



The Wee Friday Note

Friday 26th November 2021



Who's trying to phoning me from 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!

There's a growing sense that Christmas is coming as you walk around school: classes are starting to practice Christmas Carols & songs, the artwork on the walls depicts winter scenes, and our indoor and outdoor Christmas trees and lights have been put up. I hope that if we continue to be careful and work well together we can all get to Christmas without lots of Covid cases and sickness along the way.

1. Health & Safety News

a) COVID

1. Parents should **not** send a child who is considered a close contact into school. (A close contact is someone who lives in the same house as someone who has tested positive **and/or** someone who is contacted directly by PHA)
2. If a child is a close contact, parents should arrange for a PCR test on day 2 of being off school (and another on day 8 if the day 2 test was negative & the child had returned to school following their day 2 negative result). Some parents may choose whole-household isolation if someone in their home tests positive. This is what used to happen before the summer. Like most other schools, we have found that quite a few children go on to test positive in between Day 2 and Day 8!
3. LFTs are not as reliable as PCRs – usually because it's difficult to get good samples from children and lateral flow tests are not as sensitive as the proper PCR.
4. If a parent doesn't keep their close contact child off school or refuses to get their close contact child tested, they must understand that they are increasing the risk of spreading Covid to other children and adults.
5. **BE COVID ALERT: new persistent cough // high temperature 37.7o^c + // loss of smell or taste**
6. Please be patient with school! We are fed up and exhausted dealing with Covid and its consequences, same as parents. School staff are also dealing with their own families having to go for tests, isolate, miss school, etc etc.

b) GENERAL SICKNESS

Sick children should not be sent to school as they will be miserable and will spread whatever it is they have to other children. If a child has an episode of vomiting and/or diarrhoea, they must stay away from school for 2 full days following the last day the child was sick.

Remember: if in doubt, keep them out and observe for 48 hours

2. **Ventilation in classrooms (reminder)** – one of the best mitigations we have to use against the spread of Covid is fresh air! DE and PHA guidance to schools makes it clear that classrooms should be airy and well ventilated with fresh air. Parents and children should know that windows in classrooms will be kept open even during the winter months and classroom temperature could be on the cool side. As we enter the winter season, parents should make sure that children are wearing enough layers to keep them warm – including a vest or tee-shirt under their school polo shirts. School will not be 'cold' but it will be cooler.
3. **Carols Around the Tree Christmas Celebration** – always determined not to let Covid 'steal Christmas' like the Grinch it is, Cregagh Primary School is planning to have a Christmas celebration on Wednesday 15th December accompanied by Downshire Brass Band (Belfast). This event will be held outside in the school grounds (so wear your hat, scarves and gloves) from 7-8pm. Some of our older pupils will be taking part, helping us prepare for the Christmas season ahead. This will be a ticketed event (not open to the general public). More details to follow closer to the time.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 15 th December	Carols Around the Tree Christmas Celebration, 7-8pm. Hot drinks & Christmas treats on sale – proceeds to school fund.
Thursday 16 th December	P4-7 Pantomime at the Waterfront Hall
Monday 20 th December	P1-3 visit to Strand Cinema for Christmas movie
Tuesday 21 December	Christmas Magic Show for each class with <i>The Amazing Aldo</i>
Wednesday 22 nd December	Last day of first <u>full</u> term. 12noon finish (no dinners or 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

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Contact us on 02890 401246 to book an in-person visit and tour of our school