

# CREGAGH PRIMARY SCHOOL & DEAF UNIT

• Aspire • Believe • Belong • Achieve •

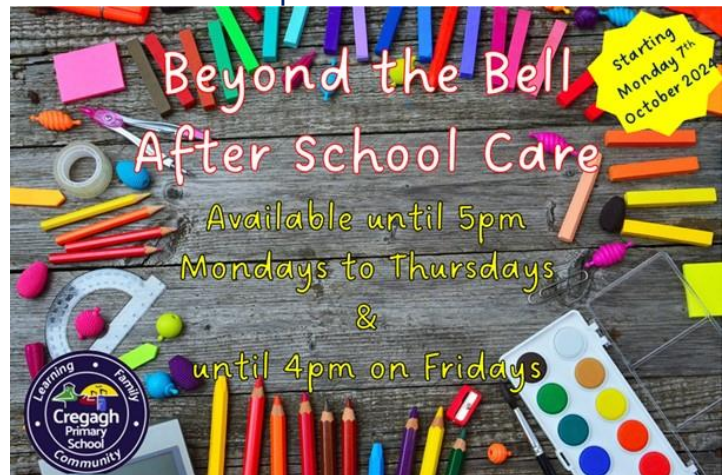


"Our kids can do so much more than we let them. Our culture of fear has kept this truth from us. They are like racehorses stuck in the stable."  
(Prof. Jonathan Haidt)

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2024

## 1. Wrap-around (before and after school) care

We are going to pilot after-school care between now and the New Year to see how it goes. We are aiming for it to start at the beginning of this October. Breakfast Club now starts earlier (8am instead of 8:15am to help working parents especially). This means that from the start of October, we can offer 'wrap-around care' from 8am to 5pm Mondays-Thursdays and 8am to 4pm on Fridays (term-time only). The cost to parents will be £5 per hour. Booking and payment will be online; just like how school dinners etc are booked and paid for.



## 2. Notice of school's early closure on Wednesday 25th September

Cregagh Primary School & Deaf Unit will **close at 1pm for all pupils on the Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September** to facilitate important staff training that cannot take place at another time. Apologies for any inconvenience this may cause but all children will benefit from the school staff undergoing this training.

## 3. School Fund

School fund remains unchanged at £20 per family for the school year. School fund is a really important source of income for our school and enables us to provide 'nice' things for the children that we otherwise could not do.

## 4. Parent School Association (PSA)

If you would like to join with other mums and dads in helping support our school in practical ways, why not join Cregagh Primary's PSA? If you'd like to know more about this, let Miss Murphy in the office know and she will get some information to you 😊

## 5. Have you changed your contact number recently?

Don't forget to let Miss Murphy (school secretary) know if you change your telephone number or home address. We can't contact you in an emergency if we don't have your most up-to-date details!

## 6. Healthy breaks

- Mondays through to Thursdays – children must bring in a healthy, non-sugary snack for break.
- Fridays – children can bring in a sweet treat if they wish but this still needs to be a proper snack such as a muffin, an iced finger bun, a biscuit or small chocolate bar; not a handful of boiled sweets or chews.
- Drinks – the best drink your child can have is water. Children may also bring in diluted juice. However, energy drinks, high-sugar drinks or caffeinated drinks are **not** permitted and will be removed and sent home to parents after school is over. It is important that all parents teach their children to follow simple and sensible school rules and check that they are bringing the type of snacks and drinks to school. Thank you for your support with this.
- Remember – Cregagh PS & Deaf Unit is a Nut Free School (because of allergies)

## 7. Applying for Free School Meals (2024-25)

When working out school budgets, government takes into consideration how many children in a school are **entitled** to free school meals (not the same thing as, how many children actually take them!) If you are entitled to free school meals, please do register for them with the EA (Education Authority) as this is the only way we can receive the additional funding available. It really does make a significant difference to the amount of money we have to spend to benefit the children.

If you need help or advice with applying or you want to know could you be eligible, speak to Miss Murphy in the school office or phone school on 028 90 401246.

### Applying for Free School Meals & Uniform Allowance

If you require help...  
[www.eani.org.uk/fsm](http://www.eani.org.uk/fsm)  
028 9041 8044  
[mealsanduniform@eani.org.uk](mailto:mealsanduniform@eani.org.uk)

- 1. Are you eligible?**

You must be:

  - in receipt of a qualifying benefit OR
  - be an Asylum Seeker supported by the Home Office Asylum Support Assessment Team (ASAT).

**Qualifying Benefits:**

  - Income Support;
  - Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance;
  - Income Related Employment and Support Allowance;
  - Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit;
  - Child Tax Credit or Working Tax Credit with an annual taxable household income of £16,190 or less;
  - Universal credit and have net household earnings not exceeding £15,000 per year.
- 2. What documentation do you need?**

You will be asked to upload proof that you are receiving a qualifying benefit:

  - Tax Credits Award Notice
  - Universal Credit Payments breakdown or
  - Proof of Benefit letter (if you are in receipt of Income Support, Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance, Income Related Employment and Support Allowance or the Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit).
- 3. What else do you need?**
  - National Insurance Number
  - Children's names
  - Dates of Birth
  - Schools they will be attending
  - Address
  - E-mail and telephone number
  - Bank or building society account and sort code details.
- 4. Where do you apply?**

Apply for Free School Meals and Uniform Allowance for the new school year beginning September, through the Education Authority's online portal, EA Connect. If you haven't already registered an EA Connect account, it's quick and easy to do. Information can be found on the EA website.
- 5. What happens next?**

We aim to process applications within 4 weeks. However, in the busy period of June to September, this can take up to 5 weeks. Please do not contact EA for an update on your application within the 5 weeks of submitting your application. If you have provided incorrect or insufficient supporting documentation, you will receive a tailored email advising you to resubmit your application with details of the correct documentation you need to provide.

You will receive an email from EA once your application has been approved and processed.

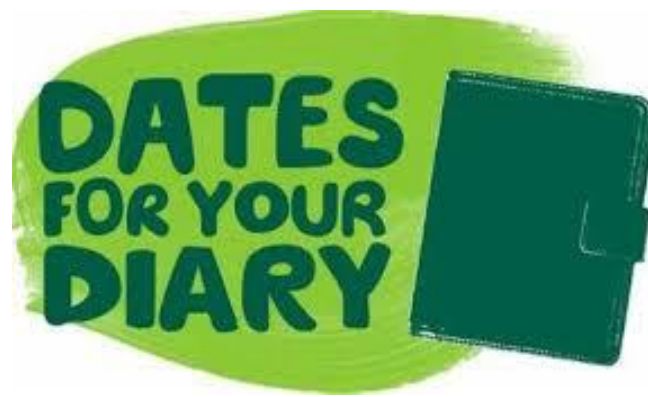
 

You can find out more by scanning this QR code with your mobile phone or tablet.



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<b>Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September</b>	Breakfast Club starts opening at the earlier time of 8am
<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September</b>	After-school clubs (hockey, football, etc) restart
<b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September</b>	School closes early for all children on this day at 1pm to facilitate important staff training
<b>Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September</b>	PSA Bingo Night
<b>Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November</b> (evening)	PSA Christmas Market
<b>Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December</b> (morning)	Christmas Nativity at Mount Merrion Parish Church Details TBC.
<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> December</b> (evening)	P4 to P7 Christmas Carol Service at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. Details TBC.



School Open Evening	December	New (preschool) children & existing CPS pupils
Breakfast with Santa	December	Preschoolers & CPS P1 & P2 children

