



The Wee Friday Note

Friday 17th September 2021



Who's phoning me on 028 95 36 88 88 ?

This number belongs to the PHA (N.I.)

Save this number to your phone so you know to answer the call !

1. COVID NEWS

Changes to Track & Trace in schools

- If your child shows any Covid symptoms (high temperature and/or persistent cough), do not send them into school. Book a PCR test and keep school up-to-date with outcome.
- The PHA should inform you if your child is identified as a Close Contact; in which case parents should follow the Parents' Flowchart I've shared previously; also on school website.
- I ask all parents to inform school if your child tests positive. If PHA informs you that your child is a Close Contact (and therefore needs to go for a PCR test), please let school know for attendance reasons.
- If I am aware of a positive case in a class, I will inform the parents of that class. I cannot and will not identify the child or adult who has tested positive and ask that parents do not 'play detective' and add to families' stress.
- Families could consider ordering some Lateral Flow Tests to use at home. These can be ordered for free here: <https://test-for-coronavirus.service.gov.uk/order-lateral-flow-kits/condition> and posted to your home. Lateral Flow Tests are not a replacement for proper PCR Tests but if a parent learns that a friend of their child tests positive and they are NOT contacted by PHA, it may help give you confidence. School staff do these twice weekly as a way of us trying to keep Covid out of our school.
- Do not use a Rapid Lateral Flow Test if you have COVID-19 symptoms. Get a PCR test as soon as possible and self-isolate, even if symptoms are mild.**

Reporting a case to school – if your child develops symptoms please keep them at home and follow the flowchart mentioned above. If your child tests positive after taking a proper PCR test, parents should inform Cregagh PS on 90401246 (during school hours) or email info@cregaghps.belfast.ni.sch.uk (out of school hours).

- 'Normal' childhood sickness** – now that we are approaching the autumn/winter, we can all expect to see the usual coughs, colds, runny noses, etc. These conditions, along with bouts of vomiting or diarrhoea, cannot be ignored just because they are not Covid. If a child vomits or experiences a bout of diarrhoea, they must stay out of school for 48 hours (2 full days) according to HSC/PSA for schools. None of us would choose for our children to miss any days at school but remember to follow the better safe than sorry rule: *"If in doubt, keep them out and observe for 48 hours"*.
- School Census Forms** – please complete and return these back to school as soon as possible. There's a huge amount of work for Miss Murphy, our school secretary, to do by way of inputting all this information onto the school's secure database for the Department of Education.
- Northern Ireland High Street Voucher Scheme** - not 'school news' I know but I wanted to highlight this news to school families. Registration for the £140million scheme will now open on Monday, September 27, 2021, with the first cards being issued after Monday, October 4, 2021. The deadline to apply for a voucher is Monday, October 25, 2021 and the £100 pre-paid cards must be used in full before Tuesday, November 30, 2021. People who do not have access to a computer or the internet can register via phone from Monday, October 11, 2021. Adults will be able to apply through <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/>.

5. **School Fund** – if anyone is having difficulty paying their School Fund online, please give Miss Murphy a ring and she'll help by talking you through the different steps. It's one of those things: once you've done it once, it's easy. School Fund is now **£20** per family per year and helps pay for many of the 'nice' things our pupils receive and enjoy throughout the year. (If anyone has paid the old amount of £15, we'd be grateful if (whenever suits) you can send the remaining £5. There was an administrative error on Parent Money which automatically carried the old amount over into the new school year. Thank you.
6. **Healthy breaks, no nuts & water only** – please remember to send only healthy breaks Monday-Thursday with your children. On Fridays, children can bring a sweet treat, piece of cake or regular crisps as an end of week treat. Only water is allowed to be brought for break and packed lunches (and that is for every day). Lastly, please remember we are a 'nut free' school due to some children and staff having allergies.
7. **Ground works around school** – over the next few weeks there will be quite a lot of clearance work going on in the school grounds. This is to prepare for building work and other exciting developments such as the creation of new outdoor learning and play areas in the near future. Sometimes, when work like this is going on, it attracts 'unwelcome attention' in the evenings and at weekends. I'd be grateful if the local community would keep an eye out for any antisocial behaviour around our school site and report anything suspicious. Thank you.

<p>Hi Parents, I'm Alex your parent support worker in Cregagh Primary School.</p> <p>You can find me in the school on Thursday mornings for parenting support – including behaviour issues, help with free school meal forms and signposting to the family support hub.</p> <p>I hope all the children are settling well back into school and I look forward to meeting you all in time.</p> 	 <p>I will be available from 9:00 – 10:00am for a coffee and a chat on:</p> <p><u>Thursday Mornings</u></p> <p>23rd Sept for P1 parents 30th Sept for P2 parents 7th Oct for P3 parents 14th Oct P4 – P7 parents</p> <p>Individual Drop-In will be running from 10:00 to 11:00am.</p> <p>If you would like to book an individual slot please text or call me on 07740545129.</p>	 
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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Week beginning Monday 18 th October	Parent-Teacher Consultations (via phone or Zoom). Early 1pm finish for P1-7 Monday to Friday*. Dinners & lunches as normal.
Friday 22 nd October	last day of first half-term. 1pm finish time* .
Monday 25 th -Friday 29 th October	Halloween holiday (5 school days inclusive).
Monday 1 st November	back to school for start of second half-term.
Wednesday 22 nd December	last day of first <u>full</u> term. 12noon finish. No dinners/lunches
Thursday 23 rd December- Wednesday 5 th January 2022	Christmas holidays (10 school days inclusive)
Thursday 6 th January 2022	New spring term begins