



The Wee Friday Note

Friday 16th September 2022



- 1. Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II** – On behalf of the Board of Governors, staff and pupils of Cregagh Primary School, we were deeply saddened to learn of the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Over the course of her 70-year reign, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II devoted her life to one of public service. The Queen has been a constant in all of our lives and an inspiration and role model for many of us; an example of dignity, grace and dedication, as she tirelessly performed her duties, both at home and abroad, demonstrating leadership, strength and a commitment to reconciliation. Many will feel a great sense of loss given that our lives have been marked by events and celebrations involving the Queen and the Royal Family. The news of her death brings sorrow for the United Kingdom and, most particularly, for the members of the Royal Family. Our thoughts and prayers continue to go out to a family circle who have lost a mother, a grandmother and a great-grandmother. As a nation, we have lost a remarkable Head of State, a role model and someone that many of us could relate to, in one way or another.
- 2. School closed for Her Late Majesty's funeral** - As a mark of respect and in line with Department of Education Guidance, Cregagh Primary School will be closed to all pupils and staff on Monday 19th September 2022.
- 3. Attendance target for all pupils 2022-23** – The Department of Education (NI) states that a child with an attendance record of 95% is only just “satisfactory”, as 95% means that 9 days of learning have been lost. As a school, we want to see all children in school every day and on time. Missing days of school or being late for reasons that could easily be avoided sends a message to children that school and education “doesn't really matter”. Children only get one shot at school; help them make the most of their opportunity.
- 4. Healthy breaks, no nuts & water only** – our school has a Healthy Break Policy: only healthy break foods can be eaten Monday-Thursday. On Fridays, children can bring a ‘sweet treat’ to school if they so choose. Children may only bring water to school to drink for break and lunch (not diluted juice). Visit our school website for some healthy break ideas. Our school pupils' dental health was among the worst in East Belfast 20 years ago, now it's among the best. Lastly, please remember we are a ‘nut free’ school due to some children and staff having allergies. Thanks.
- 5. Are you entitled to Free School Meals?** For every eligible child registered for Free School Meals (regardless of whether they ever take them or not), schools in N.I. receive additional funding. If you think your children are eligible, please register – it is a big help to the school's creaking finances! If you need help, Lois (our Family Engagement Worker) is happy to assist ☺

- 6. Morning drop-off time** – all parents (except those of little P1s) should drop their children off and leave school. Staff are on hand to supervise. School staff should be the only adults present in the playground area.
- Front school gate drop off – leave children at Clocktower (teacher escorts pupils round to playground at 8:45am)
 - Rear school gate (yellow) drop off – leave children at yellow gate (several school staff are on supervision duty every morning)
- 7. Children being picked up late after school** – parents must collect their children from school on time. If a child who gets picked up from school finishes at 2pm, their parent/carer should be waiting for them from 1:55pm. Similarly, for those children finishing at 3pm. If a child is repeatedly left late in school, we will have no option but to report this to family services. Remember, if some kind of disaster befalls you and is going to keep you late 5 minutes, let Miss Murphy know. Thanks ☺
- 8. Extra-curricular activities** – when a club is oversubscribed, those who don't gain a place will have an opportunity to experience that club during the next round of clubs. Everyone will get their turn.
- 9. Two-to-Three Waiting Club (P2-P3 only at the moment as P1s still finish half days)** - started back this week. All details have already been sent home by the school office. Any inquiries regarding booking and payment, contact Miss Murphy 90 401246.
- 10. Opportunities for parents to get involved** – Lois Corbett, our lovely Family Engagement Worker, has put together a great programme of activities for parents to engage with.

Cregagh First Term Plan

Parent and child engagement – Wednesday 1-2pm

- 7th September - Promo at meet the teachers
- 14th September - Games Café

- 21st September - Mr Wolves Pancake
- 28th September - Sensory Play
- 5th October – Baking
- 12th October - Bear Hunt
- 19th October Making Playdough
- 26th October Halloween Party

Drop-in / Family Support - Wednesday Am 9 – 11

Coffee and opportunity for individual family support
Short info chats

- 14th September – intro to family connections

- 21st September - Cut your food bills
- 28th September - Energy Saving tips
- 5th October – Making a family Budget
- 12th October – Curry in a hurry
- 19th October – Frugal Christmas Ideas
- 26th October - Halloween Party

- 11. School Fund** – school understands that “money doesn't grow on trees” – especially at the moment! However, without school fund contributions the boys and girls would miss out on a lot of things. The amount remains at £20 *per family* per school year. This can be paid through our online payment system School Money in either one or several instalments. Thank you very much – especially in these ‘tight’ times ☺

*** IMPORTANT FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY ***

Monday 19 th September	School closed State funeral of Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
Monday 3 rd October	School closed to pupils (School Development Day No.1)
Wednesday 16 th November	School Open Night
Wednesday 14 th December	P4-P7 Carol Service at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church (p.m.)
Friday 16 th December	P1-P3 Nativity Play at Mount Merrion Parish Church (a.m.)
Tuesday 20 th December	"Carols Around the Christmas Tree" (p.m.)

