



The Wee Friday Note

Friday 17th May 2024



“Family is not an important thing. It’s everything.” ~ Michael J. Fox

1. School Office

Thank you for your patience as we continue to rely on our automated telephone answering system more than usual. Remember, SeeSaw is also a great way to contact your child’s teacher during school hours. Thank you.

2. P7 Year 8 School Placements

We want to wish all our P7 pupils the very best of luck as they receive their Year 8 school placements this weekend. They have all worked incredibly hard over the past number of years and we wish them well. However, there is still a number of weeks left to enjoy our P7 year! Remember, it’s not about the school you receive the place for, it’s how hard you work when you get there! 😊

3. Advance notice of POSSIBLE disruption to the normal operation of school due to Industrial Action (school support staff), Monday 20th to Wednesday 22nd June

4. Parent Questionnaire for school’s 2024-27 development plan

We regularly ask staff, pupils and parents for their views on things. So far, only about 40% of parents have responded to the recent survey that was sent out via school text message. For a little extra encouragement to participate: all parents who complete the survey will have their names put into a draw for a bottle of bubbles and a box of chocolates! The survey will automatically close this Sunday evening. The winning parent will be announced next week.

5. Parent Governors 2024-2028

We will soon be holding elections to appoint two new Parent Governors. More information about the process, which will hopefully be completed before the end of May will be shared soon. In the meantime, please read the following information and consider whether this is a responsibility that you would be willing to undertake 2024-2028:

Roles and Responsibilities of Boards of Governors

The implementation of the Education Reform Order (NI) 1989 increased the responsibilities of Boards of Governors, and these now cover an extremely wide range of roles and functions. The Board of Governors is responsible for the implementation of policy decisions covering a wide range of educational and professional issues. The undernoted is by no means an exhaustive listing of the main responsibilities of Boards of Governors but is indicative of the main responsibilities and functions to be covered.

The following responsibilities are carried out in conjunction with, and with the approval of the Education Authority (EA):

(a) **Curriculum** - ultimately the Board of Governors is responsible for ensuring that the statutory curriculum is delivered, and that the quality of education provided by the school, including the assistance given to the development of pupils, is satisfactory.

(b) **Employment** - the EA is the statutory employer of teaching and non-teaching staff. Boards of Governors have the primary role to ensure that the normal employment matters are addressed at school level. These include:

- Appointments and Promotions
- Discipline and Grievance Management
- Development of Staff
- Health and Safety

(c) **Enrolments and Admissions** - the Board of Governors is required to determine the admissions criteria which will be applied by the school in considering applications from parents/guardians, taking into account the communities served by the school. Additionally, the Board of Governors may be required to develop a number of strategies to promote the school in order to secure a satisfactory level of admission

(d) **Pastoral Care** - the Board of Governors is required to ensure that the individual school policies meet the needs of pupils attending the school. When necessary, it will be the responsibility of the Board of Governors to ensure that the Discipline Policy is applied and where necessary, the Suspension and Expulsion Scheme applied.

(e) **Financial Management** - the implementation of the LMS Scheme by the EA devolves to governors' responsibility for the financial management of the school in accordance with procedures and guidelines determined by EA. The Boards of Governors also has responsibility for developing and implementing a Salary Policy.

(f) **Annual Reports** - under Article 125 and 126 of the Education Reform (NI) Order 1989 it is the responsibility of the Board of Governors to prepare an Annual Report.

(g) **School Development Plans** - the Board of Governors shall prepare, and from time-to-time revise, a School Development Plan, considering any guidance given by the Department of Education, EA and (in the case of a Catholic Maintained School) the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools. Consideration must also be given to the findings of any inspection of the school.

(h) **Pupil Discipline** - the Board of Governors shall ensure that policies designed to promote good behaviour and discipline on the part of its pupils are pursued at the school and to make, and from time-to-time review, a written statement of general principles.

(i) **Pupil Suspension and Expulsion** - the Board of Governors shall ensure that a scheme prepared by EA, specifying the procedure to be followed in relation to the suspension or expulsion of pupils from the school and ensure that such a scheme is implemented when necessary. The Board of Governors shall also assist the principal in such a manner as is reasonably necessary to enable him/her to control the internal organisation, management and discipline of the school and provide the principal with such opportunity as may be necessary to enable him/her to express his/her opinion and to make his/her recommendations to the Board of Governors on all matters connected with the school.

The above responsibilities are extensive. As all governors give of their time voluntarily it is appropriate that in fulfilling the main responsibilities Boards of Governors' delegate responsibility to the principal and the senior management team of the school for the completion of much of the work. Boards of Governors receive the support, training, advice and guidance from officers of EA.

6. Bank Holiday & School Closure

Cregagh PS is closed on Monday 27th May for the second May Public Holiday & Tuesday 28th School for Development Day No.5. School will reopen and run as normal on Wednesday 29th May.

7. Staffing for 2024-2025

Next year there will be a few changes in our school teaching staff structure. This is common practice in all schools and is important for staff and whole-school development. Every teacher is qualified to teach every year group. In a small single-year-entry school like ours, a change in teaching structure usually means some children having the same teacher twice within their seven years of school – this is not a bad thing, as relationships that have already been established can be built on from the very start of the new year).

YEAR GROUP	TEACHER
Foundation 1 (P1)	Miss McKendry
Foundation 2 (P2)	Mrs Lyons
P3	Mr Irwin
P4	Mrs Butt
P5	Mr Higginson
P6	Mrs Standley
P7	Mr Larmour
DU 1	Miss Christie
DU 2	Mrs Pearson

*** IMPORTANT FUTURE DATES FOR YOUR DIARY / CALENDAR ***

Wednesday 22nd to Friday 24th May	P7 3-day residential trip to Castlewellan Castle & Outdoor Pursuits Centre
Monday 27th & Tuesday 28th May	CPS closed for May Public Holiday & School Development Day No.5
Thursday 30th May	PSA Summer Fiesta BBQ & Fun, 5-7pm
Friday 31st May	Sports Day (7th June is our reserve date should the 31 st be wet)
Wednesday 5th & Thursday 6th June	School Musical: <i>Robin & the Sherwood Hoodies</i>
Thursday 20th June	Final Assembly & Prize Distribution
Friday 21st June	Foundation Stage (P1 & P2) Prize Morning
Friday 21st June	PSA Disco (P1 – P4 6pm-7pm) (P5 – P7 7:15pm – 8:15pm)
Tuesday 25th June	P7 final day of school (normal 3pm finish)
Wednesday 26th June	P7 Awards Evening at Mount Merrion Parish Church
Friday 28th June	Final day of school. Uniform-free day. 12 noon finish



REMEMBER – SUNSCREEN ON HOT SUNNY DAYS!