



Week 8 Remote Learning Update: Mon 8th March 2021

Dear parent or carer

I sincerely hope that we are now approaching the end of our remote learning updates. Monday is a big milestone as we welcome back Years 1-3 to their classrooms. This day couldn't come soon enough! However, we are very grateful to you all for helping us keep everyone safe so we can get through this and celebrate being together again.

When the classes return there will be a very strong focus on re-engaging. Our survey confirmed what we all know - what the kids are missing most is the feeling of social connection. Being deprived of this for too long can be damaging not just for emotional wellbeing but can have an impact on their physical health and has educational considerations also. Recent information and advice from leading educationalists agree with this – get them ready to learn and they will grow and flourish!

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

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 this week
Mon 15 th March	Week 9 remote/blended learning continues for Y4-7 Y1-3 pupils attend school 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 10 remote/blended learning continues for all pupils
Mon 29 th March	Week 11 remote/blended learning continues for all pupils
Thurs 1 st April	Easter Vacation begins at 11am

Return to school Arrangements: Year 1, 2 & 3 Monday 8th March '21

As Y1-3 return on Monday 8th March alongside Vulnerable and Key Worker Children, there will be well over 100 children in school. We need to be careful to ensure we do this in an organised and safe way.

Drop off and collection times

Class/group	Drop off	Collection	From
Year 1	9am	2pm	Front door
Y2 & 3	8.50am	1.50pm	Back gate
Vulnerable/children of key workers	9am	2pm	Back gate

Parents/Carers: At drop off and collection times

- You must follow social distancing rules and wear a mask
- Do not linger or loiter at the school gates.

More information overleaf

Y4-7 pupils

Remote learning will continue for this two-week period. Please make sure your child continues to engage as this will be vital in helping when they return to face to face teaching

Return to school : further arrangements

Important Reminders

- If your child is sick, do not send them to school
- Ensure anyone with COVID-19 symptoms does not attend school
- Wash hands thoroughly and more often than usual to prepare your child for returning to school
- Promote respiratory hygiene using the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- Minimise contact and maintain social distancing when possible – stay in your family bubble

Break

Y1-3 pupils	Vulnerable/key workers
Break (toast only) available: please send in correct amount in an envelope on Monday <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Year 1: £1.20 for 2-week period (including refund from self-isolation in December)• Years 2 & 3: £2.70 for 2 week period• If not taking toast, bring a healthy snack• No milk – Remind your child to bring water bottle daily	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No change – bring a healthy break each day• Remind your child to bring in their water bottle every day

Lunch

Y1-3 pupils	Vulnerable/key workers
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children entitled to FSM will get a dinner each day (no payments from EA during this time).• Other pupils in Y1-3 can also take a dinner <i>must be prebooked and paid via ParentPay before 9am each day</i>• <i>Menu will be uploaded to the website on Fri 5th March</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No change – bring a healthy break each day• Payments from EA will continue for those children entitled to FSM

Homework for Week 1

We will be easing the children back in to school and they will be tired! Their enthusiasm may not be as great at the end of the day – or week – and that is ok. Settling in will take some time.

Y1	Year 2 & 3
Share a story every evening	Spellings & Guided reading book

Dress for outdoors

Remember that your child will be spending time outside so will need to have a warm coat – with a hood - and sensible shoes every day. There will be daily PE lessons.

Communicating with teachers

During all face-to-face teaching times, parents will be communicated with in the usual ways. If there are any issues etc please contact the school office as normal. *There will be no facility to contact teachers via Seesaw until remote learning resumes.*

Breakfast club

EA continues to advise that Breakfast and Afterschools Clubs should be suspended until further notice.

Supervised Learning: Vulnerable pupils & children of key workers

This childcare 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.

ParentPay: We are aware that refunds are owed for overpaid milk and break. We are processing these and amounts owed will be returned in due course

IMPORTANT: information for parents of Y7 pupils

Applications to Post Primary School

Applications are open online: <https://admissions.eani.org.uk/postprimary/ApplicationDigitalAdmissions>

- 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.

Online safety at home Week 8: Family activity sheet: GAMING



Does your child have a PlayStation, Xbox or do they play games on the internet? Do they spend time playing with their friends or in groups online? Read on!

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 keeping safe while gaming 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/>

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 was no different! Thank you to all our families who helped us mark a World Book Day with a difference by sharing photos of everyone sharing stories at home.



JOY OF MOVING 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 has been designed for families to have fun. There are lots of different games to get everyone involved whilst you are at home. **Well done to our School Council for inspiring us all with their Joy of Moving promotional video!** Thanks also to everyone for sending in the photos – continue to do this either via Seesaw or emailing info@newrowps.castledawson.ni.sch.uk

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.*

Family Activity Sheet – Gaming

This activity sheet has been created to help you to learn more about online gaming and how to stay safe when playing.

Conversation starters

Here some questions you can ask to start a conversation:

- Ask your child what games they know about and/or enjoy playing online. Why do they like them/ think they are popular.
- Ask your child how they would explain their favourite game to another young person, and how they could help play them safely.
- Ask about who they talk to and how in an online game. What would they do if they felt worried about a conversation? Make sure they know they can tell you if anything in the game makes them feel worried or uncomfortable.

Online safety action

Pick one of these actions to do as a family:

- Visit our [Thinkuknow website](https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk) and search for tips on how be safe when playing games for different ages, by typing 'games' or 'gaming' into the search box.
- Visit www.askaboutgames.com and look for advice on how you can set up family controls to limit who children talk to, how much they spend in game and time spent online.
- Visit [NSPCC's Online Games](https://www.nspcc.org.uk/online-games) webpage to find out more about the risks, and ways to help make online gaming safer.

Fun family task

Visit the Family Game Database – www.taminggaming.com – which provides information on a range of games, including good games to play online for families.

Pick out a new game to play together – and PLAY!

Use this as an opportunity to talk about the positive of gaming, as well as how to stay safe while playing the game.

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 : [In-game chat: what parents and carers need to know.](#)



Preparing Your Child For the First Day Back in School

As schools begin to open to more children, parents and children may well be feeling anxious. Here's some ideas of how best to prepare.

Be Calm.

Your child will take their lead from you and be reassured if you are steady and matter of fact.



Be Curious.

These are strange times and their imagination may run away with them. Listen, and try not to dismiss or minimise their fears but validate how they are feeling – “it’s completely fine to feel like that at the moment” or ‘I can really understand why you would feel like that’



Be Positive.

Remind them of all the ways they have learnt to keep themselves safe: washing their hands regularly, sneezing and coughing into their elbow, not hugging others and staying in their own space.



Be Thankful.

Help your child think of things they are looking forward to: being with their friends, seeing their teacher, favourite activities but be mindful some of these may not be available for them



Be Supportive

Younger children particularly may struggle with separation anxiety and may become tearful, clingy or act out. Reassure them that you will miss them too and think of them through out the day. It might be helpful to draw a little heart on their wrist and one on yours too. You can call it the hug button and when they find they are missing you they can press the heart and know that you will be doing the same at home. Sometimes having a little object to remind them of you through the day helps but please check this out with your school first.



Be Prepared.

Support your child to be aware of changes that may have happened to their classroom environment since they were there last and rehearse any new routines that school may have shared. Rehearse and practice your ‘goodbye’ routine and create a ‘hello’ greeting for the end of the day for them to look forward to.

