



# The Wee Friday Note

## Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2022



***“When we lose one blessing,  
another is often most unexpectedly given in its place.”***  
**C.S. Lewis**

### 1. Update on “Poppy’s Garden”

I was successful in obtaining a funding grant in September of this year from AXA Insurance for £19,000. This funding is to create “usable green spaces” where there currently aren’t any. In considering how best to commemorate Poppy, a P6 girl who we lost to cancer back in May, and having chatted to her family, we intend to build a garden area that will be used by all our current pupils and generations of children to come. Our hope is that this will be the beginning of building a fitting tribute to a much-loved pupil. It will be a living and growing reminder of Poppy, who is never far from our minds. The contractor appointed to do the landscaping work intends to start the work in early spring 2023. Watch this space!

### 2. Christmas Stamps

Cregagh PS has sold stamps for the Cedar Foundation (people with learning difficulties) for over 30 years. These stamps can be put onto Christmas card envelopes and posted into our school post box (internal mail only). The cards then get delivered to the addressee by our P3 postmen and postwomen. Please help your children when writing on the front of the envelope so we know the name and classroom of the child where the card must be delivered to! Each sheet of 35 stamps cost £1 and will go on sale on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November. ½ sheets can also be purchased for 50p. All proceeds go to the Cedar Foundation.

### 3. Children in Need 2022

A lovely day was had by all as we marked Children in Need Day. Thanks to parents for supporting this worthwhile cause by organising children coming to school wearing their PJs and for sending in donations. We raised a total of **£167.35** for Pudsey. Well done!

### 4. Four-Legged Friends

Most people love dogs ... most people. But we do have some children in our school who, for various reasons, are very afraid of dogs. Only Guide Dogs are permitted on school grounds. Parents should not bring their dogs to school at drop-off or pick-up times, as this will bring them into close contact with our pupils.

Dogs Fouling Outside School Gates/Fence – this continues to be an issue. Mr Dickson our caretaker, checks that the areas around our school gates are clean every morning but all that is needed is for one careless dog owner to walk by, not pick-up after their dog and we’re back to square one. It’s disgusting and dangerous in areas that are frequented by young children. Please contact your local councillors and MLAs and ask them to do more about helping with this problem – particularly putting up two new dog bins at the two lampposts either side of our back yellow gates. Your help with these doggy problems would be appreciated!

### 5. Sorry to Have to Mention This ...

On two separate occasions, once at the start of the week and once at the end, I have heard parents using bad language at the school gate: f-word. I would remind everyone, that we want the very best of everything for our children including role-modelling. What children hear; they repeat. What they see, they imitate. Please support our efforts to teach the children about using kind and clean words. Thank you folks 😊

6. **Help with Christmas school trips and other things** – we all know that things are tight right now. We have been doing what we can to help including: cutting the cost of Breakfast Club by half and school paying for buses for all classes who go for swimming lessons. School will also be paying for buses to take P1-3s to the cinema at Christmas and the P4-P7s to the Panto. Together, this will cost the school budget close to £2,000 and we will have to make our own cuts to make ends meet. We are also pleased to have been able to help many families in other practical ways. As a small primary school have very limited resources but where and when we can help, we will try to. I would ask that when teachers ask parents to pay the heavily reduced price for their children's Christmas trips, they will. School is paying more than half for both trips out of our diminishing budget.
7. **Lois Corbett Family Worker** – Lois is our school's family support worker. She is simply here to give parents a helping hand and offer some advice over a relaxed cup of tea or coffee. If you haven't connected with her yet, you should try to: she's lovely and very helpful! You can text her on 07526915747.

### \*\*\* IMPORTANT FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY \*\*\*

<b>Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November</b>	AQE paper 2 (affects only some P7s)
<b>Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December</b>	AQE paper 3 (affects only some P7s)
<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Last day of after-school clubs for this term
<b>Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Last week of after-school activities <u>incl. Two-to-Three Club</u>
<b>Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December</b>	P4-P7 Carol Service at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church (p.m.)
<b>Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Last day of Two-to-Three Club for this term
<b>Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December</b>	P1-P3 Nativity Play at Mount Merrion Parish Church (a.m.)
<b>Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December</b>	Aldo the Magician - £1 per pupil please "Carols Around the Christmas Tree", 6:15pm-7:15pm-ish!
<b>Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December</b>	School closes for Christmas holidays at 12 noon
<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023</b>	School reopens. Breakfast Club open.
<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Two-to-Three Club restarts
<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January</b>	After-school activities

