



The Wee Friday Note

Friday 3rd December 2021



**"What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store.
What if Christmas...perhaps...means a little bit more?"
Dr. Seuss, How the Grinch Stole Christmas!**

- 1. Carols Around the Tree Christmas Celebration** – we are planning to have an outdoor Christmas celebration on the evening of Wednesday 15th December, 7-8pm. Here is some important information about this event:
 - 🎅 Your child will have been given an envelope containing enough tickets for their family (2 adults plus any children attending Cregagh Primary School).
 - 🎅 Only those with tickets may attend. Tickets will be checked by school staff at gate. No ticket, no entry!
 - 🎅 Entrance will be through the school's rear entrance (the new yellow gate).
 - 🎅 Children **MUST** be accompanied by someone over the age of 18 years.
 - 🎅 This will be a noisy event – not really suitable for tiny-tots 😊
 - 🎅 Parents must not allow their children to run around. Children must stay with their parents in family groups – to help with safe supervision and prevent any children going missing/leaving the school grounds.
 - 🎅 Even though we will be outside, people should feel free and comfortable if they wish to wear a mask.
 - 🎅 I would ask guests to spread out across both playgrounds.
 - 🎅 Please bring a torch or use your mobile phone torch to help read song sheets as we sing along with Downshire Brass Band.
 - 🎅 This is an outdoor event – please wrap up warm (especially the children!)
 - 🎅 We have a limited number of toilets. Please encourage children to use bathroom before leaving home! The whole event will last 1 hour.
 - 🎅 Tea, coffee, hot chocolate and sweet treats will be on sale (proceeds to school funds).
- 2. P4-7 Pantomime at the Waterfront Hall on Thursday 16th December** – more information about this trip will be sent home closer to the time but parents should know that children will be free to wear masks while travelling on the coach and during the performance. If this is something you would like your child to do, please talk to them about this as staff will not be able to enforce a parent's wishes. It's just not practical. Children will be seated in their class groups as far as possible both on the coaches and in the Waterfront Hall. I just wanted to highlight to parents that the option of their child wearing a mask during this trip is there should they want them to. 😊
- 3. Health & Safety News** – once again, we have seen an increase in the numbers of sick children this week.
 - a) COVID**
 1. Parents should **not** send a child who is considered a close contact into school. (A close contact is someone who lives in the same house as someone who has tested positive **and/or** someone who is contacted directly by PHA)
 2. If a child is a close contact, parents should arrange for a PCR test on day 2 of being off school (and another on day 8 if the day 2 test was negative & the child had returned to school following their day 2 negative result). Some parents may choose whole-household isolation if someone in their home tests positive. This is what used to happen before the summer. Like most other schools, we have found that quite a few children go on to test positive in between Day 2 and Day 8!
 3. LFTs are not as reliable as PCRs – usually because it's difficult to get good samples from children and lateral flow tests are not as sensitive as the proper PCR.

4. If a parent doesn't keep their close contact child off school or refuses to get their close contact child tested, they must understand that they are increasing the risk of spreading Covid to other children and adults.
5. **BE COVID ALERT: new persistent cough // high temperature 37.7o^c + // loss of smell or taste**
6. **Please be patient with school!** We are all fed up and exhausted dealing with Covid and its consequences – just like you parents! School staff are dealing with the same issues as our school families are: regularly taking children for tests, managing children isolating, children missing school, etc.

b) GENERAL SICKNESS

Sick children should not be sent to school as they will be miserable and will spread whatever it is they have to other children. If a child has an episode of vomiting and/or diarrhoea, they must stay away from school for 2 full days following the last day the child was sick.

REMEMBER: IF IN DOUBT, KEEP THEM OUT AND OBSERVE FOR 48 HOURS
AS WE GET CLOSER TO CHRISTMAS, LET'S NOT TAKE ANY UNNECESSARY CHANCES!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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| Wednesday 15 th December | Carols Around the Tree Christmas Celebration, 7-8pm.
Hot drinks & Christmas treats on sale – proceeds to school fund. |
| Thursday 16 th December | P4-7 Pantomime at the Waterfront Hall |
| Monday 20 th December | P1-3 visit to Strand Cinema for Christmas movie |
| Tuesday 21 December | Christmas Magic Show for each class with <i>The Amazing Aldo</i> (possible visit from a special visitor!) |
| Wednesday 22 nd December | Last day of first <u>full</u> term. Uniform free day.
12noon finish (no dinners or lunches) |
| Thursday 23 rd December-
Wednesday 5 th January 2022 | Christmas holidays (10 school days inclusive) |
| Thursday 6 th January 2022 | New spring term begins |

Learning + Family + Community = Cregagh Primary School!

CREGAGH PRIMARY SCHOOL
Together, we make a difference

Contact us on 02890 401246 to book an in-person visit and tour of our school

Cregagh Primary School has served the East & South Belfast community since 1939.
Excellent standards of pastoral care, teaching and learning - along with our modern and bright school buildings - make us an ever-increasingly popular first choice primary school.

If like us, you value **LEARNING, FAMILY & COMMUNITY** we are the right choice of school for you!

- ✓ Caring & inclusive
- ✓ Small school warmth
- ✓ Engaging curriculum
- ✓ High academic results
- ✓ Wrap-around pastoral care
- ✓ Technology-embracing
- ✓ Collaborative working with parents & community
- ✓ Multi-award-winning

FUTURE P1 PARENTS: get in touch with your details and we will send a full pre-application info pack to your home!

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 Find us on Facebook & Twitter www.cregaghprimary.org.uk

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