



Weekly Update: Friday 16th October 2020

Dear parent or carer

We are blessed to have made it through another week. I have to believe that it has been a combination of both luck and the huge efforts made by children, and families and led by our super-dedicated staff that at this time we have not had a confirmed case of COVID among pupils or staff since August. I would like to sincerely thank everyone – children, staff and parents – for their cooperation that has helped create an environment that has protected everyone.

This two-week break should be used as an opportunity to gain some much-needed rest for children and staff, so we are all ready to return to school refreshed and ready to take on the second half of the winter term. *Please* follow government advice during these next two weeks as we work to keep levels down. Once again, thank you for your continued support and cooperation. Stay safe and God bless.

Mrs D Graffin

Mrs Deirdre Graffin

Principal

Dates for your diary

Mon 26th Oct – Fri 30th Oct: School Closed - Mid Term Break

Mon 2nd November – Wed 4th November: Y1 Baseline Interviews (in Recobox)

Mon 2nd Nov
Term 1B
begins

- *No longer a staff training day – all pupils should attend*
- Make sure milk and break are paid for via ParentPay. (more info below)
- Return Road of Hope Collection donations

Mid-term break or home learning?

- Following the NI Executive announcement, all primary schools will be closed to pupils during the next two weeks. As this is an extension of the Halloween half-term break there will be no learning packs sent home nor any remote learning on Seesaw.
- Staff had already met and designed packs that we thought we would be giving out but as Peter Weir has deemed this break to be a holiday, these are on hold in case we need to use them later in the year.
- Mr. Hasson has organised paper packs of work for the Y7 children who are preparing for GL assessment which is still scheduled to go ahead at the end of January.
- For the rest of the pupils, we strongly recommend a good break! Enjoy family time and reconnect with hobbies – restrictions permitting!
- Some parents might want to keep a little routine going for even part of the time off. This might be more important for some children than others e.g. for those who found the return to school difficult in August/September.
- Reading will of course be very important– even re-reading books at home and taking a break from AR. The message? READ, READ, READ!
- Staff have made sure that Education City can be accessed by all children. This will cover both Literacy and Numeracy activities.
- Some children like to practice their creative writing during holidays - using the skills they have covered so far this year. Creating poems, stories etc. might be a way to pass a wet afternoon.
- Sites like BBC Bitesize and Top Marks have a wealth of good activities.

I hope this is useful and that parents understand that staff expect nothing more of pupils than to take a very well-deserved break.

**Financial or other worries? Need some assistance or support?
Call ST VINCENT DE PAUL Confidential Local Helpline 028 7930 0819.**

November: Milk £3 and Break £4	Free School Meals
As we will be off for an additional week in October, we have reduced the amounts due for November. We will also adjust the accounts for people who have paid up until the end of the year.	During the week beginning Mon 19th October, direct payments will be made to pupils in receipt of Free School Meals.

Year 1 Baseline Interviews

These have been rescheduled until the week we return i.e. Monday 2nd November. The date has been moved forward by 2 weeks, but the day and time remains the same as the original interview time.

Recycling Collection: *THANK YOU!*



Recycling Collection: THANK YOU!

Our collection raised £211 which was excellent, especially considering the very short collection time we were restricted to due to COVID regulations. We will arrange another for Spring (week after Easter) so please keep this in mind when clearing out wardrobes later in the year!

Friends of New Row – plans for 2020/21

Our very supportive group of parents and friends have met again to discuss the plans for the year ahead. There will be a full update in the next newsletter. We are hoping to produce our annual calendar and are very sympathetic to the financial strain so many businesses are under. However, if there are any new families who are involved in a business and would be interested in donating towards printing costs, please get in touch with Mrs Graffin in the first instance to pass your details on.

Helping others

Y7 pupil Niamh Diamond is getting her hair cut to help children who lose their hair. She was inspired when a family member recently experienced alopecia. *Do you want to join me in making a difference? I'm raising money in aid of The Little Princess Trust and every donation will help. Thank you in advance for your contribution to this cause that means so much to me.*



More information about The Little Princess Trust: When a child loses their hair to cancer, we'll be there with a free, real hair wig to help restore their confidence and identity. You can help us give hair and hope to children and young people.

To donate, click on: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/niamhs-little-princess-trust?fbclid=IwAR2LmYUxG92gqmrSOO84vLG2wQTyLYs-cRKD8Jrwf7uwVfRqKus2NfvQFXc>

October: Month of the Rosary

- How to pray the rosary**
- Starter prayers: Our Father, 3 x Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father
- For each story, think about what was happening.
 - While you are thinking, pray Our Father, 10 x Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father.
 - You don't have to pray all 5 stories (mysteries) at once – just pick one, think about it and say OF, 10xHM & GB (can you work out what this means?)



- The Mysteries of Light (This set of mysteries have only been included since 2000)**
1. The Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan by his cousin John the Baptist
 2. The Wedding Feast at Cana – the first miracle. Mary asked Jesus to help provide more food and drink at a wedding as there were more guests than expected
 3. Jesus begins to tell share God's messages and tell the good news
 4. Transfiguration (Jesus appearing surrounded by light. God said, "This is my Son, listen to him.")
 5. The Last Supper

Why not pray a decade at home? The children should be able to tell you a little about what they know.

Road of Hope

Once again we would like to show how we care for others less fortunate by supporting a charity around Christmas. This is the 6th year we will support the great work of **Road of Hope** who transport gifts and essentials to those who need it in places far from home. The traditional shoebox appeal will not take place. Instead, they charity are asking for donations. We will arrange for a collection box to be left in the foyer **immediately after mid-term i.e. Mon 2nd Nov** and gifts can be dropped into this.

Suggested gifts include:

All classes: SOCKS! For all ages from child to adult, male and female

Y1, 2 & 3: A small toy for ages 3-6 years

Y4 & 5: tennis ball or bouncy ball

Y6 & 7: Hand cream/sudocrem, Farm animals, Pretend jewellery sets

Although the collection will not begin for a few weeks, we thought it might be useful to know when out and about over the next few weekends. Fiona from Road of home is very grateful for any support we can give to the work of their charity.

