



Pupil Information

18th May 2020

The past

You are probably wondering if your friends will remember you and if you will remember all of them and all the school adults! What do the other boys and girls in my class look like? What did we do in school? Who was there to help us? As time goes by, our memories might fade a little – or even we just worry about not remembering everyone at school. This is natural and we want to help you to remember what we do and what the New Row Community looks like. We have put together a video message from all staff. We will upload it to Seesaw later today for you to enjoy – and to see all the familiar faces of your friends and school adults.



The present

Mental Health Awareness Week				
The 7 Day KINDNESS Challenge!	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	
		Make a cup of tea for someone in your family	Send someone you haven't seen in ages a letter or a postcard	Donate food or clothes to people in need
	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
	Bake a cake or some biscuits to cheer someone up	Ask your parents for a chore that would really help them out	Video call someone you know is feeling a bit lonely	Be kind to yourself and spend some time on YOU!

Today is the first day of Mental Health Awareness Week.

This year the theme is KINDNESS. There are lots of ways you can show kindness to those at home – and even further away. It has never been more important to look after our own happiness and wellbeing and the wellbeing of others. One small word or act of kindness can make all the difference. Why not have a go at our 7 day challenge?

Don't forget that you can also include people in your prayers. Why not say an extra Hail Mary for someone different every day this week?

The future



Virtual Sports Day: Monday 1st June

Are you looking forward to our virtual sports day? Have you been practicing? In your next learning pack, we will include details of what you can do on that day and how we can share the enjoyment! We will also upload more info to Seesaw. In the meantime, pull on those trainers and get practising! All you need to do is join in and have some fun together!

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

Can't wait to stand at the school doors again! Until next week, take care.

#thiswillpass

Mrs Graffin





Parent Information: 18th May 2020

Home learning Week 8

Dear parents

I hope you are all safe and well. Staff are busy putting together the next set of learning packs. Again, we have made some changes which we hope you find useful, supportive and appropriate.

Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y6*	Y7
9am	9.30am	10am	10.30am	11am	11.30am	11.45am

*Y6 materials with next Transfer Pack may also be collected on Wednesday from the office 9.30-1pm

Once again there is much speculation about when we will return. Adults at all levels are working on how that will be organised. One suggestion is that it might be in phases which would allow us to learn from what we experience before introducing other year groups. It should also build the confidence of children, staff and parents. Whatever it looks like – whenever that may be - we will do our best for everyone.

We have prepared a video for the children – an A to Z of what we do in New Row. I think it is very heartening that staff picked the word ‘adjust’ to begin our alphabet as it says so much about what we aim to do...everyday. Making changes, reviewing and aiming to improve the provision for everyone. We hope you enjoy watching our video too and that it reminds you how we are all in this together. It will be uploaded at later today to Seesaw.

Until next week, take care.

Mrs Deirdre Graffin *Principal*

Weekly Awards

We are very aware that families are all doing their best and working hard at home – *whatever that might look like*. We would like to recognise this, just as we do when we give awards in class from teachers and weekly principal’s awards. Awards like these are common as they are considered motivational and encouraging. Over the next 4 weeks, we hope that *all* our children will feature at least once at some stage and for some reason. This could be for improved reading activity or Education City. However, it will not be totally reliant on technology as we are aware that this looks very different in many houses. Teachers are aware of a range of information and they will use this also for endeavour awards. Remember also that children (and adults) are encouraged to give their own awards each week to recognise positivity or achievement within the home. Watch out for your names!



PPTC (GL Y7 Transfer Test) Key Dates Update
 Entrance Assessment: Saturday 5th December 2020.
 Result: Saturday 30th January 2021.
 Registration period: Mon 1st June – Fri 9th October.
 The 2020-21 Registration Pack, which includes the Entrance Assessment Registration Form, will be available on PPTCNI website from Monday 1st June.

Y7 Post-Primary Placements for September 2020
 Education Authority has decided to prepare and issue notification of post primary placement letters on behalf of schools to parents/guardians of pupils for receipt on **Thursday 4th June**. The letter will inform parents of the placement, information on the appeals process and links to the EA website.

Sharing samples of work: emailing photos

We love to see your child’s work or even get a short update on how things are going for you. However, our online system is struggling to cope with multiple photos in emails. Could I ask that emails contain a *maximum of 2 photos*. Even better if the image size can be set to ‘small’ or ‘medium’. The problem means that teachers cannot see any of the photos. It seems much better to send 2 that will be seen than more that won’t. Thanks for your help with this and we look forward to hearing about how things are going at home.

If you need to contact the school for any reason (including sharing samples of work, activities etc. or password queries) please email info@newrowps.castledawson.ni.sch.uk. Work/questions 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.