



End of Term Update December 2020

Dear parent or carer

We have at last made it to the end of Term 1. With lots of twists and turns the children and staff have managed to have for the most part an unbroken term of over 11 weeks of continuous learning. This is very reassuring – so much is covered at this time and it has been a great opportunity to see where the children are at with learning after lockdown and moving this forward.

Thanks to you all

By helping us follow guidelines, you have all contributed in no small way to the safe cooperation of our school. Looking forward to Term 2, keep washing those hands, water bottles and uniforms!

Are schools reopening in January?

We begin with a staff training day on 6th January and children return to school on Thursday 7th January for a normal school day.

No matter what Term 2 brings, we are confident that we are able to do our best to make sure children continue to plug gaps and make progress. *Please try not to worry too much at this stage. There is a lot of speculation – for you own well-being, try not to listen too much to what that might be.* We have supported our learners and families before and will do so again. We are all learning new ways of working and will keep expectations realistic

What about GL Y7 transfer test scheduled for the end of January?

Again, as we speak things are changing. It is my understanding that it is scheduled to go ahead. If individuals find it challenging e.g. because they are self-isolating (or have had to whilst preparing) this will all be taken into consideration as appropriate.

Christmas thanks

We are blessed with fantastic staff who have gone above and beyond in so many ways. I would personally like to extend my thanks to each and every one of them for all their work – seen and unseen. A huge thanks to all of you for all the cards and gifts. The messages in the cards were lovely to read and reassuring that you as parents now that we try our best for your children – every day. The generosity of parents is overwhelming and completely unexpected.

A special reason to say a little prayer

This has been a sad December for the New Row community as we said goodbye to one of our parents and a dear friend Darran Hassan. As a school we were shocked and saddened by the sudden twist of events which led to his passing. I know that we will all keep a very, very special place in our hearts, thoughts and prayers for his family – his wife Rachael and children Darcey, Thandi, Rafferty, Riley, Jude, Flyn, Lana and Jordan – now and in the weeks, months and years ahead.

I hope that you and yours continue to stay safe and have a peaceful Christmas.

Mrs D Graffin

Mrs Deirdre Graffin

Principal

Christmas in New Row



Christmas is nearly here – and it hasn't been cancelled! Thanks to everyone for their patience and the creative approaches of staff to ensure every child was included in our Christmas celebrations and performances. You can enjoy the performances online at www.newrowps.com and click on the Christmas link – they are lovely! We hope these help spread the Christmas spirit.

Dates for your diary

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.

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

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

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

