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*A happy place
to have fun
learning!*

Term 2 Issue #3 (03.02.23)

AQE results

Tomorrow morning some of our children will be getting their AQE results. We know that every one of them has worked incredibly hard and with a great attitude. No score will ever take that away from them and we know that who they are as a person is much more important than any test result. We will be thinking of them tomorrow morning as the long wait comes to an end and wish to remind them that we are so very proud of them for taking on this challenge. They are all stars in our eyes.

Union Action update

As you will be aware, the teaching unions are planning to take industrial action on the morning of Tuesday 21st February. This is **not** a strike just about Teachers' pay. Teachers are taking strike action because of the cuts to teachers pay and the lack of adequate funding for schools which together are causing a crisis in education for your child.

Funding for schools has **not**, over the years, been kept in line with rising costs. This means that:

- Many schools face difficulty in the recruitment of staff
- in many cases SEN children are not getting the support they need
- schools are unable to fully fund important equipment and resources
- schools are cutting back on extra-curricular clubs.

If a resolution is not found, the strike action will result in a school closure for the morning of 21st February. The decision to close the school is never taken lightly, but in this instance where staff have elected to take lawful industrial action, schools will have no choice but to take appropriate steps to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of all pupils.

We know that school closures inconvenience parents and so we are giving you advanced notice of the likely impact on our school.

Victoria Primary school, along with most other schools, will be closed to pupils for the morning session on Tuesday 21st February.

Children coming to school for the afternoon session should be in school for lunchtime at 12noon. The afternoon session will run as normal.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as

we fight for a better education for our children.

Internet safety

Next week is internet safety week. This year's theme is "**Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online.**" According to studies most children in the UK think their parents, carers and teachers will "misunderstand or overreact to what they believe is "normal, unproblematic behaviour and experiences." This is why it is important to have non-judgemental, calm discussions about the internet and the online world with those in your care. It will always be the most effective way to learn about what they're experiencing and help them be safer. We will have a variety of activities in school, including a talk from the PSNI to remind the children how to stay safe online.

Transfer Information

Don't forget that there is a short information session for the parents of pupils in P6 on Monday 6th February at 9am. We will be sharing the information that we have about the process for transitioning to post primary. If you are unable to attend, we will aim to send out the information you need by the end of next week.

Healthy Hearts Assembly

You are invited to attend our Healthy Hearts Assembly next Friday. Please book your seat with Mrs Porter. The School Council has also arranged for the day to be a non-uniform day with the Healthy Heart theme. You can interpret this how you wish with reds / pinks / hearts / keeping fit etc (no football shirts). School Council members would appreciate a small donation to their funds in return for organising the non-uniform day.

PFA update

The PFA will be holding an end of term disco from 3pm-4pm on Healthy Hearts Day.

Coming up next half term.

- 20th Feb – School reopens to children
- 21st Feb – Possible morning closure for strike action
- 22nd Feb – School nurse visit for P1 pupils
- 23rd Feb – PFA Girls Night
- 24th Feb – PFA Doughnut Day
- 27th Feb – P7 free trip to Mount Stewart
- 28th Feb – Sustrans: Dr Bike