



FRIDAY NOTE

Friday 8th February



1. **Parents Coffee Morning** – P1-7 parents are invited to a school coffee morning on Wednesday 6th March at 10am. During this coffee morning, parents will be get a chance to look around school's new R-Eco Box and also hear news about plans for the current school year and 2019-20. Reply slips will be sent home nearer the time to help us with catering arrangements.
2. **Nut Free School** – we have a number of children at our school who suffer from a severe allergy to nuts. For some children, coming into contact with nuts causes a potentially life threatening anaphylactic reaction. This reaction can be induced by smell, touch or ingestion of nuts. In order for us to reduce the risk of an anaphylactic reaction occurring at school, we need all parents to stop sending your child to school with nuts, or any product containing nuts, for eating at break or lunch time. Thank you for your cooperation with this matter.
3. **Mobile Phones** – please do not use your mobile phone while in the school building. This is for Child Protection reasons.
4. **“Mum / Dad, I don't want to go to school!”**- these are words that none of us who are parents want to hear. They are words those of us who are teachers don't like hearing either. However, most children go through stages when they don't *want* to go to school. It is not unusual. Very often, it's not that a child 'doesn't want to go to school', it's that they'd rather stay at home more. Who wouldn't, right? *Want* is an important word here! While we work very hard to create a happy working learning environment for the children, school is not entertainment: there is work to be done, things need to be learned and rules need to be kept. It is really important that children see a unified stance between parents and school. If a child sees an opportunity for an 'Option B' (e.g. staying off school today) this will open a can of worms for parents that they will find very hard to close again! They are testing their boundaries. Stay strong parents and on the issue of not going to school, don't compromise. Once children learn that staying off school isn't an option, they very quickly regain a more positive attitude.
5. **Healthy Breaks & Water Only** – please remember that Cregagh Primary School continues to operate a compulsory Healthy Break and Water Only policy for its pupils. On Fridays, children can bring a suitably sized sweet treat, cake or bun as a treat. It is important that parents give children a break time snack every day. Too many children are complaining that they are hungry at break times yet have nothing with them to eat.
6. **Spanish Lessons** – Thank you for responding positively to my call to keep contributing £1 each week for Spanish Lessons. Last week we had just enough to cover the cost of employing our Spanish teacher for 7 classes. Keep it up!
7. **Parking / Stopping at the School Gate at Morning Drop-Off/Afternoon Pick-Up** – despite large bright orange traffic cones, an eight-foot banner on the school gates highlighting the danger of parking at our school gates some parents continue to park in front of our gates. Please be thoughtful of the safety of *other* people's children, and do not park / stop your family's car at the school gates.

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8. **School Fund** – Thanks to all families who have sent in school fund for this term (£5) or the whole year (£15) it is really appreciated ... and needed! All schools have very little money at the present time.
9. **Be On Time!** – remember that all pupils should be in school, ready to walk around to the playgrounds for 8:45am. This is valuable friendship-time for the children and they 'miss out, if they're not in'.
10. **Invitation to Parents to Attend 'Magic of the Musicals', featuring Cregagh Primary School's Choir**- if you are free on Tuesday 5th March at 10:30am and can make your way to Girdwood Community Hub (Cliftonpark Avenue, Belfast BT14 6DQ), come along and watch Cregagh Primary, Cliftonvale Integrated Primary & Tor Bank Special Schools perform songs from famous musicals. This event has been organised in partnership with students of Belfast Met.



11. **Half-term break**- Monday 18th – Friday 22nd February (inclusive). School finishes on Friday 15th February at the normal time of 2pm.
12. **Keep the dates** –
- St. Patrick's Day, Monday 18th March: as happens every year, our school will close at 1pm on this day due to the School's Cup being played at the Kingspan Stadium and the horrendous traffic that accompanies this annual event.
 - Spring Parent-Teacher Interviews: Monday 8th – Friday 12th April. Children go home at 1pm each day.
 - Sports Day: Friday 31st May (Friday 7th June will be held as a reserve date)
 - Prize Day & Final Assembly: Thursday 20th June
 - P7s Last Day: Tuesday 25th June, 12 noon

