



Principal's Newsletter

School Closure – WB 25th May



Dear Parents / Carers,

Hello to you all. As we end another month of lockdown and school closure I want to start this newsletter by letting you all know that you are doing a wonderful job at home! This isn't easy. At no point in our lives did we ever think that we would find ourselves in this situation. However, here we are...still surviving...doing the best we can....day in, day out. So to all the parents / carers out there doing their best with home schooling – **WELL DONE!!!!**

Children learn in everything that they do. Just because they are not sat in a classroom doesn't mean that they are not learning. A simple walk with the family can develop a child's ability to observe and discuss their surroundings. Real conversation at home will develop their confidence and vocabulary. A trip to the shop can help with a wide range of numeracy skills. And playful learning in the garden can open up a world of opportunities! So....if you don't manage to get all the work completed that is being uploaded on the school website.....don't worry. Take a step back and look at all the other avenues of learning your child has experienced since not being in school.

Contact with Class Teachers

If your child would like some more contact with their class teacher during this period of closure by showing them some of the online learning they have completed and to get some feedback on work completed, then please e-mail a photo of the work to info@victoriaps.carrickfergus.ni.sch.uk. Please include your child's name and their teacher. The class teacher will reply back at a convenient time. **This service is only available as a feedback tool for pupil learning. Generic questions should still be asked via SLIDO as this will be checked more regularly than the e-mail account.** Please be advised that e-mails asking generic questions may not be responded too. The teacher can look at a maximum of 2 pieces of work per week, per child.

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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Nigel's Famous Chicken Curry Recipe

Serves 6

Ingredients

4oz oil or fat
2 Small onions, chopped
1oz ginger root, grated
1oz garlic clove, grated
1 Small chilli, finely chopped and seeds removed
1 pepper (any colour), chopped
2oz curry powder
2oz garam masala
1 pint of chicken stock (can be done using 3 chicken stock cubes)
1 small jar of mango chutney
1 small jar of curry paste eg. Tikka masala/Balti/rogan josh
Salt and pepper to taste
2 x 400g tins of chopped tomatoes
1oz of flour or cornflour

Method

1. Warm oil/fat in pot
2. Add onion, garlic, ginger, chilli, pepper, garam masala and curry powder. Cook for 10 minutes on a low heat.
3. Make stock, or add water to stock cubes and add to mix.
4. Add flour or corn flour (corn flour is gluten free) and cook for 5 minutes.
5. Add all remaining ingredients and simmer for 30mins
6. Blend to a smooth paste and season to taste

Serve by adding cooked chicken, lamb, beef or vegetables of your choice and some boiled rice and naan.





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School Reports

Your child will receive an end of year school report this year as normal. However, the content will be slightly different.

- 1) The class teacher will only be able to comment on progress in each area of the curriculum up until the time of school closure in March. This will not be that different to the comments made at parent interviews in February.
- 2) Attendance information on your child's report is also only up until school closure in March.
- 3) As we didn't get to complete our end of year assessments, these boxes will be left blank.

Reports will be available to collect, from the school office, on the following dates.

Please obey social distancing rules when collecting from the office. Only 1 person will be allowed into the waiting area at a time. If a parent is not collecting a child's report, you must phone school and inform us of the name of the person collecting your child's report. Without this initial phone call, we will be unable to hand over your child's report.

We are aware that some children will receive reports before others, however, it is important that we do not have parents of 430 children arrive at school at the same time. Thank you in advance for supporting us in the arrangements outlined below:

Mon 22nd June, 9am – 12pm – **NURSERY CHILDREN** (parents can collect reports of older siblings)

Mon 22nd June, 1pm – 3pm – **PRIMARY 1 CHILDREN** (parents can collect reports of older siblings)

Tues 23rd June, 9am – 12pm – **PRIMARY 2 CHILDREN** (parents can collect reports of older siblings)

Tues 23rd June, 1pm – 3pm – **PRIMARY 3 CHILDREN** (parents can collect reports of older siblings)

Wed 24th June, 9am – 12pm – **PRIMARY 4 CHILDREN** (parents can collect reports of older siblings)

Wed 24th June, 1pm – 3pm – **PRIMARY 5 CHILDREN** (parents can collect reports of older siblings)

Thurs 25th June, 9am – 12pm – **PRIMARY 6 CHILDREN** (parents can collect reports of older siblings)

Thurs 25th June, 1pm – 3pm – **PRIMARY 7 CHILDREN** (parents can collect reports of older siblings)

School will be open on Thursday 25th June from 6pm – 7pm to accommodate any parents unable to make the above times.



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The Education Authority wrote to all Principals to inform us about changes in relation to the Post Primary Admission process.

As you will be aware, Primary 7 pupils had been expecting to find out their post primary school information on Saturday 30th May. As a result of the recent changes to Saturday post etc, the Education Authority has made the following changes:

- Letters should now arrive with parents on **Thursday 4th June 2020**.
- The letter will come from the Education Authority and not from your child's post primary school.
- Primary school principals will receive a list of post primary placements also. We will be here to speak with you on the phone if you do not, for whatever reason, receive your letter in the post. I will be in school on Thursday 4th and Friday 5th June for any parents to make contact with me. However, the EA have very clearly stated that we are unable to give this information out to parents until 12pm on Thursday 4th June. I'd be very grateful if parents would not contact school until 12pm on Thursday 4th June as I would not want to be put in an awkward position over the phone with you.

STATEMENT FROM MINISTER OF EDUCATION ON REOPENING OF SCHOOLS

Many parents have been asking about what school will look like when we reopen. Unfortunately, I really don't have any idea as yet! We are still awaiting firm guidance and advice from the Department of Education and/or the Education Authority.

Last week, the Minister of Education made a statement to the Northern Ireland Assembly. This gives some small speculation as to what **might** happen in the future. You can read the statement by [clicking here](#).