

Weekly Update: Friday 11th September

Dear parent or carer

As we approach the 4th week of school opening, I hope your children (and New Row families) are beginning to feel more settled and familiar with school life again. I'm sure everyone is tired in the evenings and the introduction of homework this week will not have been an easy adjustment for all! However, we are continuing to work through our "Back on track" curriculum in school and the children are responding very well in class. They are becoming increasingly settled and ready to learn.

Dates for your diary

Mon 14 th Sept	Breakfast Club returns. Opens 8.15am. Pre-booking essential via ParentPay
Thur 17 th Sept	Break: Treat Thursday! You can bring one small bar or pack of crisps as a treat
Fri 18 th Sept	Y7 Transfer Prep session 8am (more info below)
Sat 19 th Sept	First Communion for children of Y5. 11am in St Patrick's Church.
Thur 24 th Sept	Staff Development Day: Pupils do not attend
Fri 25 th Sept	School Closed
Mon 28 th Sept	Y1 pupils begin their extended day: 9.15am – 1.50pm



Breakfast Club

Mon 14th September @ 8.15am

Must be pre-booked via Parentpay

£1 (includes cereal, toast and milk/juice)

How can we keep children in their bubbles?

- We want to help families who rely on Breakfast Club
- This will operate differently than before.
- Children will sit in their class bubble and do not move around the hall.
- They will take their breakfast to their table to eat with other children from their bubble.
- Then, they can read or draw. Children can bring a book and crayons or pencils from home in a book bag or folder to be used only at this time. We will supply paper.
- Some children may find this challenging.
- Arrangements will be kept under review, considering local circumstances and guidance.
- In the interests of limiting numbers, we would appreciate if breakfast club is used by families who have very restricted options.

Afterschool clubs will be reintroduced when guidance allows children to mix outside their class bubble.

Revised Morning Arrangements

- The school doors and side gate open at **8.50am**
 - **Supervision begins at 8.50am**, so no drop offs before then
 - Children & families arrive between 8.50 & 9am
 - Year 1 children with siblings can now be dropped off at the same time as their family.
- Reminder to parents: In the interests of social distancing, please leave school grounds promptly.

Break and lunch arrangements

Well done to everyone who has used the **ParentPay** Cashless System to pre-book milk and break for your child.

All dinners should be booked and paid for by 9.30am. Any issues, please email Lauren in the office at info@newrowps.castledawson.ni.sch.uk.

Treat Thursday: Well done to everyone for remembering to limit treats to Thursdays. We were also very impressed with the sensible treat choices – small packets of crisps and bars that won't spoil the appetite.

Fabric lunchboxes: If you have opted for your child to use lunchboxes, please make sure they are completely wipe able: a hard plastic lunchbox (in a plastic/paper bag if desired). Fabric lunchbags should not be used.

First Confession & Communion

Well done to our Year 5 pupils who received the Sacrament of Penance for the first time last Monday. Fr Branigan was very impressed with their preparation, so thanks also to those at home who were stand-ins during practices last weekend!

As we look forward to the very special celebration next Saturday 19th September, I ask that we all keep this exceptional group of children in our thoughts and prayers. We hope to be able to broadcast the ceremony via Parish Facebook or share a recording of parts of the mass immediately after via our website.



Y5 Communion Class of 2020 Group Photo

This will be taken on Monday 14th September by Madeleine from Moyola Photography. Please make sure your child is wearing their smartest uniform and best smile. We will use this photo to prepare a special memento. Madeleine will also be present on First Communion morning to take family photos following the service.

First Communion

Saturday 19th September 2020

11am in St Patrick's Church, Castledawson

Celebrant: Rev D Branigan CC



- This will be a very special occasion! It will be the first mass on St Patrick's Church since March.
- Children are accompanied by 2 adults. Adults wear masks throughout the ceremony but children don't.
- The seats will be allocated and spaced out in accordance with social distancing guidelines.
- Families are to be in their seat by 10.45am
- All children will have a booklet to follow on the day.
- Danny Devlin & Jane McAleese are providing the music. The children will be helping in selecting the hymns.
- Readings and other prayers will be prepared and read by Fr Branigan and school staff.
- Moyola Photography will be available at the end to take individual/family photos at the front of the altar. Social distancing at this time will be key, with one family at a time at the altar.
- We hope to be able to share the ceremony with those at home – either by Magherafelt Parish Facebook Live or recordings of key parts shared immediately afterwards via our website.
- Friends of New Row always mark this special occasion for our children and are keen to do the same this year by providing a little treat at the end of the ceremony.
- Sunday mass resumes the following week (Sun 27th Sept) at 9am and families are welcome to make arrangements to attend this – and subsequent weeks.

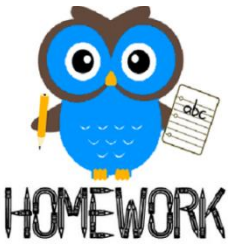



Looking forward to what will be a lovely celebration – a very special day in the faith journey of our children.

Y7 Transfer Preparations

We have been revising our arrangements and teaching plans to best support all our Y7, including those preparing for GL assessment. Miss Walls will be assisting Mr. Hasson during the week.

We are also introducing an additional preparation session. Following discussion and considering the length of the school day, we are trialing a session from 8am on Friday mornings, hoping to catch the children when they are bright-eyed and bushy tailed! The first session will be on Friday 18th September.

We care ~ We share ~ We learn

Homework: Reminders	Reintroducing Reading Material
<p>Arrangements for W/b 7th Sept (4-week trial)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Y2-7 spelling/phonics activities • Completed over 4 nights (Mon – Thur). • Do not return these. (Parents review them) • Class tests on Friday • Additional numeracy activities for Y6 & Y7 pupils • Y1 will not receive homework yet • School bags are still not in use. • Book bags may be used for Y2 and Y3 and should be cleaned on arrival at home. • Y4-7 can use a plastic folder for books etc. • Teachers will continue to use SEESAW to share school work (eg spelling lists). It is important to keep this form of communication active.  <p>In 4 weeks' time we will review these arrangements, thinking about what can be returned from home and other activities (incl. numeracy & Education City).</p>	<p><i>Reading materials will now be sent home. When returned, they will be quarantined for 72 hours.</i></p> <p>Y4-7</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select book(s) on <u>Monday</u> • Books returned on <u>Thursday</u>. • Guided reading books will stay in school. • Thursday night reading homework is something from home or an online book. • <i>Y4 are currently being introduced to Accelerated Reader – more info will follow</i>  <p>Y2 & 3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Library book sent home every Monday – to be returned on Friday with library card • Guided reading will begin soon. Books will travel from home to school in plastic pockets. • Please wipe these down every evening • We will do the same in school. • <i>Children will be given a new book only when the return the one they have read.</i>
Other arrangements	
<p>Seesaw</p> <p>All teachers have been sending messages via Seesaw this week, including further instructions about your child's homework. It is very important to keep checking Seesaw when you get notifications. In the event that your child's class has to self-isolate, school work and other class messages will be circulated via Seesaw. Getting and staying up to speed with this app now will make this much easier if this happens.</p> <p>What happens if my child's class has to self-isolate? (Based on the most up to date PHA guidance)</p> <p>In the event that there is a positive COVID result within your child's bubble, the class will have to self-isolate for 14 days. Your other children are not expected to isolate – just children in affected bubbles. Further guidance can be found overleaf – a very useful document from PHA & DE.</p> <p>How will my child keep up with school work?</p> <p>Should this happen, school work and other class messages will be circulated via Seesaw.</p> <p>Over the coming week, every Y2-7 child will be supplied with a spare exercise book. <i>This blank book should not be used - put it away somewhere safe in the home.</i></p> <p>During a period of self-isolation, children will continue with spelling activities, reading activities and any additional numeracy activities. Your child's teacher will also give instructions of tasks to complete. These can be done in the blank book supplied.</p>  	

Many thanks for your continued support and cooperation.

Mrs D Griffin

Mrs Deirdre Griffin

Principal

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INFORMATION FOR PARENTS & CARERS

Everyone has a role to play in keeping our schools safe and helping to stop the spread of COVID-19.

DON'T SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL IF THEY HAVE COVID-19 SYMPTOMS.

VISIT [NIDIRECT.GOV.UK/](https://nidirect.gov.uk/coronavirus) CORONAVIRUS TO BOOK A TEST ONLINE. CALL 119 IF YOU CANNOT BOOK A TEST ONLINE.

YOU SHOULD BOOK A COVID-19 TEST IF YOUR CHILD HAS:

A HIGH TEMPERATURE

This means they feel hot to touch on their chest or back (you do not need to measure their temperature).

OR

A NEW CONTINUOUS COUGH

This means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if they usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual).

OR

A LOSS OR CHANGE TO THEIR SENSE OF SMELL OR TASTE

This means they've noticed they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal.

IF YOUR CHILD DOES NOT HAVE SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19 BUT HAS OTHER COLD-LIKE SYMPTOMS, SUCH AS A RUNNY NOSE, THEY DO NOT NEED TO BE TESTED AND THEY OR MEMBERS OF YOUR HOUSEHOLD DO NOT NEED TO SELF-ISOLATE. YOUR CHILD CAN ATTEND SCHOOL IF FIT TO DO SO.

HERE'S WHAT TO DO IF:

YOUR CHILD HAS COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Book a COVID-19 test
- Household self-isolates
- Inform school immediately about test result

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school if the test is negative providing they are well enough, have not had a fever for 48 hours and if they haven't been advised to self-isolate by the PHA Contact Tracing Service.

YOUR CHILD TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Inform school immediately about test result
- Self-isolate for at least 10 days as advised by the PHA.

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school after 10 days even if they still have a cough / loss of smell or taste. These symptoms can last for several weeks.

SOMEBODY IN MY HOUSEHOLD HAS COVID-19 SYMPTOMS

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- The household member should book a COVID-19 test
- Household self-isolates
- Inform school immediately about test result

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school if the symptomatic household member's test is negative and if they haven't been advised to self-isolate by the PHA Contact Tracing Service.

SOMEBODY IN MY HOUSEHOLD TESTS POSITIVE FOR COVID-19

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Inform school immediately about test result

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school when they have completed 14 days of self-isolation without any symptoms*.

CONTACT TRACING HAS IDENTIFIED MY CHILD AS A CLOSE CONTACT

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Self-isolate for at least 14 days as advised by the PHA Contact Tracing Service

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school when they have completed 14 days of self-isolation without any symptoms*.

YOUR CHILD HAS BEEN IN CONTACT WITH SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS A CLOSE CONTACT

WHAT TO DO?

- Attend school as normal
- If your child does not have any COVID-19 symptoms they should carry on with normal activities.

YOUR CHILD HAS TRAVELLED ABROAD AND HAS TO SELF-ISOLATE

WHAT TO DO?

- DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILD TO SCHOOL
- Self-isolate for 14 days in line with quarantine advice

WHEN CAN MY CHILD RETURN?

Your child can return to school when they have completed 14 days of self-isolation without any symptoms*.

*If your child has been identified as a close contact of a case of COVID-19, or has returned from travel abroad and is self-isolating, they must self-isolate for 14 days regardless of a negative COVID-19 test result.

Further information, including Frequently Asked Questions for Parents and Carers, can be found on the Department of Education's website at www.education-ni.gov.uk



EDUCATION RESTART

