



December 2021 Newsletter



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Principal: Mrs. Mary Bacheta

Dear families and friends

I hope everyone is doing well. I am ahead of schedule for our December Newsletter but I wanted to share our upcoming events in good time.

As we are working towards our ECO Flag we try not send out paper copies of newsletters. The information we need you to know is sent out via the website on a regular basis. Please keep a close eye on this platform to ensure you are always up to date. This newsletter contains more general information and reminders for the whole school community.

Please keep it and make a note of the arrangements for December.

Santa says it is 31 more sleeps until he arrives-how cool is that!



REMINDER SCHOOL CLOSURES

1. School is **closed on Monday 29th November 2021**. We return on Tuesday 30th November.

2. School will close for our Christmas holidays on **Wednesday 22nd December 2021 at 12 noon**. Children return to school on **Wednesday 5th January 2022**.

COVID UPDATE

Unfortunately, similar to other schools and the local community, we are experiencing a rise in covid cases within our school. This is disappointing as we were doing so well. There is no doubt that the virus is more easily spread and can go undetected for a few/number of days which means more people are becoming infected.

I am confident that this will pass and we send our good wishes to anyone who is sick or unwell. We have received calls in relation to vulnerable family and staff members in our school community. Please help us to protect everyone by observing COVID advice and guidelines.

Remain vigilant for signs and symptoms of COVID-19.

Do not send your child to school if they have COVID symptoms such as:

- a high temperature
- a new continuous cough
- loss of or change to their sense of taste or smell

We will contact you if your child becomes sick during the school day.

If your child has COVID-19 symptoms:

Book your child a PCR test as soon as possible.

He/she should isolate until you get the result. If it is negative he/she can carry on as normal and return to school as long as they are well (no fever for 48 hours).

If it is positive he/she should isolate for 10 days. You will receive further information by text message and a contact tracing call from the PHA.

You should advise us that your child has tested positive.

Please refer to information sheet for parents/carers sent out last week.

325 CLUB NEWS

I wanted to let you know that due to the increase in COVID cases, we are experiencing staff absences which may affect the availability of this club.

I want to alert you in advance that there may be occasions when I have to cancel this club at late notice. This will happen if there is insufficient staff to supervise it safely. We are currently experiencing difficulty with this and I am concerned that it will continue over the winter months.

On days when there is adverse weather such as snow/icy conditions, this club may also need to be cancelled. Safety has to be at the forefront.

REMINDER: Prompt collection at 4.00pm and 5.00pm is expected.

There will be no 325 Club on the 9th December 2021 due to staff training.

Last day for 325 club this term is Friday 17th December 2021.

DAILY MILE SANTA RUN 3rd DECEMBER 2021

We have registered for NI DOES THE DAILY MILE SANTA RUN on Friday 3rd December.

The Daily Mile encourages children to have fun, socialize with friends and get active in a non-competitive environment. Get the Christmas jumpers/hats/hairbands etc on for this event.

FRIENDS OF CHAPEL ROAD PS

The Friends of Chapel Road PS have secured a wide range of prizes and are now seeking your support with their **BIG CHRISTMAS DRAW**. A draw sheet will be sent home with the eldest child in the family this week. Additional sheets can be requested.

All monies raised will go towards supporting the children with various events and trips

throughout the school year. A special thank you to all who donated prizes, we are very grateful.

If you feel you would like to join the committee, please contact the office on 028 71341419 and we will pass on your details.

CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES

Here at Chapel Road we have tried to return to as many pre-covid practices as possible whilst still keeping safety measures in place. Due to the ongoing regulations for schools and the rising numbers in the community, our Christmas performances will be shared digitally with you. The date for this is to be confirmed but what we can promise is that you will be able to sit back, put your feet up and enjoy the good cheer and wonderful singing from all at CRPS.

The P4-P7 children will present a beautiful Carol Service from the chapel.

The P1-P3 children will present a fabulous Nativity for you.

Our school is alive with the sound of music and it has put us all in the mood for Christmas.

FLU VACCINATION

There will be a mop up for the flu vaccination on Wednesday 15th December 2021. We will facilitate this service in the school for any child who missed the flu vaccination.

CAN YOU HELP WITH OUR FOOD ADVENT CALENDARS?

Who doesn't love an advent calendar! Especially if it is full of your favourite treats.

Well this year, I think we would just be happy if we could get the world back to a safe place. As a school we are very conscious of the suffering and hardship that some families have endured over the last year and a half. For many reasons, families and friends in our school and wider community have faced difficulties that have been unavoidable.

We are asking you to send an item of food (non-perishable) to school so that we can make up food parcels for anyone who may need a helping hand.

There is no pressure but if you feel that you can help, just send it in with the children **on or before Wednesday 15th December.**

Examples of items include:

Tinned food

Pasta

Tea

Coffee

Biscuits

Cereal

Festive treats

Rice

Toothpaste/toiletries

Hand soap



Please also contact us confidentially if a food parcel would help your family get through the Christmas period or if you know a family that would benefit.

CHRISTMAS DINNER IN SCHOOL-WEDNESDAY 8th DECEMBER 2021

Our ANNUAL Christmas dinner is planned for **Wednesday 8th December 2021**. If are not in receipt of free school meals and you wish your child to have Christmas dinner, please send in £2.60 in a sealed envelope on or before **Friday 3rd December**. This will allow the kitchen to secure numbers.

Children can come to school wearing their Christmas jumper/clothes/ hat/hairband/tinsel to celebrate. As always this is optional-some children prefer the routine of the school uniform.

There should be no pressure on anyone but the option is there if you wish.

CHRISTMAS JUMPERS 13th TO 22nd DECEMBER

The children can put the uniforms away until January 2022 and come to school wearing Christmas jumpers/hairbands/hats/tinsel etc from **13th December**. As always this is optional-some children/parents prefer the routine of the school uniform. There should be no pressure on anyone but the option is there if you wish.

ODD SOCKS DAY

Thank you for supporting our School Council's ODD SOCKS DAY. We raised £145 for Children in Need.

CONTACT DETAILS

If you change your contact details including email address, please let Mrs Ashford know as it is even more important than ever that we have your current details.

ADVERSE WEATHER/ SNOW ARRANGEMENTS

Luckily, we do not experience too many days where we feel that we may not be able to open the school or that weather conditions may hinder attendance at school. To put it into context, children are expected to attend 185 school days so we are only talking about a very small number of adverse weather days when conditions may cause us an issue. We try not to dwell on these days but focus on all the other happy days we come to school.

In the event of adverse weather conditions, the most important factor is the Health & Safety of every member of our school community.

To ensure you do not feel under pressure or put anyone in a situation where children or adults are at risk we would encourage you to carefully assess the weather conditions before making the journey to school. We understand that a large number of families including staff live in areas where there are steep hills and untreated roads. We do not want anyone to worry about the journey to school. We also understand that parents and guardians have the added pressure of needing to get to work on time. Unfortunately, we cannot predict or change bad weather but we can offer solutions to help us have a more pleasant experience.

Please note the following:

As far as is possible we will always try to open the school, however, on the rare occasion where it is deemed too dangerous, a message will be sent through the website and on Facebook at the earliest opportunity.

In the event of adverse weather, there is no immediate rush required to get to school. Children will be marked in for the morning session if they arrive in before 10.30am. Just contact the office to let us know.

If you can avoid driving up the hill to the school, please do so as it can be very slippery, especially around school time when traffic is going in both directions. A later arrival will also mean you will miss some of the congestion. A number of parents used the entrance down at Shepherd's Glen last year and they found this an easier route.

Just an additional note on the above: I have tried to get the 'gritter' to come up and salt the hill and have been told that we need to have a larger number of road users to justify this. If you have time, I would encourage you to continue to put pressure on the local MLAs and council to afford us this much needed service.



CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Wednesday 22nd December at 12 noon-return on Wednesday 5th January 2022



FIRST CONFESSION-PRIMARY 4

Thursday 10th March 2022 at 2.00pm



FIRST COMMUNION-PRIMARY 4

Saturday 30th April 2022 at 11.30am in St. Columb's Church, Chapel Road

CONFIRMATION-PRIMARY 7

Sunday 3rd April 2022 (no time confirmed yet)



Thank you for your continued support in all that we do.

Mrs. Bacheta and staff