

Week 7 Remote Learning Update: Mon 1st March 2021

Dear parent or carer

Six weeks done! Please take time to read the newsletter. There is lots of info including updates & reminders:

Sacramental dates

Post primary applications

Remote learning survey results

We are really looking forward to welcoming the Y1-3 pupils back next Monday 8th March and will be focusing on getting them ready to learn. Of course you know that we want nothing more than to welcome back everyone. However, decisions need to be made that keep everyone safe – but the day when we all come together again is getting closer! Keep going! *Remember to plan a family treat this weekend! A walk, a scoop of ice cream or a film together (remember that was our top pick for what to do if you were feeling a little lockdown sadness).* Have a lovely weekend and many thanks for your continued support – this will pass.

Mrs D Graffin

Mrs Deirdre Graffin

Principal

Dates for the diary

Mon 1 st March	Week 7 remote/blended learning begins Post primary applications open at 12 noon
Thurs 4 th March	World Book Day – more information below
Fri 5 th March	Remote learning packs distributed for Y4-7
Mon 8 th March	Week 8 remote/blended learning continues for Y4-7 Y1-3 pupils attend school 9am-2pm this week
Mon 15 th March	Week 8 remote/blended learning continues for Y4-7 Y1-3 pupils attend school 9am-2pm this week
Tues 16 th March	Post primary applications close at 4pm
Wed 17 th March	St Patrick's Day – school closed for Y1-3 & remote learners
Fri 19 th March	Remote learning packs distributed for Y1-7
Mon 22 nd March	Week remote/blended learning continues for all pupils

Sacraments: Year 4

First Penance: date tbc

This will be celebrated in school very soon after pupils return, so please make sure you work with your child in helping them prepare by completing their First Penance Workbook.

First Communion: Saturday 8th May at 11am in St. Patrick's Church, Castledawson

Sacraments: Year 7

Service of Light (both Bellaghy & Magherafelt parishes): date tbc. Like First Penance, this could be celebrated very soon after pupils return, so make sure your child is completing all the confirmation-related activities planned by the teacher in their learning packs.

Confirmation (Magherafelt Parish): **Saturday 15th May** at 12 noon, Church of the Assumption, Magherafelt

Confirmation (Bellaghy Parish): date tbc

World Book Day 2021



Usually on World Book Day we celebrate a love of books and reading by sharing stories in school – and this year is no different! We are calling on all families to mark Thursday by sharing stories at home. We will also connect with everyone at home by sharing some story-related videos and activities. Watch out for more information shared by your teacher next week on Seesaw!

Online safety at home Week 6: 8 Steps to keep your child safe online



Our weekly online safety messages continue whilst we are engaged in remote learning. **The latest one is included at the end of this newsletter** and focuses on 8 simple steps to keep your child safe online. Click on the link to visit our Online Safety advice page where you can access the original document with live links to activities and videos: <http://www.newrowps.com/parent-area/e-safety-advice-a/>
Did you remember to talk about your family's online safety plan over mid term? Hope it was useful.

Friends of New Row

Once again FoNR are stepping up to help our school. We have just ordered our final interactive panel, this time for Year 1. It will be a wonderful addition to the classroom, and a much needed upgrade of technology. We are very grateful for all their support – helping our children benefit from the very best of resources within our learning spaces.

Credit Union Quiz

Usually at this time of year, two excited teams from Y7 would be preparing to attend the annual Credit Union Quiz. This year, the quiz has been forced to go virtual. However, we are delighted to have been asked by Credit Union Ireland to take part in a promotional video to launch their first ever virtual CU Schools Quiz. 4 pupils from our school will line up against 4 pupils from another school in Dublin to answer quiz questions. The host is Fergal D'Arcy from TODAY FM. The team will feature on promotional materials, shared with every school in Ireland. Exciting times!

Supervised Learning: Vulnerable pupils & children of key workers

This provision continues to operate within our very limited capacity. It is very important that parents whose children are attending interact with Seesaw by checking in daily to see what work has been set and for feedback & messages from teachers. It is also very important that children attending bring their work pack every day.



THE JOY OF MOVING WINTER GAMES

The full pack has been uploaded to our website on a new page for related resources: <http://www.newrowps.com/nrps-healthy-bodies-and-minds/>

HOW TO USE THIS PACK

This pack has been designed for families to have fun. There are lots of different games to get everyone involved whilst you are at home – including over mid-term. All you need to play is a small space, some willing participants and a small amount of equipment – which can even be made from every day household items!

Our School Council have been working collaboratively on an inspiring message to help us get active – can't wait to see it!

Reminder: Lockdown Stone #2



We look forward to welcoming you back as you leave your lockdown stone at the front door once again.










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.*

Remote Learning Survey



Thanks to the parents of over 100 pupils who responded to our remote learning survey. The response rate means we can interpret the results as significant and meaningful. There was also a good spread across classes.

	Statements	Yes	No	
1	Learning packs are well spread out (2/3 weeks)	100%	0%	
2	The school have been clear about what is involved in remote learning.	100%	0%	
3	I can access and use Seesaw	100%	0%	
4	Timetables help us get organised	95%	5%	
5	Technology is manageable at home	93%	7%	
6	The instructions and tasks from teachers help me revise topics with my child	99%	1%	
7	Between paper and online activities, there is enough work to do every day	99%	1%	
8	My child enjoys completing the range of tasks	92%	8%	
9	My child enjoys reading/listening to the feedback from the teacher	99%	1%	

100%

0%

What is going well?	What is challenging?	What we have overcome?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The work expectations are clear – 3 tasks per day, send in 1 The amount of work is manageable The work is well organised including the timetable Children and adults value the daily message Using Seesaw has been very positive – especially getting feedback from the teachers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Motivation & concentration can be very challenging Social aspect – kids missing playing with their friends Challenges – juggling working from home with school work Having more than one child to manage, organise and keep on task Confidence of parents to work on new topics and learning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keeping up with the work even if it has been hard at times. Having a balanced view Confidence in ability to manage Getting organised Being flexible about the routine Use of ICT including uploading work and using Seesaw Sense of achievement in what we have come through!

Sound familiar? Yes! **There were lots of things all the responses had in common** – so remember – you are not alone. Every house has challenges – and you are all getting through it.

What does this mean?

- We have worked well together to find a way of working through this time – and will keep doing this.
- We will continue to focus on 3 tasks per day and encourage the use of Seesaw to keep in touch.
- When the children return, we will focus on taking time for them to reconnect. This is also emphasised in the publication from DENI just yesterday:

Schools know the importance of providing planned opportunities for children to re-establish face-to-face friendships, reconnect with staff, work with others and talk about their interests and experiences over the last number of weeks. (DENI circular, 25 Feb 21). This is essential if we are to ensure children are ready to learn.

Also, as an accredited Forest School, we have experience in using the outdoors to enhance learning. When Y1-3 return to school next week, make sure to send in a coat and sturdy outdoor shoes. We intend to use the outdoors lots as a very important learning space.

IMPORTANT: information for parents of Y7 pupils

Applications to Post Primary School

Click on: <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions/post-primary-admissions-guide> to apply

- Applications open online on Monday 1st March at 12 noon.
- You can apply at any time up to 12 noon on Wednesday 16th March.

It is vital that you read the admissions criteria for any school you are applying to for your child

We are more than willing to help parents at this time. Please phone the school and we will talk you through it or return a call at a later time to offer our help, support or guidance.

Post-Primary Admissions Parent Checklist



Admissions Criteria

Each school's Board of Governors sets the admissions criteria for its school. It is vitally important that you read the criteria of the schools you are interested in applying to. The criteria are available to view on our website.



Documentation

You will be required to upload a copy of your child's birth certificate when making your application. Please have a copy to hand. Other documentation may be required depending on the schools you apply to. This will be set out in their criteria.



Meeting the Criteria

When making your application you will be asked to outline clearly how your child meets the admissions criteria for the schools that you are listing as preferences. You may wish to type notes in advance to copy and paste the information into your application or upload as a supporting document.



Apply Online

The online process for post-primary applications opens on 1 March and closes on 16 March. Applications are **NOT** processed on a first come first served basis. It is advised to apply to at least four schools including at least one non grammar school.

For help and advice, parents/ guardians can contact our Admissions Helpdesk via email: postprimaryadmissions@eani.org.uk or telephone: 028 9598 5595

Thinkuknow: keeping your child safe online while they are off school

Thinkuknow is the national online safety education programme from CEOP, the online child protection command of the National Crime Agency.

Thinkuknow helps parents, carers, teachers and others keep children safe from sexual abuse, offering learning activities, advice and support for children and young people aged 4-18 and their families.

While school is closed, here's what you can do to keep your child stay safe while they are learning and having fun online.

8 steps to keep your child safe online this month

1. **Explore together:** Ask your child to show you their favourite websites and apps and what they do on them. Listen, show interest and encourage them to teach you the basics of the site or app.
2. **Chat little and often about online safety:** If you're introducing them to new learning websites and apps while school is closed, take the opportunity to talk to them about how to stay safe on these services and in general. Ask if anything ever worries them while they're online. Make sure they know that if they ever feel worried, they can get help by talking to you or another adult they trust.
3. **Help your child identify trusted adults who can help them if they are worried:** This includes you and other adults at home, as well as adults from wider family, school or other support services who they are able to contact at this time. Encourage them to draw a picture or write a list of their trusted adults.
4. **Be non-judgemental:** Explain that you would never blame them for anything that might happen online, and you will always give them calm, loving support.
5. **Supervise their online activity:** Keep the devices your child uses in communal areas of the house such as in the living room or kitchen where an adult is able to supervise. Children of this age should not access the internet unsupervised in private spaces, such as alone in a bedroom or bathroom.
6. **Talk about how their online actions affect others:** If your child is engaging with others online, remind them to consider how someone else might feel before they post or share something. If they are considering sharing a photo/video of somebody else, they should always ask permission first.
7. **Use 'SafeSearch':** Most web search engines will have a 'SafeSearch' function, which will allow you to limit the content your child can access whilst online. Look out for the 'Settings' button on your web browser homepage, which is often shaped like a small cog.
8. **Parental controls:** Use the parental controls available on your home broadband and all internet enabled devices in your home. You can find out more about how to use parental controls by visiting your broadband provider's website.

Support your child with films and activities from Thinkuknow

Thinkuknow films and games are a great way to start and continue chats about online safety.

4-7s *Jessie & Friends* cartoons – <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/jessie-and-friends-videos/>

A three-episode animated series which helps keep 4-7s safe online. It explores three popular online activities: watching videos, sharing pictures, and online gaming.

8 – 11s *Play Like Share* cartoons – <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/playlikeshare/>

A three-episode animated series that helps keep 8-11 year olds safe from risks they might encounter online.

Band Runner game and advice website – https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/8_10/

A fun interactive game that helps reinforce key messages about online safety.

You'll find lots more advice on keeping your child safe online at www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents.

If you're worried that a child is at risk of harm online, you should call the police. Children can make a report to CEOP at <https://www.ceop.police.uk/safety-centre/>.

Other recommended resources

Parent Info – Expert information for parents about digital family life www.parentinfo.org.

NSPCC Net Aware – Provides reviews and guidance on the most popular social networks, apps and games that children use. <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/>

NSPCC PANTS (The underwear rule) – A simple way to keep children safe from abuse, by teaching them to remember the 5 rules that spell 'PANTS'. <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/keeping-children-safe/underwear-rule/>

Internet Matters – A useful tool showing how to set parental controls across a range of devices and websites. <http://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/interactive-guide/>

CEOP social media:

For up to date information and advice:

- @CEOPUK on Twitter
- ClickCEOP on Facebook

