

Remote Learning Update: Week beginning Monday 25th January 2021

Dear parent or carer

Week two is over – well done! Remember to plan a family treat this weekend 🍷



- Thanks once more to our great team who have gone over and above to get their latest learning packs ready. I sincerely hope they are the last they prepare –time will tell.
- Remember - these packs are designed to be used in conjunction with daily messages staff post on Seesaw. Take time to familiarise yourself with contents and order of completion.
- There is lots of information in this update so please take time to read carefully. A special mention to anyone who knows a pupil wishing to join us in September in Year 1. Applications close on Fri 29th Jan.
- Families are getting really good at sending photos daily (or when suits during the week) and it is great to see work coming in! I know the children love reading the comments or hearing the messages from teachers. If you haven't yet sent something in, make this the week when you do. You won't regret it!
- Well done to all our children on their AR reading and logging into Oxford Owls. We appreciate that reading online may not be everyone's choice, so well done for giving it a go during these very different times when it is just not possible to access paper copies.

Many thanks for your continued support and every wish for safety and health – this will pass.

Mrs D Graffin

Mrs Deirdre Graffin

Principal

Engaging in Remote/Blended Learning

- We know that families are all doing their very best during this difficult time and this is very different in every home
- Teachers aim to be realistic in our expectations and we have shared these with you regularly: 3 activities per day & uploading one to Seesaw for feedback plus daily reading
- We ask that you log on daily to receive the message from your child's teacher and a summary of the work to be completed. Teachers may also add teaching videos to explain new concepts.
- Pupil attendance is also calculated by daily logins.
- DENI have asked that we monitor daily activity and record sustained engagement/absence
- However, we are aware that in different houses there are different arrangements – children in childcare, parents working a rota etc. If this is the case, simply let the school office know which days you are working and your child will not be online.
- This may affect when work is sent in and that is fine. Teachers will give feedback the following day.
- It is also important to let us know if your child is sick and unable to engage in remote/blended learning



Parent/Teacher interviews: beginning Mon 1st February 2021

- Interviews took place for Y7 in term 1 alongside baselines for Y1 parents.
- Term 1 face-to-face meetings were postponed due to COVID restrictions
- To prevent any further delay and unsure of what restrictions we may be working with later in the year, parent interviews are scheduled for week beginning Mon 1st February.
- Teachers have been assigned a specific day. Interviews will be by telephone and last up to 10 minutes.
- *Teachers will send you details next week via Seesaw of the date and an approximate time.*
- Any changes to phone numbers should have already been shared with the office. If in doubt, please feel free to check so your child's teacher will have the most up to date information.
- On this day, work will still be prepared and a morning message posted. However, teachers will not be available to give feedback to work sent in via Seesaw.



Catholic Schools' Week 2021: Sun 24th Jan – 31st Jan 2021

The overarching theme for CSW 2021 will be *Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith and Resilience*. This particular theme will be especially relevant given the pandemic experience that is affecting the entire country. The following will be the daily themes for CSW 2021:

- Monday: *Catholic Schools: Communities of Faith.*
- Tuesday: *Catholic Schools: Communities of Learning*
- Wednesday: *Catholic Schools: Communities of Love*
- Thursday: *Catholic Schools: Communities of Resilience*
- Friday: *Catholic Schools: Communities of Hope*

Teachers will incorporate activities into their schedules throughout the week and a daily reflection will be posted on Twitter (@newrowps) and is included at the end of this update.

Reminder: Magherafelt mass is available daily on their parish webcam at 11am. This is something that Y4 may find useful in conjunction with a simple mass booklet or missal.

Catholic Schools Week 2021
24 - 31 January 2021

COMMUNITIES OF:

FAITH
Learning
LOVE
Resilience
HOPE



www.catholicbishops.ie | #CSW2021 | www.catholicschools.ie



We all know that at this time children – and everyone at home – are spending more time online. The online space has become an extension of the home, entertainment and work environment. As you are aware, we regularly hold online safety weeks during the school year.

Beginning today, each week we will also share some online safety information or links to activities etc on our parent update. We hope that by sharing the key messages often it will become part of what we all think about and do – every day.

Digital Devices and WiFi



If you are having any issues with internet access or access to a digital device please contact the school office via info@newrowps.castledawson.ni.sch.uk as soon as possible and preferably before next Wednesday, 27th January. We may be able to help.

Essential supervision for children of key workers

We appreciate that parents only use this service if there is *no alternative option*. Keeping numbers low is fundamental to the success of this lockdown. We have now reached our capacity and following a risk assessment are unable to offer any additional places at this time. *Some days are very busy – particularly Monday and Thursday*. If those already using this service have any flexibility on these days, we would appreciate you getting in touch. Also, if your child's place is no longer needed e.g. if it is possible to work from home or your work is no longer considered to be that of an essential key worker, please withdraw your request for care. Shift workers should confirm requested days by 12 noon on Thursday each week.



Starting school in September 2021?

Is your child starting school in Sept 2021? Online applications are now open

More information can be found at www.newrowps.com and please feel free to arrange a chat with the principal if you need any advice or have any queries by emailing dgraffin653@c2ken.net. The closing date and time for primary one applications is **12.00 noon on Friday 29th January 2021**.

1. Read the admissions criteria
2. Apply online <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions>
3. Upload documents before Fri 5th Feb 2021



This too, shall pass.

*When things are bad, remember: It won't always be this way. Take one day at a time.
When things are good, remember: It won't always be this way. Enjoy every great moment.*



Family Activity Sheet – Cyber Security

This activity sheet has been created to help you to learn more about cyber security, take some actions to stay safe, and have some fun together while becoming Cyber Aware!

Conversation starters

Here some questions you can ask to start a conversation:

- Depending on your child's age, ask if they have ever seen a 'pop up box' on screen or been sent an email or text which asked them to click on a link? Discuss if they think it would be safe to click the link.
- Ask why passwords are important and how they would create a password nobody could guess.
- Watch the You Tube video '[How private is your personal information](#)'. As a family discuss the ways that leaving personal information exposed online, and what you would do to protect it.

Online safety action

Pick one of these actions to do as a family:

Visit [The National Cyber Security Centre's Cyber Aware](#) website and pick one Cyber Aware action you can all take - or if you want to be super cyber secure – do all of them!

- Create a new password for your main email account. You can use our **Cyber Aware activity** sheet to help.
- Turn on two- factor authentication.
- Check your devices have up to date software
- Turn on 'back-up information'

Fun family task

Who's the most Cyber Secure.

Ask each person in the family to write down all the different online accounts they have. This can be anything from an account on a shared family device or at school, to an online gaming account or social media, to an email account.

How many are there?

Now ask them to tally up how many different passwords they use for the accounts.

The highest number wins! And also a great opportunity to go and change passwords.

More information for parents and carers

For more information about this and other ways to help your child stay safe online, you can visit www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents.

You can also read our article : Cyber Security: What parent and carers need to know.



THOUGHTS

For Each Day

These reflections can be read out loud every day in each classroom or over an intercom system to the whole school community. They can be read by pupils or staff. The spoken reflection might be followed by a short period of Christian meditation.



MONDAY

Today is the first day of Catholic Schools Week 2021. Today's theme is about being a Community of Faith. When we think of the school, we think of a community of people. A Catholic school is a special community where we learn about God's love for us and the way Jesus teaches us to live. We learn to show God's love to others by being kind in our thoughts, words and actions.

Lord, help us to live like you taught us to.
Together we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us: *Our Father ...*



TUESDAY

Today we are asked to think about our school as a Community of Learning. We learn many things in schools. We learn about things like maths, Gaelic, science, music and art. We learn spellings and tables. But we also learn how to be a good friend. We learn how to be helpful and kind. Jesus' Golden Rule is to treat others as you would like to be treated. Today we learn to be the best we can be, being kind to ourselves, others and the world around us.

Lord, help us to live like you taught us to.
Together we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us: *Our Father ...*



WEDNESDAY

Today we are asked to think about our school as a Community of Love. We especially think of our grandparents. They can be very important teachers who show us how to love, how to be caring and how to share. They can teach us about the past and about the importance of working hard and doing our best. They can teach us through love. In our Catholic school we try to show that love each day in kind thoughts, kind words and kind actions.

Lord, help us to live like you taught us to.
Together we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us: *Our Father ...*



THURSDAY

Today we are asked to think about our school as a Community of Resilience. Resilience means how we cope with things even when they get tough. Sometimes we might feel sad or worried about something. A Catholic school is a place where everyone wants you to feel safe and happy. God wants us to be safe and happy. We can pray and talk to God about our worries. We can also learn ways to help with worries and to feel better. In our school you are never alone, and will always be cared for.

Lord, help us to live like you taught us to.
Together we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us: *Our Father ...*



FRIDAY

As Catholic Schools Week comes to a close, we are asked to think about our school as a Community of Hope. We are all children of God, called to live like Jesus asked us. This year we will continue to make this school a loving place where everyone feels safe, welcome and cared for. We live in the hope that Jesus has shown us the way to live and we can hope to create a future where all people can know God's love. We can do this through our kind thoughts, kind words and kind actions.

Lord, help us to live like you taught us to.
Together we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us: *Our Father ...*