



# Principal's Newsletter

September 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

It has been really lovely to welcome all the children back to school over the last couple of weeks.

It is really important for us to say a huge welcome to the 106 brand new faces who have joined our Nursery and Primary 1 classes. We are delighted that these children and their families have started their educational journey with us at VPS.

Although we return to school at a very challenging time, with Covid-19 still at the forefront of all our minds, it is with great pride that I write about how wonderful the children and staff have been since our return. Sadly, school still cannot return to 'normal' as before Covid, however, the children and staff have returned with a new sense of determination to have a really good year...and what a start we have had. All children across the school have settled in well and are working really hard.

A massive thanks to the parents and carers for your support in having the children ready for coming back to school. 😊

Many thanks,

Mr C. Fulton

Principal

## A Covid-19 Reminder

If your child has ANY symptoms of Covid-19, please do not send them to school. Please follow the Public Health Agency Guidelines and self-isolate and get tested. This will allow us to keep school / classes open for as many pupils as much as possible.

### If your child tests positive...

If you get the result during school hours, please call school immediately on 028 9335 1781.

If you get the result out of school hours, please e-mail school immediately on [info@victoriaps.carrickfergus.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@victoriaps.carrickfergus.ni.sch.uk)

## SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

### Principal

Mr C. Fulton

### Vice Principal and Special Needs Co\_ordinator

Mrs L. Kernaghan

### Head of Foundation & Key Stage 1

Mrs J. Orr

### 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 Mr Clarke (Designated Teacher for Child Protection and Pastoral Lead).



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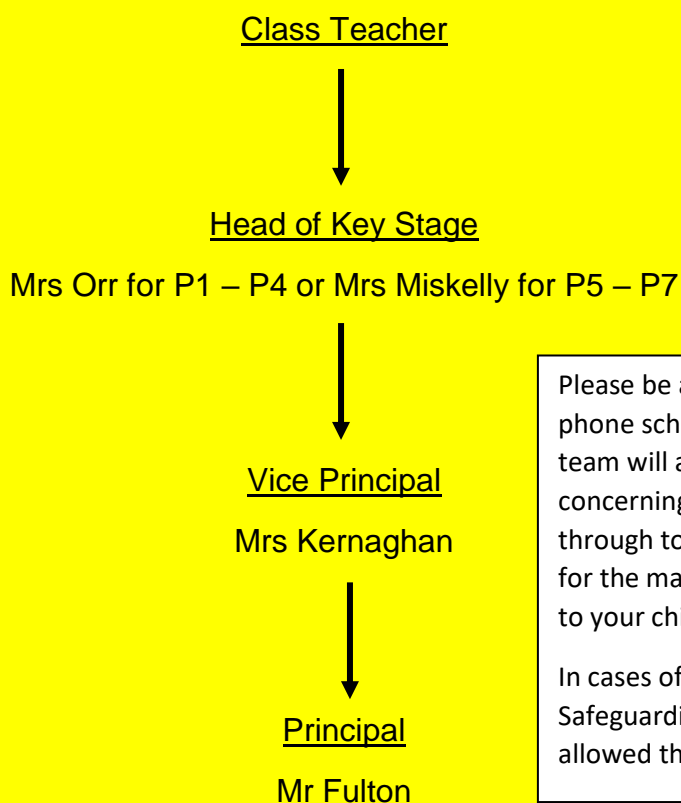
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### VPS Facebook Page....WATCH THIS SPACE

Over the coming weeks, please keep an eye out for communication coming from school about the launch of our school Facebook page. We will be launching our Facebook Page as an additional way of communicating with parents / carers to show off all the wonderful things that happen in school.

This page will not be used for home/school communication methods between school and parents, however, it will be used to share with you all the really super things the children and staff get up to during the school day. WATCH THIS SPACE!

### **NEED TO CONTACT SCHOOL WITH A CONCERN, QUERY OR COMPLIMENT...this is the process to follow.**



Please be advised that, when you phone school, the school office team will ask what your call is concerning in order to get you through to the correct person and, for the majority of cases, this will be to your child's Class Teacher.

In cases of Child Protection and Safeguarding, your call will be allowed through to Mr Fulton.

### 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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## OUR NEW POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR POLICY

Each year in school, we take time to review some of our policies. Last year, we completed the review of our school's behaviour policy and, at the upcoming parent interviews in October, you will be provided with a paper copy.

We are really happy with our new policy and think the children will respond really well to the elements of positive praise contained within the policy, as well as respond appropriately to any reminders needed for a breach of our rules.

For now, you can speak to your child(ren) about **THE VPS WAY!** Their teachers will have already spoken to them about THE VPS WAY and the 3 expectations that we require to see during the school day.

**THIS IS THE  
VPS WAY**



THE VPS WAY

**BE READY**



THE VPS WAY

**BE  
RESPECTFUL**



THE VPS WAY

**BE SAFE**



THE VPS WAY



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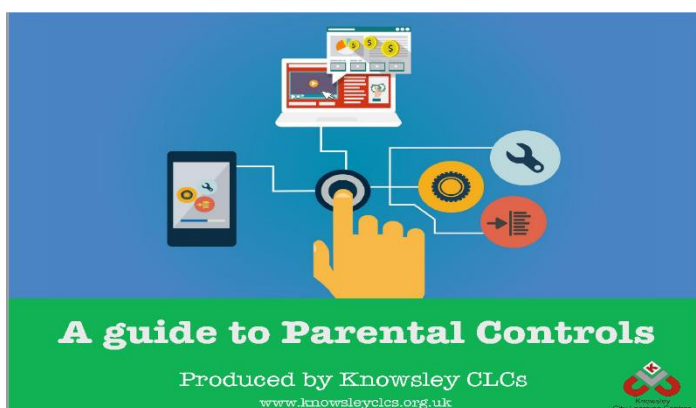
### **TAKING INTERNET SAFETY SERIOUSLY @ VPS!**

As with last year, we have renewed our subscription with Knowsley City Learning Centres to provide us with first class Online and Internet Safety Support for our children, parents and carers.

So far this academic year, they have provided us with an ONLINE SAFETY presentation for parents and an extremely useful and comprehensive GUIDE TO PARENTAL CONTROLS.

These SUPER documents are both saved on our school website, however, to make it easier, simply click on the pictures below to take you straight to them.

**They are both worth a read!**



## **Punctuality Praise**

We all know that good attendance at school is very important. Here at VPS we also believe that being on time / punctual to school each day is equally important. That is why, for this year, children will earn a PUNCTUALITY PRAISE stamp, in their planner, each morning they arrive into school on time – up to and including 9.10am. When the planners arrive, teachers will back date the stamps for the children to the beginning of this academic year.

Children will collect house points for their team as they gain stamps. 😊



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# Seesaw

This year we will be rolling out SeeSaw across the entire school from Primary 1 – Primary 7.

This is a tool that will allow communication between home and school in an easy and user friendly way.

By now, parents, carers should've had their initial SeeSaw letter and QR Code home with their child. Please do take the time to set up your account as soon as possible.

As time goes on, we will use SeeSaw for a whole variety of reasons. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your child's teacher – especially if you have misplaced your individual QR code.

## Meet The Nurture Team @ VPS

We are delighted to announce the opening of the VPS Nurture Unit for this academic year. We have managed to use some additional funding to employ 2 Nurture Teachers and to employ the service of Lexi, the therapy dog, on a weekly basis. As a school, our main aim is to be here to support your child(ren) academically. However, we are very aware that, at times, things can happen in a child's life that requires some additional support. This year, we are really excited to say that Miss Smyth, Mrs McMillan and Lexi will be on hand to provide this support to any child that needs it.





## Term Dates 2021 / 22

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

## Flowchart for PARENTS based on NI Direct website guidance

Only use for **pupils** in a school setting 03/09/2021

