



Weekly Update: Friday 11th December 2020

Dear parent or carer

With just a one full week to go until we finish for Christmas, I would like to thank you all once again for your ongoing support throughout the strangest – and busiest – of terms. I hope that you and yours continue to stay safe.

Mrs D Graffin

Mrs Deirdre Graffin

Principal

Dates for your diary

Mon 14 th Dec	• Advent Week 3 begins
Wed 16 th Dec	• Christmas movie afternoon
Thur 17 th Dec	• Christmas jumper day - £1 charity donation
Fri 18 th Dec	• No Y7 transfer club • Wear your Santa hat to school • Christmas Walking Bus Sleigh • Christmas walk (and sing) around the block
Mon 21 st Dec	Menu change – see website for update
Tues 22 nd Dec	Bring a packed lunch (no school dinners today). School closes at 1pm – staff meeting
Wed 23 rd Dec	Christmas Holidays begin at 11am **Subject to change**
Wed 6 th Jan	Staff Day (training for teachers with Anne McErlane, Educational Consultant)
Thur 7 th Jan	Term 2 begins – normal school day

Out of hours contact

Need to get in touch about a COVID-related emergency at evenings or weekend? Please e-mail details and a contact number to info@newrowps.castledawson.ni.sch.uk which is checked daily.

COVID-related absences

Please remember to follow the guidance should your child or a close contact display symptom or test positive for COVID. If unsure, contact Mrs Graffin and check the blue advice sheet at the end of this update.

We understand that there has been much speculation about closure. We are open next week and have activities and lessons planned for everyone who comes to school. However, we know that parents are genuinely concerned for a different reasons. I would like to reassure families that if they decide that they need to self-isolate, it is coded on our attendance system appropriately. This is different to absences related to illness or other reasons.

Self-isolation: changes

NI Chief Medical Officer has advised that the self-isolation period following notification of a positive test result or contact with a positive COVID-19 case will reduce from 14 days to 10 days. This is effective from Monday 14 December.

Open Week – Postponement

This will now take place in January – more info at the end of this update

Online Safety

Well done to all our pupils who completed some excellent activities linked to Online Safety Week. Remember - Now is the time to prepare at home also as many children may have technology on their Santa list! Just like buying batteries before Christmas morning, please take time to review safety settings before the 25th. At the end of this week's newsletter, there are two more information sheets each on **Snapchat** (very popular with younger users) and **WhatsApp** (very popular with children and adults alike). Information sheets on **TikTok** and **Instagram** are on our Twitter feed and also on last week's newsletter.

What parental controls are offered by my home internet provider?

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre/parents-and-carers/parental-controls-offered-your-home-internet-provider>

Christmas in New Row



All classes have now recorded their Christmas music and other messages. I am absolutely blown away with the talent and effort of our children. It was very different not having an audience but the children outshone themselves.

Huge thanks to all the staff for their efforts, too. Putting these together is not as easy as it looks and takes much preparation!

You can enjoy the performances online at www.newrowps.com and click on the Christmas link – they are lovely! Thanks also to parents – it is obvious that there was lots of singing and practising at home as well to learn all those words! Thanks also for the Christmas hats and accessories. We hope this helped spread the Christmas spirit.

Y3 Nativity: A special word to Year 3 who prepared a full nativity. Usually this is performed as part of the parish Carol Service. This took a lot of extra time to prepare and for that I would like to offer sincere thanks to Miss McNicholl, Nicola, Maura and Collette.

Christmas Dinner: Thanks to Marie, Caroline & Shauna for a lovely dinner on Wednesday. Christmas is definitely not cancelled in New Row! **#NRPSXmas Ver 2.0**

Advent 2020

We are working hard to be creative in how we keep a sense of being connected at a time when we are forced to stay apart.

Week 2: Thank you! A collection for the local St Vincent de Paul charity has once again been a great show of support for those in need this at Christmas.

Week 3: Act of kindness: We are encouraging our children to reach out to someone who might be lonely at this time – write or make a card and send it to someone

Y7 Transfer Preparations & Homework

Y7 Transfer packs have been given out and include additional materials to be completed at home from Mon 14th Dec. There is no transfer club next Friday. It will resume on Fri 8th Jan.

Friends of New Row: Caring & Sharing

This year, more than ever, families in our local community, and within the school, are facing difficult times. If you would benefit from our new Food Voucher Scheme, simply speak to Mrs Graffin, in complete confidence.



Financial or other worries? Need some assistance or support?
Call ST VINCENT DE PAUL Confidential Local Helpline 028 7930 0819.

We care ~ We share ~ We learn

Enrolment for September 2021

Is your child due to start Y1 in Sept 2021? Do you have a relative, neighbour or friend who would like their child to join the New Row family? Please contact the school office (and encourage others to) so we can gather some information. This will allow us to keep parents informed about key dates etc in the application process.



Ready for P1?

Is your child starting school in September 2021?

Due to COVID-19 we are unable to hold our traditional open day. However, we would still love you to come along and safely visit our school in action.

January 2021: Covid-friendly school visits

Morning and Afternoon sessions available



See the outstanding learning taking place every day

Enjoy a tour of our *UPGRADED FACILITIES****

Take a walk around and see the different outdoor areas

**To arrange a visit, please call and talk to
Mrs Graffin (Principal).**

**Visit our website to view a sneak peak
of all we offer!**

Our Pupil Leadership Teams and staff have prepared a video celebrating all that is special about our New Row Family.

Follow us on @NewRowPS for more news

We care – We share – We learn



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Principal: Mrs D Graffin B.Ed. M.Ed. PQH(NI)

Follow us on Twitter @NewRowPS

www.newrowps.com

Friends of New Row 2021 Calendar still available!

School Calendar 2021



With individual class photos throughout, these are an **ideal present for loved ones** - family, friends and anyone with a connection to New Row. EVERY PUPIL OF NEW ROW PS is in the calendar.

WHAT TO DO: Simply write your name & contact details on an envelope with the correct amount (£5 each or £12 for 3) and return to school office.

Please support our sponsors

We care ~ We share ~ We learn

TikTok

Parent / Carer Advice



13

What is TikTok?

TikTok is a social media app where users share short video clips of 15 seconds duration. It started out as an app named 'Musically' and was used to share videos of dancing and lip-syncing to music. Much of the content on TikTok still reflects these origins, but popular videos now also include pets, makeup, magic tricks, fashion, art, people reacting to situations, etc. According to OSA research, TikTok is now as widely used by 11-14 year olds as SnapChat and Instagram.

Safety Tips



As with all Internet activity, talk to your child about how they use TikTok and any issues they have encountered.



Discuss whether it would be best to change your child's account to private to avoid interactions with non-friends. If you agree to keep the account public you should discuss strategies for coping with negative feedback and for blocking users.



Help your child to spring clean their account from time to time by removing videos you agree to be inappropriate.



Ensure your child knows not to post videos in their school uniform. Also discuss how recording videos at school might break school rules and what the consequences could be.



The TikTok settings allow you to set a time limit for how long each day you want your child to be able to use the app. This can be password protected to ensure they stick to the limit.



Reasons for concern



TikTok has a minimum age rating of 13 and anybody under 18 should have parental permission to use the app. However, new users simply enter a date of birth to indicate their age and there are no verification steps. As such, children of any age can create an account by using a false date of birth.



New users will be shown a range of video clips the app feels may be of interest. Many of these will quickly expose users to offensive language which will be inappropriate for children.



The clothing worn and the type of dancing in some videos could be deemed sexualised and therefore something that might be inappropriate for younger users to be exposed to.



The default privacy settings in the app are concerning. Although only friends can send users direct messages, the videos posted by users can be seen by anybody and anybody can like / comment on the videos. New users are also available for anybody to perform a musical duet with. Such default settings can leave children vulnerable to unwanted communication from others.



Many children in the UK are posting videos to TikTok where they are wearing their school uniform, making it possible for strangers to identify their location.



The nature of videos children are posting to TikTok (singing, dancing, etc) can leave them vulnerable to receiving negative comments which can have an impact on mental health.



The company that owns TikTok is facing legal issues and stands accused of illegally collecting data on children (when it was Musically) and the app has been deemed a 'potential security risk by the FBI'.



www.onlinesafetyalliance.org

Instagram

Parent / Carer Advice



13

What is Instagram?

Instagram is a social media platform which focuses on the creation and sharing of images, providing users with a range of filters and special effects popular among younger users.

Despite requiring users to be 13 or older, a study in January 2017 indicated that 43% of 8-11 year olds in Britain are using Instagram.

Safety Tips



As with all Internet activity, talk to your child about how they use Instagram, the importance of not 'oversharing', and any issues they have faced.



It is safest to change the default privacy settings in your child's account from public to private. If your child is older and you agree for them to have a public account, you should discuss strategies for coping with negative feedback and for blocking users. You should also monitor messages they receive.



Given Instagram's reported impact on young people's mental health, keep an eye out for early warning signs of such issues with your child. Seek professional support or consult online services



such as Shout at the earliest point of concern.



Regularly spring-clean your child's Instagram account with them by removing any posts and images you agree are inappropriate and blocking any concerning contacts. If you have any concerns that somebody might be trying to groom your



child you should immediately contact CEOP.

Reasons for concern



Privacy settings

A key concern regarding children's use of Instagram is the fact that the default privacy setting for accounts is 'public'. As such, unless a child actively alters their privacy settings, all of the pictures they post to Instagram will be available to anybody. This could result in their images being seen by inappropriate individuals and might lead to receiving unwanted communication.



Follower lists

In a world where celebrity success is measured by numbers of social media followers, it is understandable that children might want to grow their own list of followers. A child's non-private account can quickly grow with followers, some of whom might not have entirely innocent motives.



Terms and conditions

Instagram's 5,000-word terms and conditions states that users agree that Instagram can use and sell their images for others to use (without paying or further consent). Instagram also retains the right to store, use and share the personal information and direct messages of their users.



Grooming

In 2019 the NSPCC reported that Instagram was involved in more online grooming cases than any other online platform. Where the police recorded the method of communication, Instagram was used in 32% of cases, in contrast to Facebook at 23% and Snapchat at 14%.



Mental health issues

A report by the Royal Society for Public Health found that Instagram rated as the worst social media platform when it comes to its impact on young people's mental health. Being image-centred the RSPH claimed that Instagram (along with Snapchat) appears to be driving feelings of inadequacy and anxiety in young people.



www.onlinesafetyalliance.org

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/CORONAVIRUS](https://nidirect.gov.uk/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

