



The Wee Friday Note

Friday 26th January 2024



“Fall seven times; stand up eight.” Japanese Proverb

1. The deadline for **applying for a place at Cregagh Preschool and/or P1 place at Cregagh Primary School** for September 2024 has now passed. The deadline for late applications to be submitted is 4.00pm on Wednesday 31 January 2024.

However, you can still submit an application by going to:

For late **Preschool** applications, go to:

<https://www.eani.org.uk/pre-school-late-applications-2024>

For late **Primary 1** applications, go to:

<https://www.eani.org.uk/primary-one-late-applications-2024>

2. **Joint Statement from Cregagh Pre-School & Cregagh Primary School**

We are excited to announce that from 1st July 2024, a new Management Committee formed by the Governors of Cregagh Primary School will be adopting responsibility for the daily running of Cregagh Preschool. Applications for places are unaffected.

Both Cregagh Preschool & Primary School look forward to a bright future working closely together.

3. **Developing Wrap-Around Care at Cregagh Primary School**

We are looking into different ways of providing extended “wrap-around childcare” from September 2024 onwards. Wrap-around care hasn’t been available at our school up until now, not because we don’t want to provide it – but because in the past we haven’t had enough working parents who were able to pay for such a service. In fact, I have looked into developing wrap-around childcare 3 times before in the past 10 years! However, I now think that with more working families than ever being part of our school, we **may** have enough children to make such a service possible. We really need a minimum of 10 children coming every day.

- We are investigating different ways to provide wrap-around care: outside providers vs in-house provision;
- Childcare is never cheap but we hope to offer a reasonably-priced option for parents who need it to consider;
- Ideally, we would like to provide wrap-around care options for working parents to use up until 5pm or even 6pm Monday through to Friday;
- It may be possible to offer a form of wrap-around childcare during school holidays too;
- Wraparound childcare is not part of school. It happens after school is over. It is a service that parents pay for. There are no ‘free places’. It is aimed at working parents whose jobs do not enable them to pick their children up at normal school closing times.
- We will also be looking at how we can ‘stretch’ the Preschool day and perhaps offer paid-for wrap-around childcare for those parents too.

4. **SEAG results for P7s who sat the assessment tests in November 2023**

Remember - SEAG results are not posted out!

Everyone can access their child's results by logging in to their Dashboard.

Although these will be available by 8am on 27th January parents can log in at any time after that.

5. **“Cregagh is Changing”**

This isn't just a fact, it's the name of a special meeting that the Board of Governors and I intend to hold on an afternoon or evening in the coming weeks (certainly before Easter). At this meeting, we will hear just how the Cregagh area has changed and continues to change; as well as more information about such things as our plans to develop wrap-around care in our school. Once a suitable date is agreed upon, more details will be shared in good time to allow parents to plan to attend.

***** IMPORTANT FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY / CALENDAR *****

Friday 26th January

EA Connect **closes** for online applications for Primary 1 and Pre-school at 12 noon

Late applications can still be made up until 4:00pm on Wednesday 31st January.

Saturday 27th January

SEAG Test results are made known.

**Thursday 15th to
Monday 19th February**

Cregagh PS closes for Half-Term Break
School reopens Tuesday 20th February

Monday 19th February

School closed to pupils: School Development Day 3

Monday 18th March

School closed: St. Patrick's Day (now a set EA holiday)

**Monday 25th March to
Monday 8th April**

Easter Holidays
School reopens Tuesday 9th April



**Wednesday 22nd to
Friday 24th May**

P7 3-day residential trip to Castlewellan Castle & Outdoor Pursuits Centre

Thursday 20th June

Final Assembly & Prize Distribution

Friday 21st June

Foundation Stage (P1 & P2) Prize Morning

Tuesday 25th June

P7 final day of school (normal 3pm finish)

Wednesday 26th June

P7 Awards Evening at Mount Merrion Parish Church

Friday 28th June

Final day of school. Uniform-free day
12 noon finish