

New Row Primary School  
43 New Row  
Castledawson  
BT45 8AP  
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Principal:  
Mrs D Graffin  
B.Ed. M.Ed. PQH(NI)

*We care*

*We share*

*We learn*

**Week beginning Monday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2018**

**\*\*Congratulations to last week's winners of Class of the Week! Junior: Year 2 Senior: Year 5\*\***

Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parent &amp; Toddler Christmas Party! 9.15-11am</li> <li>• Y1-3 Movie Afternoon: <b>All Y1 &amp; 2 stay until 3pm</b> - treats sponsored by Friends of NR</li> <li>• Y6 Swimming - No Y5 &amp; 7 PE</li> </ul>
Tues 18 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assembly &amp; Awards</li> <li>• Staff Christmas Dinner. Reminder: <b>SCHOOL CLOSSES @ 1PM (no afterschools)</b></li> </ul>
Wed 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Last day to pay dinners etc. Dinners for Thurs should be pre-paid today.</li> <li>• Assembly &amp; Awards <i>including Accelerated Reading Awards</i></li> <li>• Y4-7 Movie afternoon 1.15-3pm, with treats sponsored by Friends of NR</li> <li>• <del>Violin lessons</del> <b>Speedwell A/S</b></li> </ul>
Thur 20 <sup>th</sup> Dec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Photos of our Nativity Play will be published in The Irish Catholic newspaper today!</i></li> <li>• Non-uniform (£1 for charity)</li> <li>• Last full day of school for Term 1</li> </ul>
Fri 21 <sup>st</sup> Dec	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School closes for Christmas at 11am. No breakfast club or school dinner.</li> </ul>

**Dates for your diary**

Wed 2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online applications for Y1 Sept 2019 open – see overleaf for more info</li> </ul>
Fri 4 <sup>th</sup> January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff Development Day: Children do not attend</li> </ul>
Mon 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School reopens for all pupils. Breakfast club &amp; afterschool as usual.</li> <li>• No parent &amp; toddlers (begins again Mon 14<sup>th</sup> Jan)</li> <li>• Break money: £5.70 payable directly to canteen. Milk £4 for Jan – payable to office.</li> <li>• Swimming begins for Y7 – remember £2, swim gear and goggles (&amp; hat for girls)</li> </ul>

- Thanks to **St Pius X College** for inviting our Y6s to a healthy eating workshop. We learned lots & had fun!
- Well done to all our performers and musicians who have excelled themselves again this year. Last week's '**Christmas in New Row**' was a lovely celebration of all our talent at a special time of the year for children.
- Our children performed at **Meadowlane Shopping Centre** and **Castledawson Nursing Home** and for **Kiddies' Castle** who came to visit last week. They were a credit to the school and we were very proud.
- Well done to our 8 Y6&7 singers and 3 Y7 readers who took part in the **carol service** on Sunday, organised by St Mary's Grammar School. It was a really special event and we were delighted to be invited.
- Please send in all reading & other school books etc that may be at home. No formal homework this week.
- Some classes have **Education City** games allocated for pupils over the holidays if they are at a loose end!
- New Row PS 2019 **Calendars** still available to purchase in office: £6 each or 3 for £15
- The last day to pay for dinners is Wednesday. Thursday dinner should be paid on Wednesday. All money owed for dinners, breaks, etc. must be settled as a matter of urgency. We appreciate your cooperation.

As the Christmas break approaches, it is timely for me on behalf of New Row to thank everyone for their support throughout the year. Thanks to the children for their enthusiasm (hope Santa rewards them), the staff for their dedication (hope they have a well-deserved rest), parents for entrusting their children to us (hope they enjoy the gift of time with their kids) and all those who support the work of New Row in a whole variety of ways (hope they realise how grateful we are). I sincerely wish you all a lovely break and God's blessing for a happy and healthy 2019. Nollaig shona dhaoibh!

Many thanks for your continued support

**Mrs Deirdre Graffin**

Principal

### Important dates for P6&7 pupils & their parents

All pupils in Y6 & 7 are strongly encouraged to visit the local post primary schools on their Open Days

St Pius X College	Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> January 9.30 – 1.30pm
St Patrick's College	Tues 15 <sup>th</sup> & Wed 16 <sup>th</sup> Jan from 16:30 – 18:30 in St Mary's Building. Also Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> January 2019 at 10:00.
Rainey Endowed School	Thur 17 <sup>th</sup> Jan at 7pm (For pupils from NRPS)
St Mary's GS Magherafelt	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> & Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 2019 at 19:00



## Is your child starting school in Sept 2019?

If for any reason you were unable to attend our open day, you are very welcome to arrange another time for our pupils to give you a tour and chat with the principal.

### Online applications open Wed 2<sup>nd</sup> Jan 2019.

The closing date and time for primary one applications is 12.00 midnight on Thursday 31 January 2019. *If you need any advice or have any queries, please contact the school as soon as possible.*

1. Read the admissions criteria
2. Apply online <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions>
3. Bring documents to your 1<sup>st</sup> choice school before Fri 8<sup>th</sup> Feb

### Staffing Update for 2019

Mrs Maeve Murphy (Y3) has been approved for retirement under the *Investing in the teaching workforce* scheme. DENI have to confirm whether Mrs Murphy will finish on 28<sup>th</sup> February or 31<sup>st</sup> March. Maeve has worked in New Row since 1992 and will be missed for her contribution over her 26 years of service to the children of Castledawson. Miss Sinead Dillon (Y6) has been with New Row since January 2017 and her temporary contract finishes at the end of December 2018. Again, we thank Miss Dillon for her contribution to the education and life of New Row and wish her every success for the future.

Last Friday CCMS ratified 3 recent appointments. I am now (on behalf of the governors) able to officially inform parents. Miss Eimear McCollum will be Mrs Murphy's replacement and will take up the post of Y3 teacher when dates are confirmed by DENI. Mr Conor Hasson has been appointed as Y6 teacher with effect from the start of January 2019. Miss Kerrie McNicholl will cover Mrs Michelle Diamond's career break, teaching Year 2 and has already taken over duties. Miss McCollum, Mr Hasson and Miss McNicholl are all delighted to be joining the staff of New Row and we look forward to welcoming them to a great school community.



**Christmas presents for staff:** Thanks to everyone who donated to *St Vincent de Paul's Family Appeal* in lieu of gifts for staff. The collection ends on Wednesday and we appreciate all your donations. *Please do not* feel obliged to buy gifts for staff – it is very generous but the lovely letters and cards we receive are more than enough of a reward.