



# Principal's Newsletter

## School Closure – WB 4<sup>th</sup> May



Dear Parents / Carers,

Hi everyone. Yet again, I write in the hope that you, your family and your friends are all keeping healthy and well during this time. It has now been 7 weeks since we have all been together in school and it doesn't look very likely that we will all be back to school in a 'normal' capacity anytime soon.

This is a shorter newsletter than normal, however, I just wanted to write to the entire school community to update you on a few issues. Since I last wrote a newsletter, parents and carers of 102 children received a letter informing them that their child was offered a place in either our Nursery or Primary 1 classes from September 2020. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome each and every one of those families to our Victoria community. We look forward to seeing you at some point in the coming months.

### School Reports

It is still a legal requirement for parents to receive an annual school report. I can confirm that the teachers are currently writing your child's annual report and these will be ready for collection in June.....an exact date will be confirmed at a later point. The report will contain information about your child's new class teacher as well as all the information you need regarding the new academic year. **If we have guidance from the Government about how schools will operate in September, by the time the reports go out, this information will be included in your child's report envelope. However, this is unlikely to happen. We will contact parents about September reopening, during the Summer months, when more detailed information comes our way.** However, in the meantime, I would ask parents to prepare for a new school year as normal.

### 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)



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## Online Learning

As you will all be aware, the Government has asked schools to ensure that remote and online learning is taking place for all pupils. At Victoria, we switched to online learning on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May for all our pupils. In preparation for this, teachers and school staff have been working INCREDIBLY hard behind the scenes in order to prepare work in a way that has never had to be done before. I pay huge credit to all the staff for rising to this challenge.

I also pay a huge amount of credit to you, the parents and carers, for rising to this challenge also. I am **fully aware** that it has not been easy for everyone. Juggling the requirements of parents working from home, multiple siblings needing access to a device at the same time, getting your head around finding the appropriate work for your child etc. **has not been easy**. I commend you all for your time and patience in trying to find a way that works best for your family.

Is this a perfect way to educate our children? **Absolutely not!** Will all children be able to complete every task that is posted on line? **Absolutely not!** Will all children get the exact amount of work that they can individually cope with? **Absolutely not!** This is not the sort of situation that we ever thought we would find ourselves in. The entire school staff would rather have the children sitting in front of them in the classroom. I wish I could write to you all and ensure you that the level of learning children will receive via online learning is the same that they would receive in school, but, truthfully and honestly I cannot.

As a school community, an **overwhelming** amount of families have tried their very best this week to muddle through the initial period of online learning. Many have sent messages of thanks to staff via SLIDO, some have called school to speak with me in person to express their support to school at this time, and some have even provided some buns, snacks and even a lunch delivery from a local bakery to say thanks to the staff. **We are all touched by your kind words and generous actions.** However, a couple of comments via SLIDO have not portrayed the same kind of solidarity. Are we open to suggestions? **Absolutely!** Will we try our best to act on guidance and feedback? **Absolutely!** However, I must stress that there is a polite and mannerly way in which to do this.

Please use SLIDO as a method of communicating with the class teachers, and myself, in order to ask and answer questions that everyone would benefit from. If you have a major concern, either myself or Mrs Kernaghan (Vice Principal) will be available in school between 9am – 3pm for you to chat to.

So, good luck with your online learning for next week....a little bit more about online learning will follow on the next page.



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## Online Learning – week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> May

As I have mentioned in previous notes, teachers will spend a Friday afternoon, from 12pm, removing the previous week's work and uploading learning and work for the next week.

If your child has not completed the current work, and you would like them to complete it **(remember, you don't need to do everything)** then please save the files to your computer / phone / tablet before 12pm on a Friday.

Also, remember my mantra: You don't have to do everything! Anything is better than nothing.

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## Just a bit of fun.....A Raven or a Rabbit?

