

New Row Primary School  
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## Remote Learning Update: Week beginning Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear parent or carer

*Week one is over – well done! A family treat this weekend would be a great idea – a walk, a scoop of ice cream, watching a film together – it is so well deserved 🍷*

I think we have all learned a lot from our experiences last year – most importantly that we are in this together and it will pass. This is not ideal – it is not of our choosing – but it is what needs to be done to get us through. This is not home schooling. That is very different. Home schooling is when parents decide to educate their children at home as their preference. Like us all, there is nothing you want more than to have children in school. We look forward to that day when it comes. Until then - keep it real, not perfect!

Many thanks for your continued support and every wish for safety and health – this will pass.

*Mrs D Graffin*

Mrs Deirdre Graffin

Principal



### What does Remote Learning look like in New Row?

- Daily message on Seesaw including a summary of the work to be completed
- Daily activities included in work pack: 3 tasks a day – 1 Literacy, 1 Numeracy, 1 topic/other.
- Specific feedback on one piece of work per day per child sent to their SEESAW account.
- Daily reading practice (including AR for Y4\*-7 pupils – more info overleaf)
- Menu of *optional* activities for those that want/need/have time for this.

### What MORE can I do at home?

**Manage** your child's time: Where will they work? When will they start? Where will they store their things every evening?

**Organise** your child's learning: take time to review the 3 daily tasks before your child starts. Agree the order they will be completed in, when the breaks will be etc – have a plan for the day

**Realistic**: Some days the tasks will be easier than others. If they spend longer on one, cut back on another. You might not get everything done every day – and that's ok!

**Encourage**: They won't love everything every day! Offer lots of praise and reflect on the positives of their work. Take a photo and send to your child's teacher via Seesaw for feedback. It will help!

### Seesaw Agreement

Well done to everyone for signing up to the family agreement. The level of engagement is excellent. Once again, it is so comforting to connect with those at home by seeing the samples of work coming in. It is also lovely to read the comments offering praise and suggestions for improvement from our teachers.

Reminder: send a photo of 1 piece of work daily and teachers will comment between 9 & 3.30pm.



### Essential supervision for children of key workers and vulnerable children

Please remember to review your child's work each evening, including on Seesaw. Supervising staff will take a photo and send it to your child's class teacher and parents will be able to access this on seesaw to also read the feedback. This is important so parents can monitor and support what work their child is completing.

Places are in demand as we have limited capacity, so we appreciate that parents only use this service if there is *no alternative option*. Keeping numbers low is fundamental to the success of this lockdown. If you no longer need this place e.g. if it is possible to work from home or your work is no longer considered to be that of an essential key worker, please withdraw your request for care. Shift workers should confirm requested days by 12 noon on Thurs.

## Remote learning pack 2: Collection on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2021

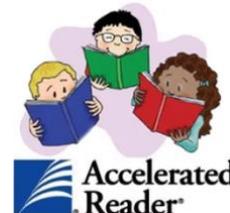
Already we are busy preparing our next remote learning pack. These will run for 3 weeks (Mon 25<sup>th</sup> Jan – Fri 12<sup>th</sup> February) and will be given out from the canteen steps on FRIDAY morning from 8.45am – 10.30am. Times are intended to assist with social distancing. Come at the family time that suits best and remember your mask. Only one adult per family.

8.45	9.00	9.15	9.30	9.45	10	10.15
Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6	Y7

## Accelerated Reader Year 4 - 7

Some Y4 have been using AR in school before Christmas. Miss Laverty will send those pupils a link so they can now start to take AR quizzes at home. Some tips to help:

- You may need help to get logged in
- Only take a quiz when you have read the whole book – no skipping!
- Find a quiet spot to complete the test
- Just like at school, this is one time when you cannot ask adults for help with the questions



Well done to all Y5-7 who have been keeping their reading up to date. Daily reading is so important and I know you have been including it in your schedule. Honestly - this is one of the most important things to do during this time at home. Y6 have an Oxford Owls online reading challenge which links to AR, so it will be interesting to see how this goes! If you are beginning to run out of books, remember that NI Libraries Libby App has thousands of titles which can be checked before reading to see if you can take an AR quiz on them.

## Starting school in September 2021?

### Is your child starting school in Sept 2021? Online applications are now open

More information can be found at [www.newrowps.com](http://www.newrowps.com) and please feel free to arrange a chat with the principal if you need any advice or have any queries by emailing [dgraffin653@c2ken.net](mailto:dgraffin653@c2ken.net). The closing date and time for primary one applications is **12.00 noon on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021.**, please contact the school asap.

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 5<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021



## Please remember in your prayers...

Many of you already know that Sharon Keenan, our secretary, is currently in America. She had been helping care for her sister Cindy who had developed an aggressive and complicated form of brain cancer. Sadly, I must share that Sharon's sister Cindy died earlier this week after fighting bravely with Sharon by her side. I know you will all keep Sharon and her family in your thoughts and prayers at this sad time. May Cindy rest in peace.

## Something to look forward to...

Our dates for both First Communion (Y4) and Confirmation (Y7 – Magherafelt Parish) have now been confirmed.

First Communion: Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> May at 11am in St Patrick's Church, Castledawson  
Confirmation (Magherafelt Parish): Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> May at 12 noon in Church of the Immaculate Conception, Magherafelt



*This too, shall pass.*

*When things are bad, remember: It won't always be this way. Take one day at a time.*

*When things are good, remember: It won't always be this way. Enjoy every great moment.*