



# The Wee Friday Note


## Friday 6th November 2020



**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: "When one door of happiness closes, another opens, but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one that has been opened for us." ~ Helen Keller**

1. **New school entrance/exit** – after many years of battling, I have finally won approval and funding from the EA to open a new school entrance/exit at the rear of the school site (Cregagh field side). When created this new entrance/exit will consist of a new double-width gate (which will be locked each morning at 9am), a tarmac pathway fenced on both sides that leads into our KS1 playground, and a child-proof security gate at the end of the new path to prevent leaving the main playground area. I hope work will commence spring 2021. This new entrance will give children and parents an additional access point, particularly those coming from North and South Bank directions.
2. **New additional building for Cregagh Primary School** - three years ago, I was successful in winning almost £198,000 Belfast Investment Funding for school to build a new multi-purpose facility within the school grounds. Months and months of slow government wheel turning have gone by but we are finally getting close to firming up design plans for the new accommodation. It is hoped work will start on this project during spring 2021 and be completed by the end of August. More exciting news about this new building and what it will be used for to follow soon!
3. **Open Evening and Christmas** – because of COVID we are having to figure out new ways of doing things in school. Even with very creative staff, we are very restricted by the many health and safety rules and regulations associated with the pandemic. However, while we can't have 'business as usual', we do intend to put into place alternatives whenever possible. Many of these will be online alternatives, such as our professionally-produced promotional video for use on social media (please share it!), a recorded Christmas concert featuring the boys and girls, and I can report that Santa has confirmed he will be paying Cregagh Primary School a visit in a COVID-safe way.
4. **Scholastic Book Club** – every year around this time, a travelling book fair sets up its displays in our school and sells its book. Scholastic is a publisher of quality children's books and have been around for many years. This year, we have asked them to provide Cregagh parents with an online way to browse, order and pay. Visit <https://schools.scholastic.co.uk/cregagh/digital-book-club> for full details.
5. **Cregagh Primary has its very own parent support advisor/worker** - Alex Barnes, our parent worker, is here to help and she is brilliant! If you need advice on anything to do with family life and the challenges of raising kids, give her a call or text (07740545129). Alex is totally confidential and very easy to chat to. Check out our school Facebook page where we put details of all the different things Cregagh Primary School is offering to parents with Alex. A new short course for parents is starting quite soon over at Mount Merrion Parish's church halls. See Facebook for more details or ring/text Alex.
6. **Children in Need** – on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November we will be having our annual charity day for Children in Need. We are asking children to come to school dressed in (warm) PJs, dressing gowns & slippers with a donation of £1 for Pudsey. We will also be selling doughnuts for £1 at mid-morning break. All proceeds to Children in need.
7. **Remembrance** – teaching the children about Remembrance Day and why it's important has always been something close to our hearts here at CPS. On Wednesday the 11<sup>th</sup> November, all classes will once again observe a 1-minute silence at 11am. Our poppy wreath is already on display in the school foyer, earlier than usual due to this year's unique circumstances - see Facebook.

### Important Dates for your Diary

-  **Christmas Holidays** – NOTE CHANGE OF DATE – School will now close on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December at 12 noon not Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December (as indicated before the summer).

# INFORMATION FOR PARENTS & CARERS

Everyone has a role to play in keeping our schools safe and helping to stop the spread of COVID-19.

**DON'T SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL IF THEY HAVE COVID-19 SYMPTOMS.**

**VISIT [NIDIRECT.GOV.UK/](https://nidirect.gov.uk/) CORONAVIRUS TO BOOK A TEST ONLINE. CALL 119 IF YOU CANNOT BOOK A TEST ONLINE.**

## YOU SHOULD BOOK A COVID-19 TEST IF YOUR CHILD HAS:

### A HIGH TEMPERATURE

This means they feel hot to touch on their chest or back (you do not need to measure their temperature).

OR

### A NEW CONTINUOUS COUGH

This means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if they usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual).

OR

### A LOSS OR CHANGE TO THEIR SENSE OF SMELL OR TASTE

This means they've noticed they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

**IF YOUR CHILD DOES NOT HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 BUT HAS OTHER COLD-LIKE SYMPTOMS, SUCH AS A RUNNY NOSE, THEY DO NOT NEED TO BE TESTED AND THEY OR MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD DO NOT NEED TO SELF-ISOLATE. YOUR CHILD CAN ATTEND SCHOOL IF FIT TO DO SO.**

## HERE'S WHAT TO DO IF:

### YOUR CHILD HAS COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

#### WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Book a COVID-19 test
- Household self-isolates
- Inform school immediately about test result

#### WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school if the test is negative providing they are well enough, have not had a fever for 48 hours and if they haven't been advised to self-isolate by the PHA Contact Tracing Service.

### YOUR CHILD TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

#### WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Inform school immediately about test result
- Self-isolate for at least 10 days as advised by the PHA.

#### WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school after 10 days even if they still have a cough / loss of smell or taste. These symptoms can last for several weeks.

### SOMEBODY IN MY HOUSEHOLD HAS COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

#### WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- The household member should book a COVID-19 test
- Household self-isolates
- Inform school immediately about test result

#### WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school if the symptomatic household member's test is negative and if they haven't been advised to self-isolate by the PHA Contact Tracing Service.

### SOMEBODY IN MY HOUSEHOLD TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

#### WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Inform school immediately about test result

#### WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school when they have completed 14 days of self-isolation without any symptoms\*.

### CONTACT TRACING HAS IDENTIFIED MY CHILD AS A CLOSE CONTACT

#### WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Self-isolate for at least 14 days as advised by the PHA Contact Tracing Service

#### WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school when they have completed 14 days of self-isolation without any symptoms\*.

### YOUR CHILD HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS A CLOSE CONTACT

#### WHAT TO DO?

- Attend school as normal
- If your child does not have any COVID-19 symptoms they should carry on with normal activities.

### YOUR CHILD HAS TRAVELLED ABROAD AND HAS TO SELF-ISOLATE

#### WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Self-isolate for 14 days in line with quarantine advice

#### WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school when they have completed 14 days of self-isolation without any symptoms\*.

\*If your child has been identified as a close contact of a case of COVID-19, or has returned from travel abroad and is self-isolating, they must self-isolate for 14 days regardless of a negative COVID-19 test result.

Further information, including Frequently Asked Questions for Parents and Carers, can be found on the Department of Education's website at [www.education-ni.gov.uk](https://www.education-ni.gov.uk)