



The Wee Friday Note

Friday 23rd September 2022



**"It's worth remembering that it is often the small steps, not the giant leaps, that bring about the most lasting change."
Queen Elizabeth II**

- Poppy's Garden** - We are excited to announce we are a grantee of the AXA PARKS Fund! The £19,000 grant will support our project to develop a new school garden to the rear of the school grounds. These new gardens will provide our pupils space to grow flowers, fruit and vegetables and learn about nature. When finished, the gardens will be officially dedicated to the memory of our lovely Poppy Ogle. This new space will be enjoyed by all our children, present and future, and will named, "Poppy's Garden".
- Sure Start @ Cregagh Primary School** – I'm also delighted to say that Sure Start will be 'anchor tenants' in our new Family Resource Centre. Sure Start offers support to parents with children aged under four years old. Their support programmes can help a parent from pregnancy until their child starts school. With Sure Start's ongoing support, a child can do well at school and flourish at home. Sure Start will be on site every Tuesday and Thursday. Great to have them on-board!
- Children being picked up late after school** – still having trouble with this one! Parents need to collect their children from school on time every day. 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 😊
- Two-to-Three Club users** – we are now asking parents who send their children to Two-to-Three Club to collect their children from the Clocktower area at the front of school at 3pm. We believe this will be easier for the majority of parents.
- Is your child 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 📞 07526915747) is happy to help.
- 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 😊
- Healthy breaks, no nuts and 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.

8. **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

9. **School Fund** – 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 ☺
10. **Results of recent parents’ survey** – we were very heartened by the results of our recent parents’ survey. There are one or two areas we are going to follow up on but we appreciate the feedback and especially the many encouraging comments that many took time to make – thank you very much. The results will be shared through SeeSaw.

What happens now with this information? Results from pupil surveys, parent surveys, non-teaching staff surveys and teacher surveys are all collated and areas for improvement are identified and prioritised. Over the next 3 years, school we seek to improve these areas. So thank you for your input – it does help us and it does make a difference!

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

Monday 3 rd October	School closed to pupils (School Development Day No.1)
Monday 31 st October to Friday 4 th November	Half-term (Halloween) holidays – 5 days
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.)

