






The Wee Friday Note

Friday 5th November 2021



“Happiness is an attitude. We either make ourselves miserable, or happy and strong. The amount of work is the same.” - Francesca Reigler (Artist)

I hope school families had a restful half-term break. It's only seven weeks until the start of the Christmas holidays (starts Wednesday 22nd December with school finishing at 12 noon) and plans are already being made for the festive season. Covid is still around and we are starting to see lots of colds and other sickness bugs spreading around. A simple rule of thumb is never send a sick child to school. They will be miserable and they will pass it on to their classmates. Remember to inform school if your child is sick on the very first day of their illness. Thank you.

- 1. Building & ground works update** – Building work on our new family resource centre is due to commence later this month (November 2021). This new building will be at the heart of this £200,000 development work and has been made possible through Belfast Investment Funding (Belfast City Council). It has taken almost 5 years to get to the point where we now happily find ourselves! One of our own school governors, Alderman Tommy Sandford, has been instrumental in bringing this project to fruition. Much of the clearance work and new fencing has already been undertaken by the Education Authority in preparation for this next 'BIF phase' of our project. This new area of the school will also (eventually) feature an outdoor classroom, allotment areas for growing fruit and vegetables, sensory garden areas, picnic areas, climbing frames and fitness trails. Native species of trees and shrubs will also be planted there will be one exception to this planting scheme - a large Norwegian Spruce (Christmas) tree will be planted with the intention of being a centrepiece at future school/community Christmas events.
It will take considerable time (not to mention money) to have this new area completely finished to the specification shown below but we'll get there! Next in my sights is a play area with soft ground surfaces for younger children to play on safely, an adventure Trim Trail for older children to enjoy. Among other fund raising initiatives planned, a Crowd Funding page will soon be set up to allow anyone who wants to partner with us (individuals or businesses) to make donations towards the cost of the new play and fitness equipment the opportunity to do so. In helping, they'd be helping invest in our children's futures and experiences of education. We will be aiming to raise £25,000! (Go big or go home, right?)
- 2. Early school closure notice** – on Friday 26th November, school will close at 1pm for all pupils. We are providing parents with 3 weeks advance notice and will remind you as the date comes closer.
- 3. Healthy breaks, no nuts & water only** – please remember to send only healthy breaks Monday-Thursday with your children. On Fridays, children can bring a sweet treat, piece of cake or regular crisps as an end of week treat. **Only water is allowed to be brought for break and packed lunches** (and that is for every day). Lastly, please remember we are a 'nut free' school due to some children and staff having allergies.
- 4. CHRISTMAS 2021 IN SCHOOL**
 -  **P1-3 Nativity** – I have received advice that it would be very unwise to hold our usual Nativity Play with an audience present due to ongoing Covid-related issues. This is a disappointment to me personally and my staff, as it will be for many parents. At the same time, we all need to remember that if we were unfortunate enough to have an outbreak as a result of such a large indoor event, many families' Christmas holidays could be ruined. With Delta and now Delta+, we just cannot take the chance. So, as with last year, this year's Nativity will be filmed and shared with parents. More details to follow closer to the time. I sincerely hope this is the last time this has to be done ☹️
 -  **P4-7 Carol Service** – similarly to the above, this year's Carol Service will be filmed and shared with parents. More details to follow closer to the time.
 -  **Carols Around the Tree Christmas Celebration** – always determined not to let Covid 'steal Christmas' like the Grinch it is, Cregagh Primary School is planning to have a Christmas celebration on Wednesday 15th December accompanied by Downshire Brass Band (Belfast). This event will be held outside in the school grounds (so wear your hat, scarves and gloves) from 7-8pm. Some of our older pupils will be taking part, helping us prepare for the Christmas season ahead. This will be a ticketed event (not open to the general public). More details to follow closer to the time.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Thursday 18 th November	Flu vaccination for pupils (nasal spray) by school nursing team, HSCT
Friday 19 th November	<i>Afternoon at the Movies</i> mini fundraiser. £1.50 per pupil.
Friday 26 th November	School closes at 1pm for all pupils (dinner and lunches as normal)
Wednesday 15 th December	Carols Around the Tree Christmas Celebration, 7-8pm. Hot drinks & Christmas treats on sale – proceeds to school fund.
Thursday 16 th December	P4-7 Pantomime at the Waterfront Hall
Monday 20 th December	P1-3 visit to Strand Cinema for Christmas movie
Tuesday 21 December	Christmas Magic Show for each class
Wednesday 22 nd December	Last day of first <u>full</u> term. 12noon finish (no dinner or lunches)
Thursday 23rd December- Wednesday 5th January 2022	Christmas holidays (10 school days inclusive)
Thursday 6 th January 2022	New spring term begins

Architect's illustration of our new development

