

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2019



## FRIDAY NOTE

- 1. Transfer Test Results for P7s** – results of both AQE & GL Assessment tests should arrive at homes on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> January. P7 parents will then be offered the opportunity to meet with me to complete their child's Transfer Application Form during the week beginning Monday 28<sup>th</sup> January. All application forms for secondary schools must be completed & returned to Cregagh Primary School by Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February. Therefore, it is very important that P7 parents know the names & preferred order of at least four schools they wish to apply to & have satisfied themselves that their child meets the schools' admission criteria.
- 2. School Enrolment** – this year, all applications for P1 places must be made online at <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions/applying-for-a-pre-school-or-primary-one-place-for-september-2019> (just search for 'education authority applying p1'). The closing date and time for pre-school and primary one applications will be 12.00 midnight on Thursday 31 January 2019. The online application is quite easy to do & doesn't take very long. Any parent who would like help making their online application may be interested in an 'Applications Clinic' being held at Cregagh Library on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2:00-4:30pm, at which EA staff will be on-hand to assist you make your application.
- 3. School secretary update** – just before Christmas, we were informed by the Education Authority that the applicant put forward for appointment as our new school secretary had not successfully passed all the necessary pre-employment checks, & consequently could not be appointed. This was & is very frustrating news! The school governors & myself have no alternative but to restart the recruitment process once again. In the meantime, we are very pleased to welcome Miss Murphy to our school, who will act as school receptionist until the final appointment is made.
- 4. School clubs** –
  - **Hockey Club** for P5-7 girls is due to start very soon. Notes went home a short while ago for parents of interested girls to complete and return to school. If your daughter would like to go and hasn't yet returned her form, they can ask their teacher for a new one to complete;
  - **Ukulele Band** is back up & running with our new tutor, Mr Sam Green. This music group will be held each Tuesday during school hours. Instruments are supplied & the cost of each week's session is £3 per child. There are still a few places available should any P4-6 pupil want to join;
  - **Badminton** – sadly, funding for our Badminton Coach Kyle, finished at Christmas-time which means there won't be any further sessions until further notice. I am working on finding a replacement tutor to lead this popular Friday after-school club;
  - **Coding Club** for P7s – we have started a coding club on Monday afternoons 3-4pm, initially for P7s only, who want to learn more about computing & how they work (programming). The club is great fun & very practical. It is led by Miss Christie & an I.T. expert from industry. As a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) Ambassador school, we would love to see more P7s attend this club in particular.
- 5. Spanish Lessons** – Andrea, our Spanish teacher, returned to teach us Spanish having been away for several months on maternity leave. The cost of providing foreign language teaching is something school cannot afford to do from its own ever-decreasing resources. Therefore, we rely on parents to contribute £1 to make sure we can pay Andrea! If we do not receive parents' contributions, we will not be able to continue Spanish lessons on Tuesdays.
- 6. School Fund** – Cregagh Primary School appreciates the support of its families. One very practical way of supporting our school is by paying school fund, which has remained at £15 per family for the past 8 years. This works out as 8p for each day of school for a family with 1 child at our school. If you have not yet paid this year's school fund, please use the special envelope sent home on Tuesday. Thanks so much!



7. **New R-Eco Box for outdoor / environmental education** – following a successful application from Miss Christie to *Awards for All* for funding, we have been able to purchase a R-Eco Box classroom for outdoor education. We hope to have an official opening ceremony in the springtime (once the weather improves), giving parents an opportunity to see this newest addition to our facilities.



8. **P1 Health Reviews** - nurses will be in school to conduct health reviews week beginning Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January. Additional details will be sent home to P1 parents directly.
9. **Attendance & Punctuality** – if your child is allowed to fall into patterns of absenteeism & poor punctuality at primary school, research shows this only gets worse at secondary school level. Please make sure your child is not late for school & that they only miss days at school due to sickness. A child with 95% attendance or better typically goes on to achieve at least 5 GCSEs including Maths & English when older. Compare this with children with attendance less than 80%, only 32% of such children with poor attendance manage to go on & achieve at least 5 GCSEs including Maths & English when older.
10. **Half-term break**- Monday 18<sup>th</sup> – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> February (inclusive)
11. **Keep the dates** –
- Sports Day: Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May (Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June will be held as a reserve date)
  - Prize Day & Final Assembly: Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June
  - P7s Last Day: Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June, 12 noon