



Pupil Information 3rd May 2020

The past



Can you believe it was almost a year ago when these Y5 celebrated their First Communion? Do you remember the lovely way they told us the story of Jesus going out fishing with Peter? Even if you are not in the photo, what has changed for you since then? What can you do now that you couldn't do then? It might be more difficult sums, reading harder books, having a different job at home now that you are older.

HOW TO MAKE A MAY ALTAR

The present

Why?

It reminds us of the importance of praying to Mary, Mother of Jesus.

How?

- Ask an adult to help pick a suitable spot in your house. It could be a little table or even a windowsill.
- Use something nice to cover the space – a napkin or small cloth.

What do I keep there?

- A statue of Our Lady. Don't have one? No problem-Draw one!
- A few flowers – even daisies.
- Your rosary beads, a prayer book or bible or anything else you want.
- You could write the names of people you pray for and leave them on the altar.



The future

How have you been getting on writing your diaries? Maybe some days you are even doing this instead of your schoolwork. You could have been outside and want to write about what you did or saw – and that's ok. Do you think you will remember this time when you are older? Even thinking back to last year (like our Y5 photo) is tricky! Why not write a letter to yourself to open in 10 years' time? Start with a few facts – your age, class etc. Then write about things you are good at. Finally write a few sentences about what you are looking forward to. Then, ask an adult to help you put it somewhere safe until 2030.

We love to see your work! Ask an adult to send a photo to:
info@newrowps.castledawson.ni.sch.uk

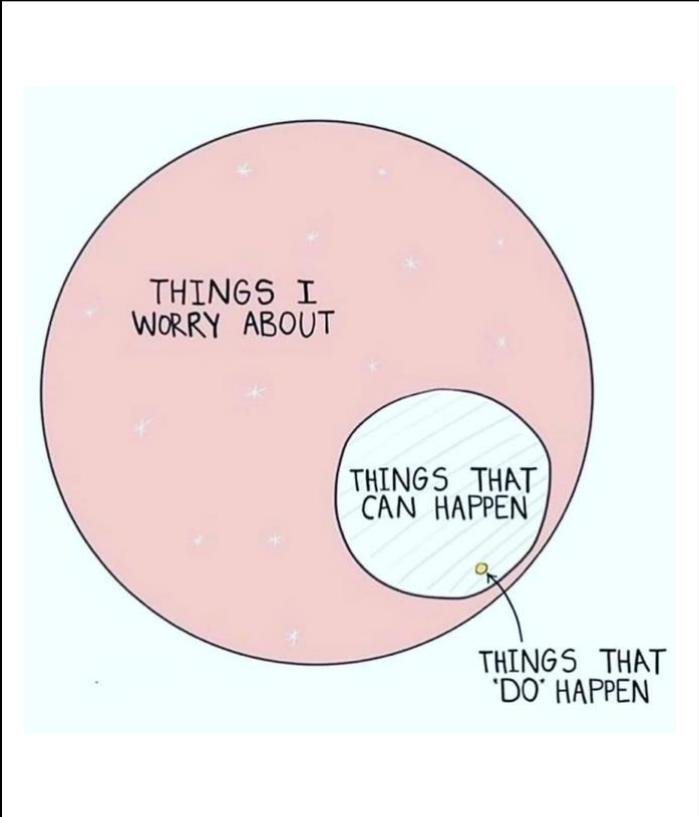
Remember – only 4 days at school this week. Enjoy your day off on Friday!
 Can't wait to stand at the school doors again! Until next week, take care.
 Mrs Graffin



Dear parents
There seems to have been even more speculation than usual over the past week.
When will schools reopen?
What about the transfer test? Will it go ahead?
Will my child have to repeat a year?
I want to reassure you of two certainties during and uncertain time:

1. **We will always do our best for your child.** We know that we will have to make different arrangements. We know there will be gaps. We know not every home school is the same – and that is OK. We trust that you are doing your best - trust us to also do this for your child. We will come up with answers and solutions when we know what is happening – that is our superpower!
2. **This will pass.** Remember this and focus on the good times ahead.

Until then, keep it real – not perfect. Stay in touch.
Mrs Deirdre Graffin *Principal*



IN MAY WE PRAY TO MARY

As a school family, please join us in praying a decade of the rosary every day in May . If you have a set of rosary beads, you can use them, If not, you can use your fingers to help you keep track of your prayers.

Let's focus on **The Joyful Mysteries** – full of hope for the future. We said these often in October so we should remember the story behind each of the mysteries.

1. **Annunciation:** The Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary.
2. **Visitation:** Elizabeth told Mary she was having a baby, too!
3. **Nativity:** The story of Christmas.
4. **Presentation of Our Lord Jesus:** Baby Jesus at the temple.
5. **Finding Our Lord Jesus in the temple:** missing for 3 days!



HOW TO SAY A DECADE OF THE ROSARY: Think of one mystery and pray:

I bless myself	Our Father	10 Hail Marys	Glory be to the Father	I bless myself
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Welcome to Seesaw!

Thanks to all parents who have signed up to Seesaw and downloaded the FAMILY app.
Why Seesaw? We can send you letters, videos and other information specifically about your child's class. This means you won't have to log onto the home learning area if you have this app. You will get notifications, just like you already do for other apps e.g. What's App. If you have any problems, please drop us an email.



Recycling Collection



Clearing out wardrobes, drawers & cupboards?
Remember to keep your binbags for our recycling collection.

We will schedule one as soon as school restarts.

If you need to contact the school for any reason, please email info@newrowps.castledawson.ni.sch.uk. Queries specific to teachers will be passed on.

Emergency Childcare provision for critical workers: COVID-19 Hub

Critical workers are defined as parents whose work is critical to the COVID-19 response, including those who work in health and social care and in other key/critical sectors. However, many parents working in these critical sectors will be able to ensure their child is kept at home. The latest advice from DE & PHA is:

Every child who can be safely cared for at home should be, to limit the chance of the virus spreading.

The Department of Education has implemented a hub system for key workers who have no alternative childcare arrangements and should only be used in that circumstance. Staff from our school and other schools have volunteered (circumstances permitting) to work at the Hub School throughout this period.

Magherafelt Primary School is now the Hub School for this area. If you are a Key Worker and are likely to require this service for your child, in the first instance please email

gbuckley577@magherafeltsps.magherafelt.ni.sch.uk to complete a data capture form.