



The Wee Friday Note

Friday 14th February 2020



Thought for the week ahead

"Fall seven times and stand up eight." ~ Japanese Proverb

1. **Belfast Investment Fund Update** – back in 2015, I applied (along with 8 other schools) to Belfast City council for funding to develop an additional learning space (a 'family learning hub') and improve our school grounds (our so-called 'wildlife gardens'). Following a very long and competitive process, only two schools were awarded funding of £200,000 each in 2018. Cregagh Primary School is one of those two schools. This week, I had two consultants from the Education Authority's *Architecture & Design Team* visit us to survey the areas for development. Actual planning for this project's delivery is now underway and the hope is that it will be completed within this 2020 calendar year. We look forward to adding an additional classroom-sized space, two small meeting/consultation rooms and remodelling the wildlife garden area to include outdoor learning zones and an allotment area for children to learn about growing flowers and vegetables.
2. **Wednesday afternoons with Alex** (Family Worker) - This term, Alex has organised a brilliant afternoon training programme for parents and carers called *Walking on Eggshells*. This course looks at different ways parents and carers can work with children who are challenging their authority and whose behaviour is increasingly difficult to manage. The programme is being run by **Parenting NI** and is delivered in a nice relaxed atmosphere where no one is 'put on the spot' by being asked to speak out or answer questions. **Why not try it for one week and see what you think?** (Alex Barnes ☎ 07740545129)
3. **World Book Day** – Thursday 5th March is *World Book Day*. We encourage all children to come to school dressed up as their favourite character from a book. As the day is about books and encouraging reading, please direct your child to choose a book character rather than 'just dressing up' (we have other days for that! 😊)
4. **Clothes Recycling** – since introducing the blue textiles recycling bin back in 2014, it has raised almost £1,000 for school funds. If you have any old but clean clothing, handbags, shoes, belts, etc. please think about donating them to our school by placing them in the big blue metal box near the Clocktower.
5. **School Fund** – We would greatly appreciate any outstanding school fund paid as soon as possible. School children must attend school for 185 days each year. This means that school fund works out at 8p per day for a family with one child and even less for families who have more than one child at our school. Thank you 😊
6. **Mount Merrion Music Academy** – would you like your child to learn to play a musical instrument with a fully qualified musical instructor and at reasonable cost? If so, contact MMPC on 07515143775 to learn more about the musical opportunities on offer 🎵

Important Dates for your Diary

- 🌐 **Monday 17th to Friday 21st February** – half-term break (5 school days)
- 🌐 **Tuesday 17th March** – school closed (1 school day). This year, all schools in our area are closed.
- 🌐 **Monday 6th April to Friday 17th April** – Easter holidays (10 school days)
- 🌐 **Friday 8th May** – early May bank holiday (1 school day). Government moved this date from its original 4th of May position due to Victory in Europe (VE) Commemorations across the UK.
- 🌐 **Friday 22nd to Monday 25th May** – late May bank holiday & School Development Day (2 school days)
- 🌐 **Planning summer holidays?** Our holidays for next school year have now been approved by the EA. Our pupils will start back to school on Wednesday 26th August 2020. Please note that on Wednesday 26th, Thursday 27th and Friday 28th of August school will finish at 12 noon each day (without lunches or dinners) to facilitate staff training. Monday 31st August is a public holiday and all schools will be closed. Tuesday 1st September will be the first full-length day of school with school dinners being available.