



# The Wee Friday Note

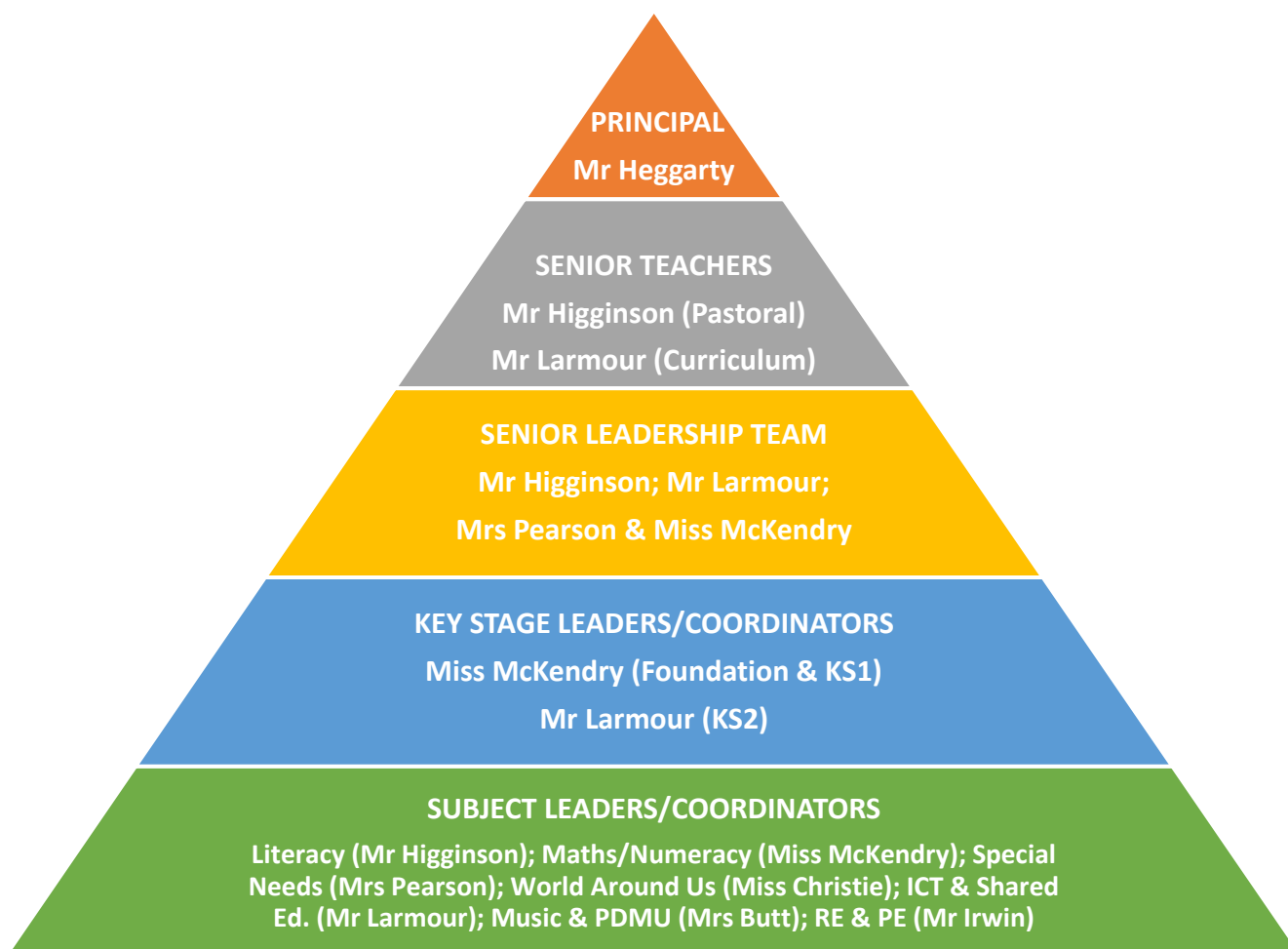
## Friday 23rd April 2021



*"Too often we give children answers to remember rather than problems to solve." – Roger Lewin*

1. **School News** – I'm delighted to announce that following an open selection process run by the school's Board of Governors, Mr Higginson and Mr Lamour have both been appointed as Senior Teachers within our school. This means they will both have additional duties and responsibilities: Mr Higginson will have special responsibility for *Pastoral Care* (including Attendance and Assessment) and Mr Larmour for *Curriculum, Attainment and Outcomes* (including school Self-Evaluation and Improvement and encouraging pupils' Positive Behaviour). Congratulations to them both and I know they will continue to work hard on behalf of the school and for the benefit of all the girls and boys.

Every teacher in Cregagh Primary School has additional duties on top of teaching their own class. The diagram below shows most of the responsibilities undertaken:



2. **Before and After School Activities** – a letter will go out to P1-3 parents next week about the possibility of restarting our paid "223 Club" (Two to Three Waiting Club) after the May Day holiday.

At the moment, we have no way around the restrictions that will enable us to restart our Breakfast Club safely. I know some other local schools have; I also know some local schools have already whole class bubbles back out of school due to COVID. As soon as we can manage to reopen our other activities, we will. Remember, we need: sufficient space, sufficient staff supervision & to protect class bubbles.

3. **Milestones to Summer** – teachers are working on a regular programme of fun special events and days for the children to enjoy once a fortnight to help encourage them to re-engage with school and with each other, and to give them regular ‘milestones’ to look forward to as progress through the weeks of school between now and the start of the summer. ‘Games Day’, ‘Art Day’ and ‘Dress-Up Day’ are just three of the special days planned so far. Full details and dates will be sent home.
4. **Monthly Movie Afternoon** – speaking of fun things to do while at school, we are looking forward to reintroducing our popular ‘Monthly Movie Afternoons’ complete with 75” wide screens, surround sound, popcorn and juice. This takes place on the final Friday afternoon of the month, once the last of the week’s work is finished. It’s welcome downtime for the children with friends and the modest charge has benefitted school fund.
5. **School Fund** – thank you to everyone who has done their best to pay school fund this year. 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. Our school fund has remained unchanged for the last 9 years and works out as the equivalent of 8p per day!
6. **Things to get parents involved** - we try so hard as a school to engage with and help our pupils’ parents. Between courses offered online with partner organisations and courses run by our own parent worker Alex Barnes, parents have been offered over ten different fun courses this year alone: ICT/mobile phone safety; Dealing with Stress; Face-to-Facebook and The Birds and Bees (parents of senior classes only), Supporting Your Child with Remote Learning, Take Five, and School Readiness to name just a few.

I can’t encourage you enough to get involved in your child’s learning and take all the advice you can get on supporting your child’s school education.

Remember, if you need advice on anything to do with family life and the challenges of raising kids, give Alex a call or text (07740545129). She is totally confidential and very easy to chat to. Also, follow our school Facebook page where we put details of all the different things Cregagh Primary School is offering to parents: two new courses have been added in the last 7 days!

7. **What’s happening with the new school entrance?** The new fence panels and gates have to be made to custom order in ‘Cregagh Blue’ and this has slowed progress. EA did want me to accept standard black or green, but I declined 😊

Parents of P1-5 children will be aware of the terrible state of the pathway at the back of the Community Centre some mornings: broken glass, weeds and rubbish. Because it’s Belfast City Council ground, we rely on them to keep it clean, safe and tidy .... Mr Dickson and I try our best to remove the worst of the broken glass but very often, there’s just too much. Please take extra care and should you notice this area in a dangerous state in the future, please help us by bringing it to the attention of Community Centre Staff or Belfast City Council directly by telephone.

#### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April – Monthly Movie Afternoon. £1.50 per child.
- Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> May – **school closed** for May Day Bank Holiday
- Monday 31<sup>st</sup> May - **school closed** for late spring Bank Holiday
- Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> June - **school closed** for School Development Day (as per school calendar 2020/21)
- Week beginning Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June – **school closes at 1pm** Monday-Friday for Parent-Teacher telephone consultations (times for telephone calls will be arranged beforehand)
- Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June – likely date of P7 Final Assembly (restrictions permitting)
- Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June – P7’s last day at Cregagh Primary School 😊
- Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June – uniform-free day. School closes at 12noon. No dinners or packed lunches.