



# The Wee Friday Note

## Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024



**“May your heart be light and happy, may your smile be big and wide,  
and may your pockets always have a coin or two inside.”**

### 1. Reduce, Reuse and Recycle ♻️

Over the last few days we have been lucky enough to have received various workshops all about reducing and recycling waste. The pupils in Foundation stage met with Mr Rat 🐭 and they heard all about the dangers of not recycling. We have learned all about the recycling journey of different materials. We were planting pea seeds in recycled newspaper pots and finally some classes made recycled paper out of used paper! Let's go green team, keep earth clean! 🌍



### 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 14th March up until Thursday 21st 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. 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.

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

### 5. 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.

### 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. 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 \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://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, much better and our pupils have among the best !
- Water, when it spills in school bags, on desks or on classroom carpets, is easily cleaned up and does not leave stains or smells – unlike milk, yogurt drinks, smoothies, etc.



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

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

