



# The Wee Friday Note

## Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024



**“You will always be your child’s favorite toy.”**  
Vicki Lansky (American author on parents & parenting)

### 1. After School Clubs

After school clubs are extra-curricular in nature. In other words, they compliment the work that goes on in school throughout the week. Some like our Homework Club that is run in partnership with Queen’s University Belfast help support children’s learning. Others, like Monkeynastix for our P1-3 pupils, encourage children’s health and fitness and complement school’s extensive PE curriculum. Others, like Choir promote musicality while Movie Club is designed to be relaxing.

Summer Term	Name of Club	Paid For or Free
Mondays	<i>Choir</i>	Free
Tuesdays	<i>Deaf Club</i>	Free
Wednesdays	<i>Hockey Club (KS1 &amp; KS2)</i>	Paid (outside provider)
	<i>Football</i>	Free
	<i>Homework Club</i>	Free
Thursdays	<i>Monkeynastix (P1-P3)</i>	Paid (outside provider)
	<i>Movie Club</i>	Paid (to pay for snack)

Although Cregagh PS is a small school (in city terms) with a small number of staff, we still manage to offer 7 different clubs throughout the week. This compares very favourably with other local schools and better than most. These clubs are not intended to provide an alternative to after-school-hours childcare and only children who want to attend, should attend.

Cregagh children are very fortunate to be surrounded with other out-of-school club options: such as the After School Club run by Donna and her staff in the Community Centre next door, as well as all the other Youth Clubs and Organisations in the local area that run in the early evenings: EA Youth Club with David Logan in the Community Centre, local football, rugby and cricket clubs; not to forget about all the terrific Guides, Scouts, BB and GB groups that meet in the surrounding churches. All-in-all, Cregagh children are very well catered for: both by the primary school and our community partners. There is something for everyone!

### 2. Preschool education in the Cregagh area

Authorities say East Belfast has lots of preschool places available to families. The problem is, not many of them are close to Cregagh and the few that are, are very often full. Cregagh Primary School and our local area needs a nursery class as part of this school. Children need the very best start to their educational journeys as possible. Nursery classes have fully trained teachers and are properly funded by government. Nursery school children can avail of things such as school meals and can access all the resources belonging to the rest of the school.

I am continuing to pursue this with the Department of Education, ELBs/Education Authority and locally elected politicians. I have already recruited support from various quarters but may well reach out to you parents in the future for your practical help and support. Watch this space.

### 3. Further improvements to our school outdoor space

We hope that the current building works will be complete by the end of April.

#### 4. After School Childcare – September 2024

Only 3 parents expressed interest in using Wrap Around care as provided by Sleepy Hollow and their associated costs.

We are now looking at other ways of providing some level of affordable, quality after-school-childcare to parents and children: possibly starting with care until 5pm. I will keep parents informed. If there is not sufficient demand, it simply cannot be done. We have a growing number of working parents but not everyone can afford to pay for childcare. There may however, be government help available to those who would use such a service.

**STAFFING COSTS DIVIDED BY THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN REGULARLY ATTENDING = HOURLY COST**

#### 5. Did you know?

A 1950s' report showing what a Kindergarten child knew and could do by themselves: including tying their own shoelaces and knowing the days of the week. Every year, schools across NI can see a drop in the 'school readiness' of its P1s; nursery schools say the same. Every minute spent playing, reading and teaching pre-schoolers essential skills is an investment by parents in their children's futures.

Kindergarten Report  
Name Margaret Brammer Date June 25, 1954

Things I knew  
I know all the colors ✓  
I know my right hand ✓  
I know my address ✓  
I know my father's name ✓  
I know the days of the week ✓  
I know the four seasons ✓  
I know pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, half dollars, dollars ✓

Reading Readiness  
I can read my name ✓  
I can write my first name ✓  
I can count to 79 ✓  
I use books the right way ✓  
I listen nicely to stories ✓  
I can tell rhymes ✓

Music  
I can skip ✓  
I can do what the music tells me ✓  
I can sing our kindergarten songs ✓  
I can play in the rhythm band ✓  
I listen nicely to records ✓

Activities  
I can work with clay ✓  
I can draw ✓  
I can color ✓  
I can paint ✓  
I can cut with scissors ✓  
I can make things with building blocks ✓  
I play nicely in the sand ✓  
I can plant seeds ✓  
I have had a cooking experience ✓  
I can sew ✓

Personal Habits  
I come to school clean ✓  
I keep my fingernails clean ✓  
I can take off and put on my wraps ✓  
I can hang my wraps correctly ✓  
I can tie my shoe strings ✓  
I am polite ✓  
I am kind to others and help them ✓  
I take turns ✓  
I am careful with the toys and materials ✓  
I carry my chair the right way ✓  
I eat nicely ✓

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

<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

