



The Wee Friday Note

Friday 2nd September 2022



“Every moment is a fresh beginning.” —T.S. Eliot

The children are back, settled and happy. The new term has begun! Over the next academic year, we will continue to “build back better” following the impact of Covid over recent years, start a fresh new 3-year School Development Plan journey & keep pushing to be the best we can be as a school community. We need all parents to work in partnership with us and for the local community to support us. Changing demographics in our area and a fall in birth-rate across Northern Ireland have led to a decline in our school enrolment – not by a lot but by enough that should make Cregagh folk take notice! I can say with certainty that there isn’t a local primary school that works harder for its children: for their welfare, for their attainment and for their futures than we do. The best advertising for any school is the word-of-mouth of parents. Please help spread the good news of our lovely school by encouraging other families to come and join us. As a school, we are well aware of many of the challenges our pupils and their families face. We are stronger when we work together and pull in the same direction. Let’s start the year off the way we mean to continue. Like our school motto says, “Together, we make a difference!”

Best wishes to you all, Mr D Heggarty, PRINCIPAL

- 1. Morning drop-off time** – our new morning routines are starting to bed-in now. Parents of children who enter school by the rear school gate must drop their children off at the yellow gates and not come into the playground area which is to be kept clear for children to play. Once on school grounds, children are safe: providing any adults who are not school staff have left the school premises. School staff are on duty every morning. **From Monday 5th September only P1 parents will be able to walk across the playground area.** Speak to your child’s class teacher if unsure.
- 2. Meet the Teacher Afternoon** - On Wednesday 7th September at 2pm, all P2-P7 parents and carers are invited to come to school to meet their child’s new classroom teacher and find out about the year ahead including: the topics your child will learn about, what is expected from them regarding homework, school trips and visits, etc. Parents with more than one child attending school may choose which class teacher’s meeting they wish to attend (they will also receive a copy of any written information given out by their other child’s class teacher. All P2-P7 pupils will be supervised by school staff from 2pm onwards. More details will be sent home at the start of next week).
- 3. Breakfast Club & other school extra-curricular activities** – Breakfast Club restarts on Monday 5th September. Doors open at 8:15am. Children coming to Breakfast Club should not arrive at school earlier than 8:15am as they will not be supervised & this is unsafe. Places must be pre-booked & paid online. Due to the current cost-of-living crisis, Cregagh PS is temporarily reducing the cost from its usual £1 down to 50p per day to help our school families out.
- 4. Two-to-Three Waiting Club (P1-P3 only) and After School Clubs** – we plan to start these week beginning Monday 12th September. More details to follow.
- 5. Attendance target for all pupils 2022-23** – The Department of Education (NI) states that a child with an attendance record of 95% is only just “satisfactory”, as 95% means that 9 days of learning have been lost. As a school, we want to see all children in school every day and on time. Missing days of school or being late for reasons that could easily be avoided sends a message to children that school and education “doesn’t really matter”. Children only get one shot at school; help them make the most of their opportunity.

6. **School Fund** – Most school staff are parents themselves or aunts or uncles and understand that money doesn't grow on trees – especially at the moment! However, without school fund contributions the boys and girls would miss out on a lot of things. The amount remains at £20 *per family* per school year. This can be paid through our online payment system School Money in either one or several instalments.
7. **Healthy breaks, no nuts & water only** – Our school has a Healthy Break Policy: only healthy break foods can be eaten Monday-Thursday. On Fridays, children can bring a 'sweet treat' to school if they so choose. Children may only bring water to school to drink for break and lunch (not diluted juice). Visit our school website for some healthy break ideas. Our school pupils' dental health was among the worst in East Belfast 20 years ago, now it's among the best. Lastly, please remember we are a 'nut free' school due to some children and staff having allergies.
8. **School Photographer** – our school photographer will be in school on Tuesday 13th September to take individual & school family photos of pupils (who attend Cregagh PS). Parents are under no obligation to purchase photographs.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY LIST FOR PUPILS 2022-23

AUTUMN TERM (2022)

New Term Commences:	Tuesday 30 th August (12 noon finish all pupils)
Wednesday 31 st August:	12 noon finish all pupils
Thursday 1 st September:	12 noon finish all pupils
Staff Development Day:	Monday 3 rd October (school closed for pupils)
Hallowe'en Holidays:	Monday 31 st October – Friday 4 th November (5 school days)
Autumn Term Ends:	Wednesday 21 st December (12 noon finish all pupils)
Christmas Holidays:	Thursday 22 nd December-Tuesday 3 rd January (9 school days)

SPRING TERM 2023

New Term Commences:	Wednesday 4 th January 2023
Half-Term Holidays:	Monday 13 th -Friday 17 th February (5 school days)
St Patrick's Day:	Friday 17 th March
Spring Term Ends:	Friday 31 st March (12 noon finish all pupils)
Easter Holidays:	Monday 3 rd April-Friday 14 th April (10 school days)

SUMMER TERM 2023

New Term Commences:	Monday 17 th April
Early May Bank Holiday:	Monday 1 st May
Spring Bank Holiday:	Monday 29 th May
Staff Development Day:	Tuesday 30 th May (school closed for pupils)
Term Ends:	Friday 30 th June (12 noon finish for all pupils)

*** IMPORTANT FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY ***

Wednesday 14 th December	P4-P7 Carol Service at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church (p.m.)
Friday 16 th December	P1-P3 Nativity Play at Mount Merrion Parish Church (a.m.)
Tuesday 20 th December	"Carols Around the Christmas Tree" (p.m.)