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*A happy place  
to have fun  
learning!*

Website: [www.victoriapsballyhalbert.co.uk](http://www.victoriapsballyhalbert.co.uk)

## **Term 2 Issue #2 (27.01.23)**

### **School Trips**

This term we have more outdoor learning trips planned which will be free for the children to take part in. These trips are being paid for through Shared Education and will see children from both schools heading out together into our natural world.

Next month, we will have another outing where the children will meet up at an outdoor activity centre and then we will finish our shared education partnership with a celebratory trip to the cinema.

All these trips will be fully funded and are a chance for our children to have fun in an outdoor environment while broadening their networks. Look out for the permission slips coming home soon.

### **Mystery Readers**

Next week we will see our second mystery reader of the year visiting the foundation stage class. Would you be interested in reading a story with the class? Miss Hillen would love to have some more mystery readers in. Please phone Mrs Porter if you are interested in sharing a story with the children.

### **Footballing success**

Congratulations to the children who took part in the Galactico Soccer match last week. We were delighted with the second-place position but more importantly, we were delighted to have the experience of taking part in a larger scale tournament. A huge thank you to all our parents who coached the footballers and who provided the transport to get the children to the match.

### **Musical Success**

Well done to Joey and Winnifred who both passed their initial piano exams recently and were presented with their certificates in assembly this morning.

### **Transfer Information**

A short information session is planned for the parents of pupils in P6 on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February at 9am. We will be sharing the information that we have about the new transfer tests and the process for transitioning to post primary. Please let Mrs Porter know if you will be able to attend this session.

### **PFA update**

A huge thank you to our PFA. After their amazing fundraising efforts during the last term, they have

put the money raised towards buying much needed ipads for the school. We are so excited to benefit from these and can't wait until they are delivered. We are blessed to have such a supportive team of parents working with us to support our children's learning.

### **Our next parent assembly**

You are all very welcome to join us for our next parent assembly on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February. The focus will be on healthy hearts and will tie in with Valentine's Day but also with being kind and loving and keeping fit. The School Council will be holding a non-uniform day. If your child would like to donate to their fund, they will be able to come in a themed outfit. (Chosen theme to follow)

### **Union Action**

You will have heard that strike action is now going to affect teachers too. We are hearing the information at the same time as you do so please bear with us as we manage this situation. We will let you know what it will look like for us when we have more information, but it is likely that, like most other schools, it will affect our school.

School funding is not sufficient to cover what is needed and we are having to rely on donations and fundraising too often. Teachers don't have the option to strike over this, but they can raise it under their working conditions. They do not have the right resources to adequately provide for the pupils and are regularly purchasing equipment from their own pockets. As the cost of living gets tighter, this gets more difficult. They are striking for fair pay equal to their colleagues across the water but mainly for improved conditions where school budgets meet the needs of your children. Please support the staff as they speak up for your children.

### **Coming up this term.**

31<sup>st</sup> Jan – P6&P7 trip to Stormont Park  
1<sup>st</sup> Feb – P7 parent appointments; P3-P5 trip to Delamont Country Park  
3<sup>rd</sup> Feb – NSPCC Number Day; Shared Education Spelling Bee; PFA Book Sale (2pm-4pm)  
6<sup>th</sup> Feb – P7 parent appointments contd; P6 parents information session at 9am  
8<sup>th</sup> Feb – Safer internet day; Library bus at school  
9<sup>th</sup> Feb – P6 and P7 class trips  
10<sup>th</sup> Feb – Healthy Hearts parent assembly; School council non uniform day; PFA half term disco

