30 <sup>th</sup> & Tues 31 <sup>st</sup> – <b>School Development Day (School Closed)</b>
<b>June</b>	Mon 1 <sup>st</sup> – Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup> – ( <b>School Closed – mixture of holiday dates and bank holidays</b> ) Thurs 30 <sup>th</sup> – School closes at 12pm for Summer Holidays.