



## Weekly Update: Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear parent or carer

I hope you are enjoying a late summer long weekend after what has been the busiest of Septembers in schools across the land. The children continue to adjust to returning to school life (*see 'Back on Track' below*) and the staff are continually reviewing arrangements to best suit our context (*see Update: Homework Arrangements below*).

As part of a group of local principals, I met with the Chief Executive of CCMS (Council for Catholic Maintained Schools) on Wednesday to discuss the challenges we face. CCMS thanked all principals and staff for the commitment to restarting at a time when guidance was limited and often contradictory. We were reminded to the need to follow the guidance *as best we can* and that is what we continue to do. Once again, thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

*Mrs D Graffin*

Mrs Deirdre Graffin

Principal

### Dates for your diary

Mon 28 <sup>th</sup> Sept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Y1 pupils begin their extended day: 9.15am – 1.50pm</li> <li>Y4-7 Fitness Challenge continues – bring in trainers</li> </ul>
Wed 30 <sup>th</sup> Sept	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Music lessons resume for Violin only with Mrs. Mullan – bring your violin!</li> </ul>
Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Y7 Transfer Club 8am</li> <li>First Friday: Fr Branigan will celebrate Sacrament of Penance with Y6 pupils</li> <li>Final day to pay for Milk (£4) and Break (£5.50) via PARENTPAY</li> </ul>
Thur 15 <sup>th</sup> Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School Photographer for Y1 &amp; 7 pupils only. Other classes/families later in year</li> </ul>
Fri 16 <sup>th</sup> Oct	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>'Flu Vaccination in school</li> <li>GL registration closes for Y7 pupils at 2pm (scroll down for more info from St Mary's GS &amp; Rainey ES at end of update)</li> </ul>

### Education Restart: Update 3

Dept of Education has just issued new guidance for schools which includes some updates. We are working our way through this document and will let you know of any changes which will affect pupils/families. In the meantime, I have shared a poster at the end of this update which is to be displayed in school and contains some important messages for children.

#### New Row PS Fitness challenge

We got off to a great start last week when the children completed their first longer run. They will repeat this in 2 months' time to measure their progress. Remember Y4-7 pupils should bring their trainers and a change of socks every Monday. All children should wear sensible shoes suitable for walking, running or light exercise every day.

#### Annual 'Flu Immunisation Programme

A record number of parents/carers returned their Consent Forms last week. This is important, especially if you have decided that you do not wish your child to receive the vaccine. Failure to do so will result in over-supply of vaccines which then must be destroyed. *If you still have your child's consent form at home, please return it on Monday.*

### Reminders

**Milk & Break for October:** Please pay via ParentPay by Friday. Milk is £4 and Break £5.50 pm. Contact the office directly if your child no longer wishes to take milk/break as you will continue to be charged.

**Bicycles:** what a healthy choice! All children cycling to or home from school need to wear a helmet.

**Afterschools:** There are no updates on the return of afterschools provision. We will have to wait until there is a directive which allows bubbles to cross more freely, particularly considering the rising number of cases.

## First Communion 2020

Congratulations to all our Y5 pupils who made their First Communion last week. Thanks to:

- Fr Branigan for a beautiful ceremony – taking such time to ensure the children’s First Communion was a truly memorable occasion.
- Miss Gribbin for all the organisation and preparation, Mrs Scullion & Miss Lavery for their contributions before/during lockdown and for all staff for all their help and support – seen and unseen
- Pat for making it possible for us to share the ceremony via Magherafelt Parish Facebook Live
- Danny & Jane for their beautiful music – including learning some of the children’s favourite hymns
- Peter Gallagher (Sacristan) who helps with all preparations in the church
- Friends of New Row for their very thoughtful goodie bags for each child
- And...of course...all the children for dedication, commitment, understanding ...and most of all – patience – trusting that their day would come and that we would do everything we could to make it special 

## Update: Homework Arrangements

From next week

- Homework diaries will be re-introduced for Y4-7.
- Y4-7 will begin a 2-weekly system to enable written homework tasks to travel between home and school.
- Children will have two homework books/folders (A & B) and only one will be in use per week.
- Y2 & 3 will finish the 4-week activities already sent home (due to finish this week). From next week, the 2 homework books system will be introduced.
- Homework books stay at home all week and are returned on Friday.
- This will allow more time for marking & return whilst working a 72-hour quarantine system.
- Arrangements for spelling tasks remains the same – i.e. tasks sent home are completed Mon-Thur and the children complete a test in school on Friday. Spelling materials are not returned to school.
- Y1 homework: Mrs Scullion will communicate arrangements directly via Seesaw

Teachers will continue to use [SEESAW](#) to supplement homework arrangements, so please check for notifications regularly.

## Faith Promotion & Development

- We are very proud to promote our faith throughout the school year and will miss the opportunity to come together and celebrate mass each month.
- Fr Branigan has agreed to celebrate the **Sacrament of Penance** with Y5-7 children on the first Friday of each month.
- Classes will take it in turns to prepare and receive the sacrament, starting with Y6 on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October.
- The pupils will take some time to prepare in class and we encourage parents to help with this too.
- As **October is the month of the Rosary**, we will also be spending time reminding the pupils of this lovely way to pray, initially revising the Joyful Mysteries we learned as a school last October. More information in next week’s update.

## Back on Track: School Development Planning Update

One of our targets this year has been to focus on the emotional health and well-being of the school community. On our staff day, we reviewed [our ‘Back on Track’ programme](#), aimed to support emotional health and wellbeing and our pupils’ readiness to learn following their extended break from school life. We are very happy with how the children have been engaging in the activities and how useful it has been for teachers and adults in helping us identify needs and find ways to best support the children. During our staff day we have also been looking at where the children are at and where we want them to be as the year goes on. It has been very useful to look at both these things at the same time.

Back on Track: [What have the children been doing?](#) We think it would be useful for parents to know more about this programme, so all classes will be sharing some photos/information next week. We hope you find this useful and something that you could talk to your child about.

# LET'S ALL KEEP OUR SCHOOL SAFE

We need your help! We want everyone to be safe, healthy and enjoy school.  
So, make sure you follow these new rules...

## IF YOU ARE SICK YOU MIGHT HAVE TO STAY AT HOME

Going to school is really important but if you have a bad cough or feel very warm,  
tell a grown up right away.



## GIVE EACH OTHER SPACE

Keep a safe distance from your  
teachers and friends as much  
as you can. You should try to stay  
in your bubble.



## CATCH YOUR COUGHS & SNEEZES

Cover your face with your elbow  
or use a tissue. (Don't forget to  
put used tissues in the bin!)



## WASH YOUR HANDS

Wash your hands lots of times  
during the day. (Make sure you  
wash them as soon as you get  
to school too!)



## HOLD ONTO YOUR OWN ITEMS

You shouldn't share things  
like pencils, food and drinks  
with your friends.



**IT'S OK TO HAVE QUESTIONS!  
YOU CAN ALWAYS ASK A  
PARENT, CARER OR TEACHER.**

## EDUCATION RESTART



Department of  
**Education**  
[www.education-ni.gov.uk](http://www.education-ni.gov.uk)

**WE ALL  
MUST DO IT  
TO GET  
THROUGH IT**



STAY SAFE



SAVE LIVES

*We care ~ We share ~ We learn*

St. Mary's  
Grammar School, Magherafelt.



## Registration for GL Assessment Test

**Closing Date Friday 16 October 2020**

**Download from [stmarysmagherafelt.com](http://stmarysmagherafelt.com)  
or contact School on 028 79632320  
for a Registration Pack**

*Inspiring Excellence, Fulfilling Potential*



Rainey Endowed School

**Rainey Endowed School**

**Transfer Arrangements 2021**

**Entrance Assessments for entry to Year 8 in September 2021**

### **Closing Date for Registration** **16 October 2020 at 2.00 pm**

Pupils who wish to apply for a place in Rainey Endowed School for 2021 should register to take the Entrance Assessments which the school is using as part of its admissions criteria. Pupils should be registered to take these Entrance Assessments and parents have until **2.00 pm on Friday, 16 October 2020** to register their son/daughter.

Pupils who have registered to take the Entrance Assessments at Rainey Endowed School will be invited to a **Familiarisation Afternoon on Wednesday 2 December 2020** where they will meet staff and find out more about the arrangements for the **Entrance Assessments** which will take place in the Rainey Endowed School on **Saturday 30 January 2021**.

A Registration Pack containing all necessary information can be downloaded from the Rainey Endowed School website [raineyendowed.com](http://raineyendowed.com) or collected from the school office.

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Principal: N McClements BSc (Hons), PGCE, PQH

*We care ~ We share ~ We learn*