



# The Wee Friday Note

## Friday 30th April 2021



*“Life is like a camera. Just focus on what's important. Capture the good times. Develop from the negatives and if things don't turn out – just take another shot.”*

- 1. Mindfulness Colouring-in Competition** – we recently ran a simple colouring-in competition using ornate pictures and vibrant colours. The children really enjoyed this simple relaxing activity and the results were great. Congratulations to the two winning pictures from each class and well done everyone for taking part. We will do something similar very soon.
- 2. Language around school** – since the children's return to school, we have had to deal with a marked increase in the use of inappropriate words by some children. Swearing (including phrases such as “Oh My God!” and “Jesus Christ!”) are not permitted in our school. In school we talk about “Kind words and kind hands” – swearing does not fit with this. If you notice your child saying these things, please take the opportunity as a “teachable moment” and explain that swear words are unpleasant, usually associated with anger or put-downs and more often than not, very offensive. We understand many children hear these things being said around them (outside of school) but I think school and 99% of parents agree, swearing is not a habit we want our pupils to have 😊
- 3. School Uniform a little small?** Remember, Mount Merrion Parish Church keeps a small stock of pre-loved items of uniform that may be of use to you: especially at this late stage of the school year when parents don't really want to purchase school uniform this side of the summer. Contact Adrian Green and inquire what's currently available. Can I also ask if you have any items of Cregagh PS uniform that you no longer need and it's still in good condition, you consider donating it to our school (through MMPC) for recirculation? It's also good for the environment and will help us win our next Eco Schools Green Flag!
- 4. What will happen with School Reports this year in June?** Like last year, we will focus our comments on children's progress in English (literacy) and mathematics, along with some overall comments. We normally don't have Parent-Teacher Consultations in June but teachers want to connect with parents to explain individual children's progress and future learning targets. These telephone consultations will happen week beginning Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June.
- 5. Yuck!** We have an ongoing problem with dog-poo bags being thrown over the school's back fence. While it's hard to understand why any dog owner would do such a thing, please help us by contacting local councillors, the Housing Executive and Belfast City Council and ask them to (1) put more dog bins with bags along the footpath that runs at the back of our school; (2) regularly empty the dog bins that are there!
- 6. New entrance and new building** – new fencing and gates should be here in the next week or two. Our new building has gone through planning and building control and the ground where it's going to be sited has been surveyed. At the moment, it looks like the new building (*Family Resource Hub @ Cregagh Primary School*) may be completed by the autumn – which would be wonderful.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- o Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May – **school closed** for May Day Bank Holiday
- o Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May - **school closed** for late spring Bank Holiday
- o Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> June - **school closed** for School Development Day (as per school calendar 2020/21)
- o Week beginning Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June – **school closes at 1pm** Monday-Friday for Parent-Teacher telephone consultations (times for telephone calls will be arranged beforehand)
- o Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June – likely date of P7 Final Assembly (restrictions permitting)
- o Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June – P7's last day at Cregagh Primary School
- o Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June – uniform-free day. School closes at 12noon. No dinners or packed lunches.

# INFORMATION FOR PARENTS & CARERS

Everyone has a role to play in keeping our schools safe and helping to stop the spread of COVID-19.

**DON'T SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL IF THEY HAVE COVID-19 SYMPTOMS.**

**VISIT [NIDIRECT.GOV.UK/CORONAVIRUS](https://nidirect.gov.uk/coronavirus) TO BOOK A TEST ONLINE. CALL 119 IF YOU CANNOT BOOK A TEST ONLINE.**

## YOU SHOULD BOOK A COVID-19 TEST IF YOUR CHILD HAS:

### A HIGH TEMPERATURE

This means they feel hot to touch on their chest or back (you do not need to measure their temperature).

OR

### A NEW CONTINUOUS COUGH

This means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if they usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual).

OR

### A LOSS OR CHANGE TO THEIR SENSE OF SMELL OR TASTE

This means they've noticed they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

**IF YOUR CHILD DOES NOT HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 BUT HAS OTHER COLD-LIKE SYMPTOMS, SUCH AS A RUNNY NOSE, THEY DO NOT NEED TO BE TESTED AND THEY OR MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD DO NOT NEED TO SELF-ISOLATE. YOUR CHILD CAN ATTEND SCHOOL IF FIT TO DO SO.**

## HERE'S WHAT TO DO IF:

### YOUR CHILD HAS COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

#### WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Book a COVID-19 test
- Household self-isolates
- Inform school immediately about test result

#### WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school if the test is negative providing they are well enough, have not had a fever for 48 hours and if they haven't been advised to self-isolate by the PHA Contact Tracing Service.

### YOUR CHILD TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

#### WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Inform school immediately about test result
- Self-isolate for at least 10 days as advised by the PHA.

#### WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school after 10 days even if they still have a cough / loss of smell or taste. These symptoms can last for several weeks.

### SOMEBODY IN MY HOUSEHOLD HAS COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

#### WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- The household member should book a COVID-19 test
- Household self-isolates
- Inform school immediately about test result

#### WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school if the symptomatic household member's test is negative and if they haven't been advised to self-isolate by the PHA Contact Tracing Service.

### SOMEBODY IN MY HOUSEHOLD TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

#### WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Inform school immediately about test result

#### WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school when they have completed 14 days of self-isolation without any symptoms\*.

### CONTACT TRACING HAS IDENTIFIED MY CHILD AS A CLOSE CONTACT

#### WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Self-isolate for at least 14 days as advised by the PHA Contact Tracing Service

#### WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school when they have completed 14 days of self-isolation without any symptoms\*.

### YOUR CHILD HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS A CLOSE CONTACT

#### WHAT TO DO?

- Attend school as normal
- If your child does not have any COVID-19 symptoms they should carry on with normal activities.

### YOUR CHILD HAS TRAVELLED ABROAD AND HAS TO SELF-ISOLATE

#### WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Self-isolate for 14 days in line with quarantine advice

#### WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school when they have completed 14 days of self-isolation without any symptoms\*.

\*If your child has been identified as a close contact of a case of COVID-19, or has returned from travel abroad and is self-isolating, they must self-isolate for 14 days regardless of a negative COVID-19 test result.

Further information, including Frequently Asked Questions for Parents and Carers, can be found on the Department of Education's website at [www.education-ni.gov.uk](https://www.education-ni.gov.uk)