



Pupil Information

8th June 2020

Week 11

Dear boys and girls of New Row Primary School...

PAST



Sports Day 2019: Can you believe this was last year? Do you remember how we had a lovely bright morning and then the rain came? We thought it would never stop and we finished halfway through! Then came Sports Day 2020...What a great day you all had at home! The teachers were delighted to see all the photos you shared with us. We have made a video and I hope you have seen it on Seesaw and on our website. Remember –even when it is raining, the sun will shine again!

PRESENT

Have you remembered how important it is to keep reading? You are probably running out of books – if you haven't already! Here are a few important reminders:

- It's ok to re-read favourite books
- Read a storybook to someone younger
- Listen to an adult read you a story (or chapter from a longer book)



The teachers have shared lots of ideas with your parents on finding books online. Also, if you haven't already signed up for **Libraries NI app**, do it today! It is a really great way to read books online, too. I helped my mum (who is over 21 but under 80-year-old) get registered. Mum used a tablet for the first time when she ran out of books at the start of lockdown and now has read over 10. She *really* didn't want to at the start but now is hooked! Honestly – using the LIBBY app you can even listen to a story being read to you!

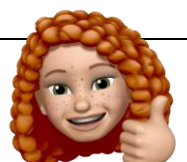


FUTURE

Last week Y7 found out what schools they are going to. How lucky are St Pius X College, St. Mary's GS, St. Patrick's College and Sperrin Integrated College? They have so much to learn about the special gifts and talents of our Y7s. Another step along the journey for a special class. What about Y1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6? What will school be like for you in September? We are working very hard to make sure everything is clean and tidy. There is a great, fresh smell as you walk through our doors! Staff are clearing out cupboards and making plans. Before you return, we will send you all photographs and maybe even videos of what the school and your classroom looks like. That way, we hope you won't worry so much about coming back. Try not to look too much at things on the TV where schools have gone back. Every school is different, and we will make sure ours is as welcoming and friendly as always!

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

Mrs Graffin





Parent Information: 8th June 2020

Home learning Week 11

Dear parents, carers, families and friends of New Row

Thank you to everyone for the lovely messages and work you have been sending in. I pass them all on and staff really love to see them. It is very encouraging during uncertain times. We hope your child is encouraged by the messages they receive and also the weekly updates on Seesaw from their class teacher.

Take care, stay safe and remember – this will pass.

Mrs Deirdre Graffin *Principal*

Seesaw

We hope you are finding it a useful way to check in with schoolwork. We can upload documents for your child and their class easily and we can also check if parents have seen the information.



Top Tip: Are you checking your child's **Journal**? This is a really easy way to access the weekly overview and materials. Click on this tab – it really does make things a lot easier!

Reports

Teachers are currently finalising your child's annual school report. It has a different format than previous years, in line with guidance from DENI & CCEA. This will be available for collection on **Friday 19th June**. We ask also that any reading books are returned on this date. More info to follow.

Y6 Transfer Procedure

Registration is now open for St Mary's GS and Rainey Endowed School. Visit the school websites for more information. Although there has been some speculation (led by decisions made by schools in other areas), at this time there is no plan for St Mary's GS and/or Rainey Endowed School to use anything other than academic selection. I appreciate that this is a very stressful time for children and parents alike. I can only recommend that those parents who wish to enter their child for the transfer examination continue to engage fully in the preparations, including working through the transfer materials sent home by Miss Walls. It is also timely to remind parents that we are in the privileged position to be a feeder primary school for St Pius X College, with every child guaranteed admission regardless of their home address.

Starting back

How will the classes be organised?



We are currently looking at our classroom to make sure we make the best use of the space available. Until social distancing guidelines are finalised, it is not possible to know how many children will be in class at any time. However, before your children return, we will share photos and videos of the school environment so they (and you) can be prepared. We hope this will reduce anxiety and ease the transition.

What will the children be learning?

Formal class lessons ended in March. As I have shared many times, we know every home school has been very different. We will not assume that everything has been done and move on. Our first job will be to start back from March and see what the children remember. Then, we will gradually move forward, identifying and addressing gaps as we go along.

Will my child be in school every day?

At this time, it seems unlikely that this will happen in September. Time spent in school will be precious. Teachers will plan work for pupils for when they are at home, like what they are already doing. It will be challenging for teachers to both teach the children and support those at home, so that will take time and careful planning. The use of Seesaw will be particularly important when school returns. DENI have advised all schools to use this or a similar platform as part of their remote learning approach.

A word of caution:

There is lots of coverage in the press – children in school anything from 1 to 3 days a week. This is just speculation which can cause panic but sells papers! The truth is that until there is clarity regarding social distancing, there can be no decision regarding return to school arrangements. Even then, it may change before the end of August. Try not to listen too much or worry unnecessarily. It will all become clear. There are lots of other preparations we can be making in school – and that's what we are using our energy doing.