



The Wee Friday Note

Friday 21st January 2022



"If you want your children to be intelligent, read them fairy tales. If you want them to be more intelligent, read them more fairy tales." ~ Albert Einstein

1. SCHOOL ADMISSIONS 2022/23

Applications for P1 places **closes** on the 28th January 2022.

Applications for Post-Primary places **opens** 1st February and **closes** 23rd February 2022.

2. STAYING WARM WHILE AT SCHOOL

Please remember that although school's underfloor heating is on it is still cooler than normal in classes for children and staff due to our having to keep our windows open for ventilation. Therefore, please make sure your children have enough layers of clothing on to keep themselves warm. A vest, a t-shirt worn under school polo shirts can make a real difference. Children may also wear a fleece or similar top over their school sweater if needed. No child needs to feel cold.

3. COVID

- ❖ It's been a difficult week thanks to Covid with 136 pupil absence days recorded. Today, we have 40 children off school; mostly Covid-related. We also have had 4 staff off. **Please keep being vigilant.** Listening to the local news and talk about removing restrictions, you would be forgiven for thinking "it's all over". This is certainly not the case in schools! Fingers crossed, we can continue to keep all classes open right through until the end of this first half-term.
- ❖ The **compulsory self-isolation time has been reduced from 7 days down to 5 days.** This means that a person who tests positive **can leave isolation after midnight on day 5** having tested **NEGATIVE** on day 4 and day 5. A person must continue to self-isolate until they get two back-to-back **NEGATIVE** tests. **Pupils return to school the day after their second NEGATIVE lateral flow test** (confirmed by PHA 20/1/2022).
- ❖ Children who are sick with anything should not be sent to school. This is especially important right now as the Omicron variant of Covid is even more contagious than previous variants. So, the golden rule of "If in doubt, keep them out" is even more important than ever.
- ❖ Therefore, I am strongly encouraging parents to keep children off school if they display **any** of the following 5 possible symptoms:
 - Raised temperature above 37.8oC
 - A persistent cough
 - Loss of sense of taste or smell

Add to this list two additional symptoms common with Omicron:

- Runny nose
- Headache

This week, several parents of children who tested positive also informed school of other symptoms:

- Vomiting
- Loss of appetite

- ❖ If your child has any of these 5 symptoms, you should still try and book a PCR test for them - because they have possible symptoms.

- ❖ Until the worst of Omicron's impact has passed, parents need to help schools stay open by keeping potentially sick kids off; getting them tested when & how appropriately; and keep communicating with school about what's going on with their children.
- ❖ ***I am continuing to ask parents to keep children off school when someone in the family home tests positive with Covid. With Omicron being so contagious, it is very likely infection will spread to others living in the same house including children. I believe parents helping us with this is one of the reasons Cregagh Primary has done so well during the pandemic compared with many of our neighbouring schools. I understand this is an awful inconvenience where it happens but I am trying to keep classes/school open for the largest number of children at any given time. Thank you.***

4. BICYCLES & SCOOTERS

We are keen to see more children cycle or scoot to school (P4-7 only unless accompanied by parent). We look forward to having designated cycle and bike parking spaces as part of our development of outdoor space. In the meantime, bicycles and scooters can be parked at the side of the school building. Electric scooters are not permitted in school.

5. SCHOOL FUND

It would be very much appreciated if any outstanding School Fund could be paid as soon as possible – either in full or in instalments. £20 per family per school year. Thank you so much.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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| Monday 14 th to Friday 18 th February | Half-term holiday (5 school days) |
| Thursday 17 th March | St. Patrick's Day. School closed |
| Friday 18 th March | School holiday (1 school day) |
| Friday 8 th April | Spring Term ends. School closes at 12 noon |
| Monday 11 th April to Friday 22 nd April | Easter holiday (10 school days) |
| Monday 25 th April | Summer term begins |

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