



## Parent/Carer Update: Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear parent or carer

We were delighted to welcome back ALL children on Monday. It was an absolute pleasure to hear the corridors and rooms full of chatter and laughter – and the sound of children where they need to be. It was great also to get the children back before Easter so that on 12<sup>th</sup> April we will be ready to go. Please note that we have rearranged our staff day so that the first week back after the holidays will be a full one. Have a lovely break and many thanks for your continued support – the dark days are passing!

*Mrs D Graffin*

Mrs Deirdre Graffin

Principal

### Dates for the diary

Mon 29 <sup>th</sup> March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All Y1-7 pupils in school</li> </ul>
Tues 30 <sup>th</sup> March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Last full day of term</li> <li>Book April milk before 12 noon</li> <li>Y4 WW2 topic celebration day – dress up as an evacuee and bring your Anderson Shelters!</li> <li>PE with Liam (IFA coach) – all classes. Wear trainers/ outdoor shoes <i>every day</i></li> </ul>
Wed 31 <sup>st</sup> March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>School closes at 11am</li> <li>Staff afternoon</li> </ul>
Thurs 1 <sup>st</sup> April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Teacher training day (moved from 12 April)</li> </ul>
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup> April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Normal School day <i>No longer a teacher training day</i></li> <li>Book canteen break on ParentPay before 9am</li> </ul>



**Happy Birthday**



### New Row Birthday Party Afternoon

Many thanks to our great Friends of New Row for helping us celebrate our birthdays this week and last. It was yet another reason to celebrate being together again – and having all our friends with us.

**No presents required – being together is the best gift!**

### Health 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

### Daily Reminders

- Children should not bring a schoolbag.
- All pupils use the wipe-able plastic folders
- Water bottles should be washed in warm soapy water daily along with lunchboxes
- Lunchbags should also be wipe-able rather than cloth

## Breakfast club

As of the latest communication today (26<sup>th</sup> March) DE continues to instruct schools to pause their Breakfast & Afterschools provision until further notice.

## 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. Thanks for your patience and understanding.

## Booking Canteen Break for April on ParentPay

- This needs to be done before 9am on Mon 12<sup>th</sup> April
- Normal charges of £5.50 per month
- If not taking canteen break, bring a healthy snack
- IF YOU HAVE DIFFICULTIES, CONTACT OFFICE 02879468426 [info@newrowps.castledawson.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@newrowps.castledawson.ni.sch.uk).

## Lunch

- Children entitled to FSM will get a dinner each day. All payments from EA will stop.
- All pupils can take a dinner as normal. This must be prebooked & paid via ParentPay before 9.30 daily
- Menu covering until Easter break has now been uploaded to the website

## Milk

Milk can now be booked via ParentPay. Orders for April must be made before Tuesday at 12 noon.

## Chromebooks

I have successfully applied for a number of chromebooks (laptops) for families meeting DE criteria. Year 6 have now been allocated some devices and I hope that we will have these for our return after Easter

## Homework

There will be no formal homework set until after Easter. 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 – and that is ok.

## 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.

## Y1 School Health Checks

These are scheduled for after Easter. Consent forms were sent home today and must be returned no later than Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March as they will be collected before children start back.

## Y6 Transfer prep

Y6 parents please check Seesaw for important information about GL preparations. A leaflet from DENI will also be circulated to all Y6 parents next week.

## Staffing update

Kevin Mullan: After many years of service, Kevin has decided to take a flexible approach to his working pattern and will work morning only after Easter. We will miss his cheery face at the end of a busy day and the 4pm cups of tea but wish him well to enjoy all the extra time this will give him.

## St Mary's Students on Placement

We were very lucky this year to have 3 students from St Mary's College Belfast - Miss Rocks with Y1, Mr Loane with Y6 and Miss Carville with Y7. All students were a credit to their tutors, working extra hard to support our learners during lockdown. They were also very quick to take on additional duties and roles, and for all of these things we are very grateful.

## Recycling Collection: Advance Notice



Our annual collection will go ahead this year as normal. If you're doing a spring clean, please keep your bin bags . We will hold a collection just after Easter. Until then, please keep us your bin bags safely at home - *all types of clothes, curtains, bedding, handbags, belts & shoes*