



# The Wee Friday Note

## Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2024



“You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes.  
You can steer yourself any direction you choose.” ~ Dr. Seuss

### 1. World Book Day 2024

What a fantastic World Book Day at Cregagh Primary School! The children had a jam-packed day full of fun activities to do with books. As well as dressing up as their favourite book characters the children enjoyed completing a range of activities including: the children from KS2 reading to children from Foundation Stage, making different types of bookmarks, playing Book Bingo, making hand drawn book characters come to life using AI technology and finally creating mini-books. During assembly, Mr Heggarty also reminded everyone to make sure they were not giving up on books in favour of TV, computers and phones and to make sure reading was given its fair share of their time. Check out our website and Facebook for more photos.

Thank you to all parents who donated to our fund to buy new reading books for the children: £82 was raised 😊



## 2. Parent-Teacher Meetings (Easter)

A lot of schools have only one parent-teacher meeting per year, whereas CPS continues to have two: one in the autumn and another in the spring. This is because we think it is important to let parents know how their children are progressing in their education and how we can work together towards making even more progress possible. With Easter being early this year, our parent-teacher meetings will be held week beginning Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March (school is closed on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March). Teachers will be sending home more information about these useful meetings in the coming days. Please make every effort to attend.

**Please note that children will go home at:**

- 1pm every day from Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 21<sup>st</sup>
- 12 noon on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March

## 3. Book Fair is coming to Cregagh Primary School

The Book Fair will run from Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March up until Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March. Classes will be able to browse the Book Fair during the school day and parents are also welcome to pop in for a look around pick-up time. Books and stationery will be on sale. Children can make their own purchases by bringing money to school or parents can pay at the office. No one should feel obligated to make purchases 😊

## 4. School Money App & School Dinners

Please note that from 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024, a new “Arrears Limit” of £10 will be introduced. This will mean that where a school dinners account falls into arrears of more than £10, the system will not allow parents to book future meals until any existing arrears are cleared.

## 5. Why are pupils only allowed to bring water to school to drink?

The NHS states that, “The best drinks to give children are water and milk. Children should drink whole milk until they're 2 years old. Children should avoid sugary fizzy drinks, squash and juice drinks completely. Children who drink a lot of sugary drinks are more likely to become overweight. The added sugar in these drinks can also damage teeth.” (Source: [Water, drinks and hydration - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk) ).

- Our school has a filtered and chilled water cooler for children to use.
- 15 years ago, Cregagh PS pupils had the worst dental health in East Belfast. Today, things are much better.
- Water, when it spills in school bags, on desks or on classroom carpets, is easily cleaned up and does not leave stains or smells.

## 6. Every School Day Counts !

**Every single day a child is absent from school equates to a day of lost learning.**

**Attendance percentages can be misleading.**

<b>100% Attendance</b>	0 Days Missed	<b>EXCELLENT</b>
<b>95% Attendance</b>	9 Days of Absence 1 Week and 4 Days of Learning Missed	<b>SATISFACTORY</b>
<b>90% Attendance</b>	19 Days of Absence 3 Weeks and 4 Days of Learning Missed	<b>POOR</b>
<b>85% Attendance</b>	28 Days of Absence 5 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed	<b>UNACCEPTABLE</b>
<b>80% Attendance</b>	38 Days of Absence 7 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed	<b>UNACCEPTABLE</b>
<b>75% Attendance</b>	46 Days of Absence 9 Weeks and 1 Day of Learning Missed	<b>UNACCEPTABLE</b>

For some parents 90% may seem like an acceptable level of attendance, but the reality is that 90% attendance means that your child will miss half a school day each week or 19 days of school during the school year – that's nearly four school weeks.

## 7. No Electric Scooters or e-Bikes in School

It is a school rule that our pupils are not permitted to bring electric scooters or bicycles to school.

- a) They are more dangerous than ordinary scooters and bikes;
- b) They are at greater risk of being stolen as they are so valuable.

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

<b>Thursday 14th to Thursday 21st March</b>	Book Fair
<b>Monday 18th March</b>	School closed (St. Patrick's Day)
<b>w/b Tuesday 19th March</b>	Parent-Teacher meetings (School closes at 1pm on Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday)
<b>Friday 22nd March</b>	School closes at 12 noon (last day of a full term)
<b>Monday 25th March to Monday 8th April</b>	Easter Holidays
<b>Tuesday 9th April</b>	School reopens – summer term begins
<b>Wednesday 22nd to Friday 24th May</b>	P7 3-day residential trip to Castlewellan Castle & Outdoor Pursuits Centre
<b>Thursday 30th May</b>	PSA Summer Fiesta BBQ & Fun, 5-7pm
<b>Friday 31st May</b>	Sports Day (7th June is our reserve date should the 31 <sup>st</sup> be wet)
<b>Wednesday 5th &amp; Thursday 6th June</b>	School Musical: <i>Robin &amp; the Sherwood Hoodies</i>
<b>Thursday 20th June</b>	Final Assembly & Prize Distribution
<b>Friday 21st June</b>	Foundation Stage (P1 & P2) Prize Morning
<b>Tuesday 25th June</b>	P7 final day of school (normal 3pm finish)
<b>Wednesday 26th June</b>	P7 Awards Evening at Mount Merrion Parish Church
<b>Friday 28th June</b>	Final day of school. Uniform-free day. 12 noon finish

