

Weekly Update 9.10.20



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Dear Parents,

We are at the end of another week and I am so grateful we have no positive cases of Covid 19 among our pupils or staff within our school community. I urge you all to please continue to be vigilant regarding the guidelines issued pertaining to social distancing measures, in order to continue to keep our school community as safe as possible at this time.



We are quickly approaching that time of year when we hold our annual Parent teacher meetings. In light of the current pandemic and legislation issued we are not permitted to host face to face meetings. We are intending to communicate with you all via a telephone call. Please find below the schedule when these meetings are to occur:

P1/2 – Monday 2.11.20, Tuesday 3.11.20 and Wednesday 4.11.20
P2/3 – Monday 19.10.20, Tuesday 20.10.20 and Wednesday 21.10.20
P4/5 - Monday 2.11.20, Tuesday 3.11.20 and Wednesday 4.11.20
P.6 - Monday 2.11.20, Tuesday 3.11.20 and Wednesday 4.11.20
P.7 - Monday 2.11.20, Tuesday 3.11.20 and Wednesday 4.11.20

Each class teacher will contact you via Seesaw in the coming weeks, to issue an allocated time for your meeting. We ask you please ensure you are available for your allocated ten minute meeting via telephone.

Please note Miss Doherty is hosting the P2/3 meetings prior to the Halloween break to assist Mrs Mc Cooley's return to her duties as the P2/3 class teacher after Halloween. I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank Miss Doherty who I know will be greatly missed by our students and staff. She has been an absolute pleasure to work alongside and has been a true asset to our school community. We wish her well in all future endeavours.

In order to facilitate each teacher to proceed with these meetings we will change dismissal times of our pupils from Monday 2.11.20, Tuesday 3.11.20 and Wednesday 4.11.20 to the following:

P1/2/3 pupils – Dismissal at 1.45p.m

P4/5/6/7 pupils – Dismissal from 2.00 p.m: P4/5- 2.00p.m, P6 - 2.05p.m and P7 – 2.10p.m.

We ask you to please ensure if your child takes the bus on these dates to make alternative arrangements, due to earlier dismissal times for these days only.

Can we also remind you that during such dismissal times to be cognisant that we are all adhering to social distancing measures at all times, whilst on our school premises.



Our Annual Book Fair will commence on Thursday 15.10.20 and be with us for one week. Mrs Magowan our Literacy coordinator will give you details about the books you can purchase through an online link in due course. We will assign one day for each class group to view/purchase books. All book cases will remain sealed and each afternoon a deep clean will be carried out, following each class visit.



In keeping with raising school spirits in times of such uncertainty, Friends of St. Joseph and St. James's are hosting our annual Halloween festivities, albeit in line with guidelines and social distancing.

Friday 23rd October- Fancy Dress for each class group, including our individual Halloween class discos, timetabled and organised with Anto from Bee Active, to take place in our Parish Hall. We are also hosting our Halloween Art competition. Prizes will be presented to the best Halloween costume and best piece of Art in each class group. **There will be a charge of £2.00 per child and we urge everyone to please get involved and support such a fun filled event.**



Literacy Intervention programme

Over this coming week we will be launching our Literacy Intervention programme for pupils from P4 – P7.

We have worked very hard behind the scenes, with staff members engaging in training and we are delighted to say that Mrs Hamill and Mrs Allen will be leading this programme during this coming term. The programme will involve a period of 5-6 weeks with pupils being withdrawn in small groups whilst maintaining the integrity of each class bubble. We do intend to roll out this programme each term throughout this academic year. If you receive a letter, requesting permission for your child to attend, can we please ask you to email confirmation of your consent to cwadsworth679@c2kni.net. If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact myself or Mrs Magowan our Literacy Coordinator.



We appreciate this is a very worrying time, with the rate of positive cases in N.I. reaching a record high. We urge you to maintain links with myself via email, particularly over the weekend periods. Can we please ask you to ensure if you or a family member within your bubble has to be tested, or have been advised to self isolate, can you please keep us up to date to ensure we put the necessary precautions in place to protect everyone in our school community.

I will ensure I check my email notifications throughout each weekend for the foreseeable.

With your continued diligence, I know for sure we can get through this together.

Wishing you and your families a peaceful weekend.

Yours in partnership

C. Wadsworth