

# Creetown Primary Newsletter

News and Views for 

## Welcome Back

As we come to the end of our first week, children (and staff!) have settled back in to school and are raring to go! We welcome our new pupils in Nursery, P1 and across the school. We also welcome all new members of staff into the school team.

## Staffing

Currently we have 4 classes and the Nursery. Our classes are -

P1/2	Mr M Gorton (Principal Teacher)
P3/4	Miss N Campbell
P5	Mrs S Donley
P6/7	Miss L Hart
Non-Contact Time Teachers	Mrs A McClymont/Miss N McDowell
Support for Learning Teacher	Mrs M Gordon
Nursery Manager	Miss J White

Teaching will of course be ably assisted by:

Mrs A Lochhead	Senior Clerical Assistant
Mrs D Hay	Learning Assistant
Mrs G Muir	Learning Assistant
Mrs P Allison	Playground Supervisor and Facilities Assistant
Mrs S Nichol	Catering Supervisor
Mrs J Warnock	Nursery Nurse
Mrs S Bodle	Nursery Nurse
Mrs N Todd	Nursery Nurse
Miss E Brodie	Nursery Nurse
Miss R McKie	Early Years Support Assistant/Nursery Nurse

## Office Hours

The school office is manned from 9.15am to 2pm on Tuesdays to Fridays. Please leave a message on the answerphone at other times especially if it involves changes in pick-ups for your children. Please note Groupcall messages will not be picked up outwith Mrs Lochhead's hours above. For any non-emergency information please use the school e-mail address – [gw08officecreetown@ea.dumgal.sch.uk](mailto:gw08officecreetown@ea.dumgal.sch.uk)

## P.E.

Class P.E. lessons will be on the following days:

P1/2	-	Wednesday and Friday
P3/4	-	Thursday and Friday
P5	-	Tuesday and Thursday
P6/7	-	Monday and Thursday

One of the more positive alterations during COVID was that children came to school dressed for PE as this enabled more time for the PE lesson. We aim to continue this. However we are aware that for some, changing for PE may be preferred – please let us know if that is the case.

Jewelry must not be worn during PE lessons. Earrings must be removed by the children themselves or where children are unable to remove earrings, parents **must** provide Micropore tape to cover these – school will not provide tape. Children must be able to remove necklaces themselves for P.E. lessons. Hooped earrings must not be worn at any point as these prove to be a health and safety risk to the children.

### **P1 Active Learning and Independence**

In our P1/2 class (and beyond at times), we plan activities which are designed to encourage active learning and independence. From time to time we may use shampoo, shaving foam etc to help with Active Learning. Could you please confirm if your child has any allergies? We are also trying to encourage children to become independent and would be grateful if you could support us at home. Our target is getting changed in and out of our coats/shoes independently and quickly. Please encourage your child to do this for themselves.

### **Annual Data Check / Annual Consents**

***\* RETURN REQUIRED***

Pupils will soon receive the Annual Data Check and consents paperwork which should be checked, amended if necessary and returned to school by return.

### **School Meals**

All children in P1 through to P5 are provided with a free school meal. These are usually ordered online for a 3 weekly rotation. Please let us know if you need any help to set this up.

Children in P6 and P7 are also encouraged to pre-order online. We have information available for anyone who thinks their child may be able to get free school dinners. Let us know and we can point you in the right direction.

### **Water in Class**

May we remind parents that pupils are encouraged to have a water bottle in school however this must be for water only, not juice or flavoured water please.

### **Healthy Snacks**

As you are aware we strongly promote healthy eating within the school. As such we would ask for your support when sending snacks with your children. We would also ask that pupils bring **only 1** snack as some struggle to get time to play. We ask that no fizzy drinks are brought into school at any time and for lollipops not to be brought for safety reasons. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

Mrs Nichol provides a morning snack bar where pupils may purchase:

Toast	24p
Fruit	35p
Yogurt	49p
Milk	21p

### **Nut-Free School**

A reminder to parents that we are a nut free school. It is important that parents/carers ensure that their child/children do not bring anything to school containing nuts in either their snack or packed lunch. This will greatly reduce the risk of accidental contact.

### **Daily Mile**

This involves walking, running, jogging etc for 15 minutes each day in the expectation that most of us will walk a mile a day. The benefits to children's health and wellbeing have been well documented. As such we will be continuing with this initiative throughout this session and will be taking part in the daily mile whenever possible. Ultimately staff will use their discretion regards

weather conditions and make an informed decision as to whether we go outside for the daily mile. However we will be out in wet and windy weather and as such children should be dressed appropriately for weather conditions.

### **Holidays**

As the new session gets under way and parents are perhaps thinking about holidays for the year, can we inform new parents and remind existing ones of the local and national position on taking family holidays during term time. As schools try to ensure continuity of children's learning, all such absences from school are classified as unauthorised because of disruption to teaching and learning. Staff are not obliged to spend time arranging work for children who are taken out of school or to give support on their return to school. It would be appreciated if parents would note the school's and the Authority's position on this matter. **Please see the School Term & Holiday Dates attached.**

### **Administration of Medicines**

Please note that school staff will not administer medicines in school except for those which special training is given by NHS staff. The school office has a form available which you should complete when sending in medicines such as inhalers. Any children who take medicines such as inhalers themselves are supervised by members of staff and parents are notified of the time and dosage. Your doctor should dispense separate inhalers for retention in school and it is the responsibility of parents to ensure that these are renewed each term. Please note that it is parent's responsibility to ensure that all medication kept in school is in date. Parents of children in nursery who have medication kept in the building should check medication monthly in line with Care Inspectorate guidelines. Any parents who have queries about administration of medicines in school should give school a ring.

### **Dress Code**

We continue with our previous approach to school uniform. Members of our parent community are also planning to organize uniform swaps and/or passing on of pre loved uniforms for anyone who wishes to get involved with this. More information will come shortly. Please ensure that your child comes to school in weather appropriate clothing. For PE, it is recommended that gym shoes be worn for participation in gymnastics and dance activities. They allow the children to be more aware of their footing especially on apparatus. Outdoor shoes may not be worn during any indoor PE lessons. Pupils may bring trainers for outdoor PE lessons if they wish. Children should also bring hair bobbles or similar to tie up hair during PE lessons. We recommend that long hair is generally always tied back whilst in school.

***Please remember to mark all belongings (clothing and bags) with your child's name.***

### **Attendance**

Please note that the school day starts at **9.00am**. If pupils are going to be late for any reason parents are asked to telephone ahead to school.

Parents are advised/reminded that if a pupil is absent from school, a call should be made to the school **before 9.30am** so that staff can be sure of the pupil's welfare. If we are unable to find out the reason for a child's absence from school we are obliged to contact the Social Work Department or the Police.

### **End of Day Arrangements**

To ensure the health and safety of all our pupils it is very important that we are aware of any changes to end of day arrangements. Children in P1/2 may only be dropped off and picked up by an adult aged 16 or over. Children in P3 may walk home alone at the written request of parents. Please let the school know promptly if you make any changes to these arrangements. Thank you.

### **School Success**

Please remember that we like to share success so let us know when your children are achieving out-with school.

## **Flu Immunisation**

**\* RETURN REQUIRED**

You will soon receive the Flu Immunisation consent forms for your child(ren). Could you please arrange for completed forms to be returned to the school by the date stated?

## **School Blog/SWAY/Forms**

Our School Blog will be the place to be if you want to keep updated on school events and the learning taking place (Mr Gorton will soon become the new admin of our blog so bear with us!). This is one of the ways we share all school information with our Parents and Carers. Newsletters from the school and children's classes will be uploaded as will the School Improvement Plan and School Handbook. There is also the capability for Parents and Carers to add responses (although these will be submitted subject to the administrator's approval). We use the Blog to showcase aspects of learning taking place in individual classes and across the school. Please check your child's permissions slip when it comes home so that you can give permission for your child to appear on our Blog.

I will continue to make use of SWAY and forms to share information with you and gather your views.

We are also looking into the possibility of a school Twitter account to share quick pictures about learning in class.

## **Opportunities for Parent Involvement in School**

We are hoping that we can reintroduce some of our pre-COVID events into school that give you the opportunity to come in. Please look out for a forms link coming your way that will give us an idea of what you may or may not be interested in being re-introduced.

## **Emergency Procedures**

We will continue to practice our emergency procedures such as Fire Drills and Lockdowns at points throughout the year. Doing this ensures that in the event of a real emergency, all children know what to do in a calm way and helps them to feel safe and secure in school.

Could I please remind Parents that there is no playground supervision until 8.45am each morning? Children who are in the playground prior to this will not be supervised and we recommend that this does not happen.

## **Parking**

Parking at the school can become very crowded at busy times during the day. To ensure children's health and safety during drop off and pick up times please ensure that the double yellow lines are kept free of traffic.

Please be considerate of others in our local community whilst parking close to the school, leaving drives etc clear for local residents.

Parents are reminded that the Head Teacher should be the first port of call regards queries and/or issues which may need resolved. In the Head Teacher's absence then all queries should be addressed by Mr Gorton – Principal Teacher.

So here's to a positive and successful year ahead.

Best Wishes

Joy and the Creetown Team