



Principal's Newsletter

June 2026 – END OF TERM NEWSLETTER



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another busy and rewarding school year, I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you for your continued support over the past twelve months. Your partnership, encouragement and engagement with school life make a real difference to our pupils, and we are very grateful for the role you play in helping our children to thrive.

This year has been one of continued development and growth across our school community. We have seen our pupils flourish academically, socially and emotionally, supported by the dedication and commitment of our staff and the strong relationships we share with you as families.

A key focus for us this year has been our ongoing school development priorities. We have continued the roll-out of 1:1 devices, which is helping us to create a more modern, inclusive and engaging learning environment for all of our pupils. Alongside this, we have been reviewing the planning and teaching of Handling Data within Numeracy, ensuring that our approaches are meaningful, progressive and reflective of real-life applications. We have also invested in training for our staff in the use of Artificial Intelligence to support the planning of World Around Us topics and to further tailor lessons to the interests and needs of our pupils. These developments are already having a positive impact on teaching and learning across the school.

Our sporting teams have also gone from strength to strength this year. It has been wonderful to see so many of our pupils representing the school with pride, with several teams reaching finals and bringing home medals and silverware. These achievements are a testament not only to the skill and determination of our pupils but also to the support and encouragement they receive both in school and at home.

Every day in school, we celebrate success in all its forms—whether in the classroom, on the sports field, through creative expression or simply through acts of kindness and perseverance. It is these day-to-day achievements that truly define our school, and we are incredibly proud of all that our pupils accomplish.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to our staff. Their continued dedication, professionalism and care for each child are at the heart of everything we do. They go above and beyond to provide the best possible opportunities for our pupils, and I am deeply appreciative of their hard work and commitment.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support. I wish you and your families a restful and enjoyable summer break, and we look forward to welcoming you back in the new school year.

Warmest wishes,

Mr. C. Fulton
Principal



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BREAKFAST CLUB 2026 – 27

Our breakfast club will continue to run on a daily basis during the next academic year. Children from nursery through to Primary 7 children can attend. Nursery children may only attend after the nursery settling in period has ended.

Booking will continue to take place via the school money app.

A reminder that Breakfast Club will start at 8:00am. We ask all children attending to be in breakfast club no later than 8:30am. Breakfast Club will continue to take place in the Kids' Cave mobile.

The cost of breakfast club will be £3.00 per session. (Cost increase)

School Dinners

Children are able to avail of school dinners on a daily basis. Our 5 star canteen provides delicious meals for all our children. The cost of school dinners is set by the Education Authority. At present they cost £3.10 per day.

Booking and payment for school dinners will continue to be taken via the school money app.

Kids' Cave

Kids' Cave will continue to operate in the new academic year.

Parents / Carers should continue to book Kids' Cave via the school money app. From the start of the new academic year **BOOKINGS WILL NOT BE TAKEN UNLESS VIA THE APP.**

The cost of Kids' Cave will be £7per hours. (Cost increase)

Please note, if any parent/carers has an outstanding bill on school money for Breakfast Club and/or Kids' Cave, then booking will not be available for the new academic year.



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SUMMER SCHEME @ VPS

Thank you to parents / carers for signing your children up to attend Summer Scheme.

Please find outlined below a reminder of key dates, times and other information in relation to Summer Scheme.

WEEK 1

- Week 1: Mon 29th June - Fri 3rd July (5 days) - staffed and operated with school staff.
- Opening times will be 8am - 2pm.
- Children will avail of a light breakfast when they arrive and a small snack and drink at break time.
- Children should bring their own packed lunch for lunch time.
- Children should wear appropriate clothing and footwear for both indoor and outdoor activities.

WEEK 3

- Week 3: Mon 10th Aug - Wed 12th Aug (3 days) - staffed and operated with school staff.
- Opening times will be 8am - 2pm.
- Children will avail of a light breakfast when they arrive and a small snack and drink at break time.
- Children should bring their own packed lunch for lunch time.
- Children should wear appropriate clothing and footwear for both indoor and outdoor activities.





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As we reach the end of this academic year, we also reach the time when we will be saying goodbye and good luck to some members of the VPS Team.

Thanks to the below members of staff for their dedication and support to our school.

- Miss Jemma Gorman (Nurture & Classroom Assistant)
- Mrs Ann Foster (Classroom Assistant)
- Miss Amy Milnes (Classroom Assistant)
- Miss Emma Magee (Classroom Assistant)
- Miss Monika Mietek (Classroom Assistant)
- Mrs Becky Garvey (Teacher)
- Miss Rachel Keys (Teacher)
- Mr Philip Clarke (Teacher)

**IT'S NOT
GOODBYE.**
IT'S SEE YOU LATER.

We have some members of staff leaving us, but only for a little while, as they begin their maternity leave.

- Mrs Elaine Brennan (Classroom Assistant)
- Miss Hannah McKenzie (Classroom Assistant)
- Mrs Victoria Lynn (Teacher)



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Who To Contact In 2026/27

In the 2026/27 Academic Year, if you need to contact the school to discuss a query or a concern, please follow the flowchart below in order for your concerns to be addressed appropriately:

Step 1 – Child's Class Teacher



Step 2 – Head of Key Stage



Mrs Miskelly
Head of Foundation Stage
and Key Stage One (P1 – P4).
Tel: 02893351781
E-mail:
rmiskelly126@c2kni.net



Miss Kelly
Head of Key Stage Two
(P5 – P7)
Tel: 02893351781
E-mail: tbc in September



Step 3 – Vice Principal

Please call the school office to arrange an appointment.



Step 4 – Principal

Please call the school office to arrange an appointment.



If your query or concern is in relation to a serious pastoral issue or is a Child Protection Concern, please make contact with our Pastoral Lead and Designated Teacher for Child Protection, Mrs Jayne Orr.



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Important Information

Starting Back To School – August 2026

- Nursery and Primary 1 pupils have already had their starting information. This was given to all parents and carers in an induction pack earlier this term.
- Children in our specialist provision classes – Mrs Orr, Miss Steele, Miss Morrow and Miss Watson will be in direct contact with parents / carers to inform you about return to school dates and times.
- School will start back, for children in mainstream P2 – P7 on Friday 21st August 2026.
- School is closed on Monday 31st August for the Bank Holiday.
- **There will be no school dinners until Tuesday 1st September**
- All children will have received a list of equipment and resources they will need when they start back to school. This has been sent home in your child's Annual School Report. I would be very grateful if children could bring all their equipment with them on their first day back to school.
Please be advised that all parents will be required to purchase a school planner for their children in September. These will be priced at £5.00 per planner and will be sent home at the start of the new academic year. These can be paid for in September via the school money app.



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School Timings

Start Times

- Doors will open for P1 – P7 pupils at **8.50am** and will close at **9.00am**. Learning activities start at 8:50am when children arrive into the classroom.
- Children will be marked as late after 9.00am.
- Please be advised that we do not offer outdoor supervision of pupils before 8.50am.
Therefore, parents / carers are requested not to send their children on to the school grounds before 8.50am.
- Primary 1 will enter via the P1 entrance
- Primary 2 will enter via the doors beside the bicycle and scooter storage stands.
- Primary 3 will enter directly into the mobile classrooms beside the canteen.
- Primary 5 and Primary 7 will enter via the Main School entrance (Mrs Ritchie's office)
- Primary 4 and Primary 6 will enter via the back playground doors.
- Children in specialist provisions will have contact from their child's teacher to discuss entrance and exit from school.

Please see the below table for normal school finishing times for all year groups.

	<u>Monday</u>	<u>Tuesday</u>	<u>Wednesday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>	<u>Friday</u>
<u>Primary 1</u>	2:00pm	2:00pm	2:00pm	2:00pm	2:00pm
<u>Primary 2</u>	2:00pm	2:00pm	2:00pm	2:00pm	2:00pm
<u>Primary 3</u>	2:00pm	2:00pm	2:00pm	2:00pm	1.55pm
<u>Primary 4</u>	2.50pm	2.50pm	2.50pm	2.50pm	1.55pm
<u>Primary 5</u>	3:00pm	3:00pm	3:00pm	3:00pm	2:05pm
<u>Primary 6</u>	3:00pm	3:00pm	3:00pm	3:00pm	2:05pm
<u>Primary 7</u>	3:00pm	3:00pm	3:00pm	3:00pm	2:05pm

Primary 2 children will get collected at the end of each day at the PRIMARY 1 entrance.

School Uniform

- In preparation for returning to school, please ensure that your child has the correct full school uniform.



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<u>Term Dates</u>	
August	Friday 21st P2 – P7 return Wednesday 26th P1 children begin school. Specific dates and times will be communicated to individual parents. Mon 31st – School Closed (Public Holiday)
September	Tues 1st – Nursery children begin school. Specific dates and times will be communicated to individual parents. Thursday 24th and Friday 25th School Development Days (School Closed)
October	Mon 26 th - Fri 30 th – School Closed (Half Term)
December	Mon 21 st – Thurs 31 st – School Closed (Christmas Holidays)
January	Fri 1st – School Closed (Christmas Holidays) Mon 4th – P2 – P7 pupils return to school. OPEN DAY (Nursery and P1 pupils off today) Tues 5th – Nursery and P1 pupils return to school. Mon 25th – School Development Day (School Closed)
February	Mon 8 th – Fri 12 th – School Closed (Half Term)
March	Mon 22 nd – Wed 31 st – School Closed (Easter Holidays)
April	Thurs 1 st – Fri 2 nd – School Closed (Easter Holidays)
May	Mon 3rd – School Closed (Bank Holiday) Tues 4th – School Development Day (School Closed) Mon 24th – Fri 28th – School Closed (Half Term) Mon 31st School Closed (Bank Holiday)
June	Thurs 24th – P7 pupils finish at 12noon. Wed 30th – School closes for Summer Holidays

