



The Wee Friday Note

Friday 6th January 2023



*"Life is like riding a bicycle.
To keep your balance, you must keep moving."
Albert Einstein*

1. Applying for a P1 Place at Cregagh Primary School for September 2023

School Age

Children born between 2 July 2018 and 1 July 2019 will be due to start Primary One in September 2023 as they will be of compulsory school age and Parents/Guardians must apply for a place in a primary school. The School Age (NI) Act became law in Northern Ireland on 28 April 2022 and has changed the law to allow the parents/guardians of younger children in the year group a choice to defer their child starting primary school by one year should they wish to do so.

This applies only to children:

- Born on or between 1 April 2019 and 1 July 2019 **or**
- Born before 1 April 2019 but due to be born on or after 1 April 2019 if born at term (Medical evidence must be provided).

Parents of these children can decide to defer P1 for one year and apply for pre-school.

Further information on Deferral of School Starting Age is available on the Department of Education website under *School Starting Age*.

Applying

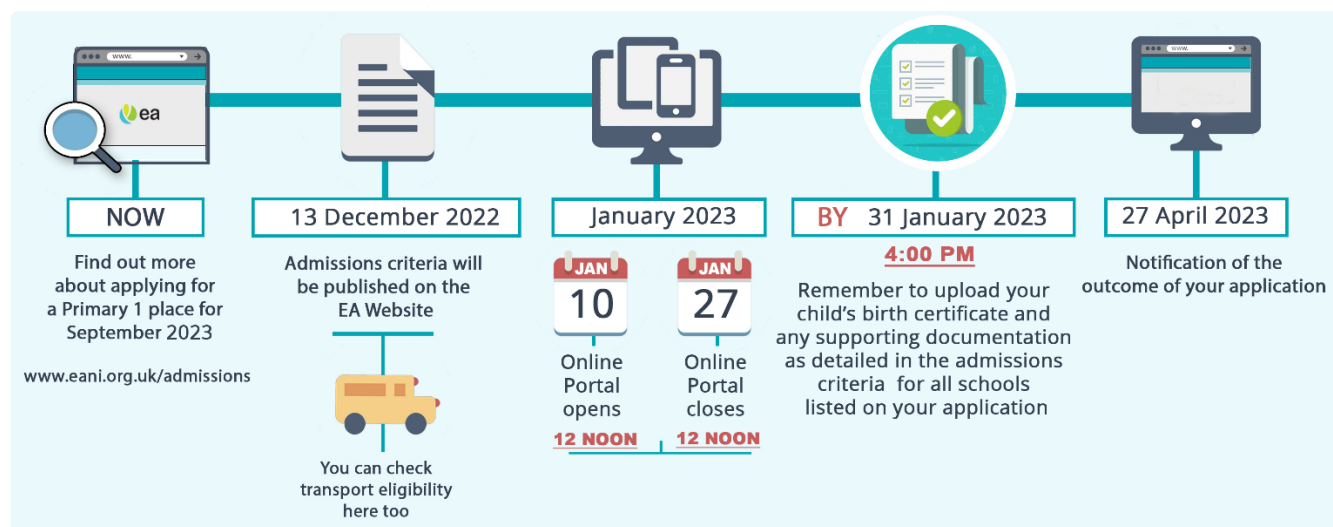
The EA Connect School Applications portal will open at **12.00 noon on Tuesday 10 January 2023** and close at **12.00 noon on Friday 27 January 2023**.



KEY DATES FOR PARENTS – APPLYING FOR PRIMARY ONE ADMISSION – SEPTEMBER 2023

Children born on or between 2 July 2018 and 1 July 2019 are compulsory school age in September 2023

Children born on or between 2 July 2019 and 1 July 2020 can apply for a place in a reception class



2. **Lois Corbett Family Worker** – Lois is our school's family support worker. She is simply here to give parents a helping hand and offer some advice over a relaxed cup of tea or coffee. If you haven't connected with her yet, you should try to: she's lovely and very helpful! Lois is happy to help Cregagh Pre-school parents with their applications for P1 if they find they need help – just text her on 07526915747 and introduce yourself 😊

3. **Two-to-Three Waiting Club**

- Our Two-to-Three Waiting Club is for parents who have children in P1-P3 **and also** have children in P4-P7.
- It is not after-school childcare for just any child: Two-to-Three Waiting Club is a paid-for service aimed primarily at working parents who would otherwise have to do a double pick-up at 2pm & 3pm on Mondays to Thursdays.
- As there are limited spaces, they are distributed giving priority to P1 children with older brother/sister in P4-P7 first; then P2 children with older brother/sister in P4-P7 second; and lastly P3 children with older brother/sister in P4-P7.

4. **Pupils and School Carpark**

Please note that pupils and parents should not walk across the school's carpark. This is a school safety rule that is taught to the girls and boys from P1 and so it's confusing if parents, perhaps running late, do this with their children. Please use the pedestrian gate only. Thank you.

5. **Christmas Stamps Sold for Cedar Foundation**

We managed to raise £100 for the Cedar Foundation, a charity that works with young people with learning difficulties to help them build independence and life skills. Well done everyone!

6. **Smoking, Vaping and Mobile Phones**

Please remember that it is EA policy, as well as Cregagh Primary's, that no-one is to smoke/vape on school grounds or at the school gates. Thank you.

Can parents also please refrain from using mobile phones on school grounds. This is for Child Protection reasons (in case someone photographs children). Thank you.

*** IMPORTANT FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY / CALENDAR ***

Monday 9th January	Two-to-Three Club restarts (NB: only those children whose parents have been told they have a place by the school office can attend)
Friday 13th January	Bling Your Bike & Scooter Day (more details to follow)
Monday 16th January	After-school activities re-start for P4-P7 pupils
Monday 13th February to Friday 17th February	Half-term break (5 school days)
Friday 26th May	Sports Day
Thursday 22nd June	Final Assembly for P3-P7 pupils (parents/carers welcome)
Friday 23rd June	P1 & P2 Prize Day (parents/carers welcome) Deaf Units 1 & 2 Coffee Morning
Tuesday 27th June	P7s last day of school P7 Awards Ceremony & Celebration (evening) ***NEW***