

Weekly Update: Friday 18th September 2020

Dear parent or carer

I trust that you are all now well settled into our new routines. We are always revising arrangements as/when receive more advice. We are also always reviewing what and how we do things to see if we can make changes that will benefit pupils whilst keeping everyone as safe as we can. There are some details of updates below, so please read the information carefully.

As part of a group of local principals, I am meeting Gerry Campbell. Chief Executive of CCMS (Council for Catholic Maintained Schools) on Wednesday to discuss the challenges we are facing. We need clear guidance that all schools can follow in the same way.

Thursday is a staff day and we will be reviewing how our children have settled back in, our 'Back on Track' programme and plans for the rest of the term.

Please keep our First Communicants in your prayers at the weekend. A very special occasion for a very special group of children.

Once again, I thank you all for your continued support and cooperation.

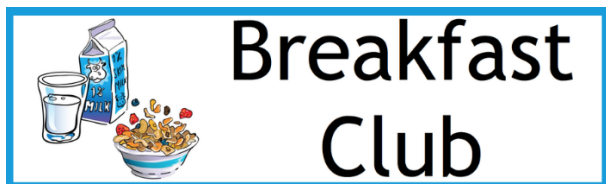
Mrs D Graffin

Mrs Deirdre Graffin

Principal

Dates for your diary

Sat 19 th Sept	First Communion for children of Y5. 11am in St Patrick's Church.
Mon 21 st Sept	'Flu Vaccine forms sent home Y4-7 Fitness Challenge begins – bring in trainers
Wes 23 rd Sept	'Flu Vaccine forms to be returned by today
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 Y4-7 Fitness Challenge continues – bring in trainers



Breakfast Club

A great start to the day!

Well done to everyone for helping make this work.

**Remember to pre-book using ParentPay
£1 (includes cereal, toast and milk/juice)**

Revised Morning Arrangements

- The school doors and side gate open at **8.50am**. No drop offs before then.
- Children & families arrive between 8.50 & 9am
- Year 1 children can now be dropped off at the same time as their family or at the earlier time of between 9am & 9.15am**

Reminder to parents: In the interests of social distancing, please leave school grounds promptly.

Annual 'Flu Immunisation Programme

Our pupils will receive the 'Flu Vaccine in October. Consent forms will be sent home on Monday (21st). Return completed forms to your child's classroom on/before Wednesday 23rd Sept. This is very 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.

Y2-7 Start of Year Consent

Parents of Y2-7: Have you completed the online Start of Year Consent Form? We have texted parents with the link if we have not yet had a return for your child. Local walks will begin from Mon 21st and only pupils who have consent will be able to participate.

New Row PS Fitness challenge	Reminders
The staff have worked together to design a fitness challenge which will run all year. The aim is that children measure themselves against their own performance to set targets and identify improvements each month. It is primarily for Y4-7 pupils but Y1-3 are also adapting the programme to suit the younger children. Y4-7 should bring trainers every Monday. Watch out for more info!	<p>Lunchboxes and water bottles: Please remember that these must be thoroughly cleaned every day before coming back into school in the morning.</p> <p>Bicycles: what a healthy choice! All children cycling to or home from school need to wear a helmet.</p> <p>Footwear: We are spending more time in the outdoor environment. Pupils should wear sensible shoes every day, suitable for walking & light running.</p>

Reading Material: **REVISED ARRANGEMENTS**

Y4-7 (Accelerated Reader programme)

- There will be an opportunity to select AR book daily (Mon-Thur)
- Children return books once read
- These books will be stored together for 72 hours before being returned to the class AR library
- Guided reading books stay in school.

Y2 & 3

- Library book sent home every Monday – to be returned on Friday with library card
- Guided reading has started and books are sent home Mon - Wed. Books will travel from home to school in plastic pockets. They must all be returned on Thursday (Wednesday next week).
- Please wipe these down every evening - We will do the same in school.

Children will be given a new book only when they return the one they have read.

Year 1

- Please send in your child's book bag on Monday (if you haven't already done so)
- Your child will receive a library book in their book bag on Monday afternoon.

What happens if my child's class has to self-isolate? *(Based on the most up to date PHA guidance)*

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.

How will my child keep up with school work? Should this happen, school work and other class messages will be circulated via [Seesaw](#). Over the coming week, every Y2-7 child will be supplied with a spare exercise book. *This blank book should not be used - put it away somewhere safe in the home.* During a period of self-isolation, children will continue with spelling activities, reading activities and any additional activities. Your child's teacher will also give instructions on tasks to complete, to be done in the blank book supplied.

First Communion 2020: Saturday 19th Sept - 11am St Patrick's Church, Castledawson

- We are delighted to share the ceremony with those at home via [Magherafelt Parish Facebook Live](#)
 - Children are accompanied by [2 adults](#). Unfortunately, due to the very limited space available, there is no extra room in the seat to bring younger brothers/sisters along. [Seats are allocated](#).
 - Adults wear [masks](#) throughout the ceremony but children don't.
 - Please arrive from 10.30am and everyone should be in their seat by [10.45am](#)
 - All children will have a [booklet](#) to follow on the day.
 - [Moyola Photography](#) will be available at the end to take individual/family photos in front of the altar. *Social distancing at this time will be key - one family at a time.* Madeleine will also be there before the service from approx 10.15am to take photos of children arriving, so you are welcome to come early.
 - [Friends of New Row](#) will mark this special occasion by providing a little treat that your child can collect as they leave the church. How lucky are we to have such a kind school community!
 - There is a christening ceremony following the service so families should leave the church promptly.
- Looking forward to what will be a lovely celebration – a very special day in the faith journey of our children.

We care ~ We share ~ We learn

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

