



The Wee Friday Note

Friday 16th April 2021



"You don't have to be great to start, but you have to start to be great." – Zig Ziglar

1. **Thank you** – this week was our first week back since Easter. The girls and boys were happy to be back in school with their teachers and friends. Thank you to all you parents for sending your children to school on time looking super smart in their school uniform.

Thanks also for leaving the school grounds quickly after dropping children off and for not gathering around the school gates. All these little things add together to help avoid further cases of Covid.

2. **Before and After School Activities** – classes have to stay organised into protective bubbles. School dinners and packed lunches have to be consumed in class bubbles. Whilst it is great to have all the children back, it still isn't 'business as usual' – because of Covid.

You will have heard on the media the Minister for Education announce that Breakfast Clubs and After School Clubs can now resume. What he did not make clear is that this refers (in the main) to private providers of wrap-around care services attached to schools who have the facilities and staff to manage such things within different protective bubbles. Many schools are unable to resume these services as they do not have a private wrap-around care provider (such as *Sleepy Hollow Wrap Around Care*) working in their schools. As soon as it is deemed safe to do so, Cregagh Primary School will reopen its Breakfast Club and After School clubs. We are impatient and want to do so. However, we cannot keep our children safe during the school day only to throw them altogether in extracurricular activities before or after the school day.

3. **Teachers' Summer Reports** – with so many weeks of face-to-face in-school learning missed due to lockdowns during this school year, I have decided that this term's end of year report will be very similar to last June's and will focus chiefly on children's progress in numeracy and literacy. This written report will, however, be supplemented by an accompanying phone call from your child's teacher during the month of June. These phone calls will be arranged closer to the time by the class teachers and will give parents the opportunity to ask questions, as well as give teachers the chance to talk in greater detail about any issues they wish to highlight.
4. **School Fund** – as you can imagine, school's income has been very limited this year. What little school funds we did have been used to benefit the children during lockdown, welcome them back to school (again!) and a limited amount has been used for community purposes – Cregagh Primary School contributed to food parcels for the local area, as well as families in need.

If you haven't already paid all of your school fund for this 2020-21 school year (£15 for the full year; £5 per term per family), we'd be very grateful if you could. Cregagh Primary School understands that some families may be experiencing genuine financial hardship and may be unable to contribute. If you can, please do – we are not a 'rich' school by any means! ☺

5. **Feeling stressed?** Remember, Alex 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 through Alex.