

ROSEMOUNT PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL



November 2020
NEWSLETTER

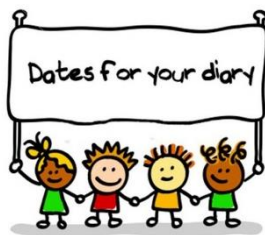
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COVID 19

Anyone who has been in direct contact with a confirmed Covid 19 case should self-isolate for 14 days. Anyone who has been in contact with someone displaying signs or symptoms of Covid 19 should isolate until that person receives a negative result. If your child has signs or symptoms, or tests positive please contact the school immediately using Mr Bradley's email address pbradley571@c2kni.net and keep your child off school. This email address is checked each night and at weekends. If there is a confirmed case within the school, then the 'bubble' that that person belongs to will be asked to stay at home. **A confirmed case will always be reported to the school community via text in the first instance. We will not give out names.** Work will be provided for pupils who have to self-isolate.



Parent Teacher Meetings – Parent teacher meetings have obviously not taken place at the usual time this year - Halloween. Covid 19 will dictate what we can and can't do but it is our intention at this stage to plan for parent teacher meetings in January and February 2021. Strict Covid19 restrictions will be in place for what we hope will be face to face meetings. If any parent has a concern about their child's progress or needs to speak with a teacher, please do not hesitate to contact the office and we will arrange a meeting.



Christmas Events

It will come as no surprise that our usual Christmas activities will be greatly curtailed due to Covid19. We are very keen to make sure that the school is decorated for Christmas as usual and that we can bring some of that Christmas cheer and energy in to the classrooms – we will of course keep you informed and use our social media and other forums to give you a flavour of what is going on. As part of our plans for Christmas the pupils may be asked to bring a Christmas jumper to school on occasions. More information to follow.



Attendance

Lockdown has highlighted like never before the importance of school for the social, emotional, physical and educational well-being of our pupils. A special code is used for pupils who have to isolate due to Covid 19, so that this does not count as an absence. However, while isolating pupils must complete work that has been sent home by the teacher to be considered 'present'. Letters have been sent home to parents of pupils whose attendance is below 85%. In some cases, this level of attendance is perfectly understandable due to exceptional circumstances. If the school is not aware of why attendance is low, please contact the school to keep us informed.

Engage Programme

We are delighted to welcome on to our staff Ms Cara Dooley. We have employed Ms Dooley to work with pupils whose educational attainment has suffered as a result of being off school for a considerable amount of time due to Covid 19 and who would benefit from one to one or small group work in literacy. This is an exciting development for the school, funding for which has been secured until April at least.



Winter Blues.... Please make sure that your child comes to school suitably dressed for the winter months. We like to get the children outside every day if at all possible. We are very proud of how well our pupils look, particularly at events in the community. Please make sure that pupils have the full school uniform to school including black shoes (no fluorescent or multi-coloured footwear please). For Health and Safety reasons pupils should not be wearing earrings to school – a stud earring is permitted.



Christmas Presents - We all love Christmas but it can be a stressful and expensive time of year. We are very aware that these are exceptional times that we live in and many families may be worried about the pressures placed on them this year. Staff do not expect presents at this time of year and have suggested that there are many charities who would benefit from money that is saved in this way.



Christmas Events/Donations –

Many of our usual fund raising routes have dried up due to restrictions in movement and contact. We still have many plans for moving our school forward and providing the very best in terms of resources and facilities for our pupils. Our PTA are planning to hold their usual Christmas draw with lots of excellent prizes on offer. I have no doubt you will support their efforts to raise much needed funds for the school as you always do.

School Minor Works Programme

- The outdoor courtyard has now been developed as a learning area for P1-P3. Here they can act out on the stage, play with construction, water, mini-world characters, they can plant and much, much more - a great resource to help our younger pupils develop their imagination and social skills.
- Taps in all of our toilets have been replaced along with all of the pipe work.
- The centenary garden has been tidied up with the raised beds dismantled and replaced with better ones.
- A new gate has been installed between our playground and St Joseph's playing fields so that we can access and use that area as and when we need to, such as during sports day or football training.
- We are working closely with grounds maintenance to sort out the many puddles we have around our school and to make sure that our drainage system is fit for purpose – a work in progress.

Car Parking

Please be patient and considerate towards other drivers and our neighbours when dropping off and picking up. Our car park is limited in size with no possibility of extension. Having said that Kevin and John have been doing an exceptional job of keeping the traffic moving. Parents who arrive 'on time' can expect to be away within 10 minutes which isn't bad under the circumstances. Please co-operate with the car park stewards and be patient. Try not to arrive too early as this eats up parking space.



Before and After School Clubs

We are continually reviewing this situation and will provide clubs when it is safe to do so.

Homeworks

We depend on parents like never before to make sure that homeworks are completed to a satisfactory standard and are brought in to class on time. Please monitor your child's homework every night.

Staff training

Staff have received training in Google classroom and digital animation. Some members of staff will also be trained in the use of our new 3D printer. This knowledge and expertise will be passed on to our pupils.

Retirement

We wish Mr Hegarty good health and happiness for his retirement after working in our school for more than 30 years. Miss McLaughlin has taken over the role of P5 teacher until the position of Vice Principal is replaced.

Foyle Food Bank

Each year we collect tinned and boxed food items which we donate to the Foyle Food Bank. This year we are all aware that there is an even greater need to support this very worthwhile charity. Any donations of food are greatly appreciated.

**BEST WISHES
ON YOUR
RETIREMENT**