



The Wee Friday Note

Friday 7th May 2021



"To succeed in life you need three things: a wishbone, a backbone and a funny bone"

Reba McEntire (Singer)

It's been a good but quiet week here in Cregagh Primary – which is a good thing, as it shows the children are increasingly well-settled into the routine of school and are enjoying seeing their friends each day. We continue to follow Department of Education, Education Authority and Public Health Agency NI guidance regarding coronavirus precautions for schools but look forward to things gradually returning back to 'normal'. Some measures however, like hand sanitising, are likely to stay for the foreseeable future. Let's keep working at this together and aim to get to the end of the school year safely and without an outbreak in our school. I personally know of 4 schools in our local area that have had to send whole year groups home to get tested/isolate. Remember, sick children should never come to school: no matter what they're ill with. We've done super well so far!

1. **Water off a duck's back?** Since last week's letter, in which I mentioned a rise in the number of children using bad language, staff have actually noticed an improvement and a reduction in such incidents. So well done parents – goes to show, your words do 'sink in' 😊
2. **School Fund** – thanks to those families who have already paid this year's school fund in full (£15). It would be very much appreciated if any outstanding school fund could be paid as soon as possible, as the summer term is usually quite an expensive term in many ways. Many thanks.
3. **easyfundraising (online shopping app) and clothes bank** – both of these things help boost our school funds. So far, 32 parents and staff have used the free-to-use *easyfundraising* app to raise £62.79. The clothes recycling bank also brings in a small (but very much relied upon) amount of extra income. Thank you and can I encourage you all to use both of these ways of supporting CPS.
4. **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 (07414243616) 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!

5. **Drugs** – not a subject I like to write about in our newsletter but I feel I should highlight to all families that there has been a reported increase in the amount of drugs being sold and used in our corner of east Belfast. Like many of you, I have seen with my own eyes the damage drugs do to a person and whole families. This community is the soil in which our children grow-up and they will live what they see. Please report suspicious activity to the authorities. Don't let the 1% take away from the 99% what's best about Cregagh.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- o Monday 31st May - **school closed** for late spring Bank Holiday
- o Tuesday 1st June - **school closed** for School Development Day (as per school calendar 2020/21)
- o Week beginning Monday 7th June – **school closes at 1pm** Monday-Friday for Parent-Teacher telephone consultations (times for telephone calls will be arranged beforehand)
- o Thursday 24th June – likely date of P7 Final Assembly (restrictions permitting)
- o Friday 25th June – P7's last day at Cregagh Primary School
- o Wednesday 30th 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.

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

- A HIGH TEMPERATURE** OR **A NEW CONTINUOUS COUGH** OR **A LOSS OR CHANGE TO THEIR SENSE OF SMELL OR TASTE**
- This means they feel hot to touch on their chest or back (you do not need to measure their temperature).
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).
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
 - Inform school immediately about test result
 - Household self-isolate for at least 10 days as advised by the PHA

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.

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-isolate
 - 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?**
- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
 - Attend school as normal
 - If your child does not have any COVID-19 symptoms they should carry on with normal activities.

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 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



Is your little one starting Primary 1 in Sept. 2021?

Cregagh Primary would like to invite you along to a short course on school readiness with our Family Worker Alex.

These friendly, informal Zoom sessions will give you lots of ideas for learning through play to help your child get the best start.

Let's Talk About ...

Starting Thur. 6th May 10am - 11am

Call/Text Alex 07740545129

Plus - Free Play Box full of ideas & activities to help get your child school ready over the holidays ☺