



Newsletter September 2021

Welcome to our September Newsletter. Here you will find lots of information about what has been happening through the month of September and you will also find some important information about things that will be happening in October,

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us by emailing info@magherafelts.magherafelt.ni.sch.uk or by phoning the school office on 02879632822



Covid Symptoms and Pupil Attendance



Until Friday 10 September, I was responsible for contact tracing and assisting the PHA in identifying Covid-19 close contacts within our school. This is no longer the case. As I am sure you have seen in the news, the PHA are now solely responsible for identifying close contacts within schools. Therefore, the PHA will be in Contact with you if they have identified your child as a close contact.

Your child may still attend school as normal **unless the PHA instruct you otherwise.**

I would ask you to follow all the advice the PHA give to you. I would also request that you inform the school office if your child has tested positive for Covid-19 or has been asked to self-isolate by the PHA and will therefore not be attending school.

Should your child display any symptoms of Covid-19

- **A high temperature**

- **A new continuous cough**
- **A loss of or change in sense of smell or taste**

PHA advise you to self-isolate and book a PCR test for your child ASAP.

I sincerely hope you all keep safe and well.

If your child has been absent from school for a covid-19 related, or indeed any other reason, I would kindly request that you fill in the form at the following link and return it with your child on their first day back.

[Absence Explanation Form](#)



Congratulations to all our Newly Elected School Councillors!

Please join me in welcoming and congratulating our newly elected school councillors

P4 KMCA - Sophie Henderson and Micah Martin

P4/5 DD - Amelija Sudeikaite and Richard Spratt

P5 HB - Ella Hudson and Jacob Kerr

P6 EH - Ava Rutledge and Oscar Kerr

P7 MA - Megan Finn and Jimmy Johnston







Parent teacher Meetings



- Parent Teacher Consultations will take place via phone calls this year
- Further details regarding this will be sent home shortly
- The dates of our first Parent Teacher Consultations have been scheduled for the following dates:
- Monday 18 October (from 2pm)
- Tuesday 19 October (from 2pm)
- Wednesday 20 October (from 2pm)
- Thursday 21 October (from 2pm)
- The purpose of these meetings is to inform you of your child's progress and any areas for development. These meetings are a crucial aspect of the Teacher/Parent relationship and we would value your attendance. Parents will be given 10 minute appointments.

- The school day will finish at 1pm on 18, 19, 20, 21 October for all P1-7 pupils. The School Meals Kitchen will provide meals as usual and the school Bus will operate at 1pm.
- Please complete and return to school the pro forma sent home with your child indicating that you are aware of these arrangements.

Safe Drop off in the Mornings



I would ask parents/guardians and anyone who drops off children in the mornings to take particular care to keep everyone safe. I would specifically request you adhere to the following advice:

- Please drive slowly when on the school grounds, not exceeding 10 miles per hour
- Please park in a designated parking space if you wish to accompany your child to the drop off area
- Please do not allow any children to cross the road without being supervised
- Please use the designated road crossing from the school carpark. No child should be crossing from the Nursery carpark across the grass
- If using the drop off laybys, please have your child/ren exit on the kerbside and not the roadside of the vehicle
- Please do not use the drop off laybys for parking. These are only designed to be used to park for a short period of time whilst dropping off your child/ren.

Please understand, I raise these issues to ensure the safety of everyone on the school site.

School Money

School Money is proving to be a very useful tool for parents and the school alike.

Over the first month, we have learned a number of things that we feel it would be useful for parents to know:

1. Dinner Payments cannot be made after midnight for the next school day. If you miss this deadline, inform the school office in the morning and we will ensure your child receives a dinner. We will then add the meal on and you can pay it the next time you log into your account.
2. This is the same for our Breakfast Club. If you have missed the midnight deadline for booking, you are still able to send your child in the morning. They will be marked as attending by the breakfast staff and we will then add this onto the system. You will be able to pay for this the next time you log into your account.

If you have any queries, please feel free to phone the school office (02879632822) or send us an email to the school info account (info@magherafelts.magherafelt.ni.sch.uk)



Wraparound Care

Our Wraparound Care is proving to be very successful so far. Here is a short reminder of the details below:

Breakfast Club

Our breakfast club will be operated by our own school staff

- It will run every morning from **07.45 until the child's class begins**
- **You can however drop your child off at anytime up to 08:30 to take part**
- The **cost** will be **£2.50 per session, no matter how much of the session your child is there for**
- Each child will be offered a selection of cereal, fruit, yoghurts, toast and a drink.
- Booking operates through our new online payment and booking system School Money.

Afterschool Care

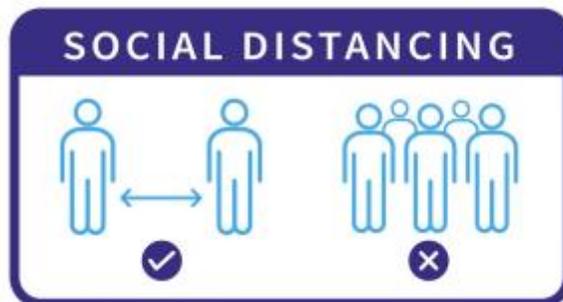
- Is provided by an external provider, Ruby Roos.

- They have their own booking system which is live online now. You can book your child/ren in using the link below:
- [Ruby Roos Booking Link](#)
- This link will take you through the simple process of creating an account and booking a place for your child.
- The provision will be offered each day **after school until 6pm**
- The cost per session would be **£12.50**. Sessions include activities, homework completion and a snack.
- Ruby Roos would also offer a service to help parents apply for Child Care Vouchers, which you may be able to get from your employer or from the government.
- Children would of course be expected to display the highest standards of behaviour in line with our positive behaviour policy in school.



RUBY ROOS

Social Distancing



Social distancing of 1 metre will remain in place between adults and as far as possible between adults and pupils.

Each class continues to act as a single consistent bubble with minimal prolonged interaction with other classes (e.g. dining hall).

I would ask parents/guardians to strictly adhere to this at drop off and collection times.

Hygiene and PPE



Pupils continue to wash hands immediately on arrival at school and regularly throughout the day (using soap and water). Younger children will be supervised to ensure hands are washed properly.

Touching of faces, eyes, mouths, noses should be discouraged. A limited amount of hand sanitiser will be available for visitors.

Parents may wish for their child to have individual hand sanitiser. Pupils should wear clean uniform each day. Classroom windows will be opened to increase natural ventilation where possible.

PPE is only required in a small number of cases, e.g. when a member of staff is dealing with intimate care or giving medication. Any staff and pupils who wish to wear face coverings throughout the school day should bring their own personal supply.

Adults visiting the school site will be asked to wear face coverings.

Healthy Break Policy



As a school we believe strongly in the benefits of our children being provided with a healthy break. This discipline can help to establish good eating and drinking habits for your child's future health, enabling them to make healthier choices for themselves. A healthy break can also help pupils sustain good concentration and behaviour for longer periods in the classroom.

Healthy break options which are recommended include:

unflavoured water or milk

fresh fruit and/or vegetables

bread-based products, for example white or wholemeal bread, rolls or baguettes, toast, plain bagels, wheaten, soda, pitta bread, plain bread sticks or crackers. Please provide fresh sugar-free fillings, avoiding sugary spreads.

We would be very grateful for your support in this important area. It can become very difficult for children who have been provided with a healthy snack to observe other children in their class having a less healthy option (e.g. chocolate bars, biscuits or crisps)

Personal Belongings

We ask all parents to ensure that all pupils' belongings (items of uniform, PE kit, pencil cases etc.) are properly named. If you discover your child has accidentally brought home something belonging to another child, please ensure it is returned to school the next day. Regular checking of this to ensure the names have not worn or washed off is strongly advised as well. Your assistance with this matter would be greatly appreciated.



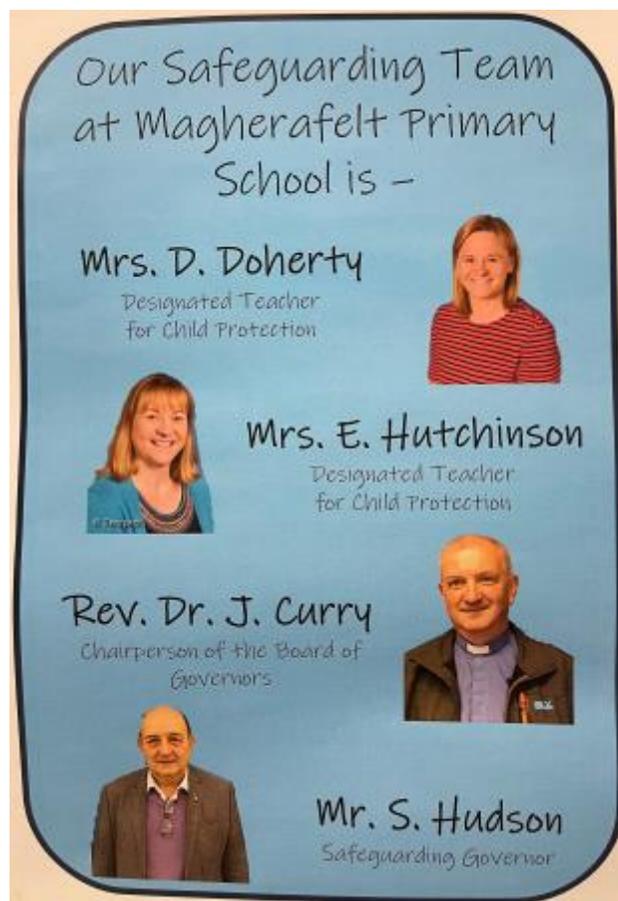
Safeguarding and Child Protection

The school's Child Protection Policy is on the school website. at this link [Full Safeguarding Policy \(June 2021\)](#).

An outline Policy is also available at this link [Safeguarding Policy Summary \(June 2021\)](#)

Please take time to read this policy carefully.

If you have a Child Protection concern you should speak to the staff detailed in these policies for advice: Designated Teacher –Mrs D Doherty, Deputy Designated Teacher - Mrs E Hutchinson Please complete the pro forma confirming you are aware of this policy (This will be sent home with your child).



School Calendar 2021/2022

A calendar for the school year has been attached and updated on the website. You will find it at the link below.

[School Calendar 2021/2022](#)

You will also find some important dates on the calendar on our school website:

[Website Calendar](#)



Medication Policy

Throughout the school year we ask all parents to complete and return to school a completed medication form if medication is to be administered to your child. This is of particular relevance for children with asthma, allergies or long term medical conditions.

Peanut Allergies – Nut Free Zone

There are a number of children in school who have an allergy to peanuts.

To minimise the risk of children taking severe anaphylactic reactions to peanuts we would ask that **NO CHILD** consumes any nut products in school. Please help us make Magherafelt Primary School a **Nut Free Zone**.



Website and Social Media

Please remember to access our school website regularly during the year:

<https://www.magherafeltps.com/>

The website will be updated regularly with, important information and also with work from our pupils.

Another useful point of contact is our FB and Twitter pages. Please give us a like and subscribe at the links below:

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/MagherafeltPS>

FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/MagherafeltPS/>

These pages will be updated with relevant information throughout the year as well.

Due to the rising popularity these social networking sites, staff and Governors have agreed that they will be setting a good example to the children in our school when using these sites.

We also invite parents and guardians of the children in our school to do the same.

The school's Online Safety Policy outlines the conduct expected of staff, parents and pupils.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that if you have any concerns, issues or comments about school, the staff and I are available to speak to you. Such matters should not be discussed on social media sites.

Thank you for your continued support.



Christmas events



We are currently planning to have the following Christmas Events:

P1-3 Nativity - The morning of *Tuesday 14 December 2021*

P4-7 Carol Service - The morning of *Wednesday 15 December 2021*

At this stage we want to make everyone aware of these events and hope you will be able to put these dates in your diary. These are of course subject to change if any of the public health guidance changes.