



Fun in the Snow



Covid/sickness updates



Please continue to look out for Covid symptoms. Symptoms we are currently seeing in school are sore throats, lethargy, cold symptoms, sore eyes and stomach upsets. We have also had cases of pupils being reinfected and children testing positive with no symptoms at all.

Please continue to check your children with regular lateral flow tests and isolate if they get a positive result. You may want to avail of the lateral flow tests kits that can be ordered via the following link- [Order lateral flow tests](#). **If your child is displaying symptoms you should book a PCR test for them and isolate while you await the results.**

We have a limited number of boxes of lateral flow test kits in school, if you would like to collect a box or have a box sent home with your child, please email or telephone Mrs McCluskey in the school office jmccluskey773@c2kni.net

Many of the cases we have had in school, seem to be affecting the whole family. Please be vigilant and we **really appreciate** those families that have decided to isolate all their children, if Covid is in their home. This is preventing the spread of Covid, from their family, to other pupils and staff in school.

If your child is feeling unwell with Covid symptoms or other illnesses please **do not send them to school**, as unwell pupils can spread viruses to other pupils in their class and staff. Absent staff could mean a class closure, if we are unable to get substitute staff.

The staff will continue to provide work packs or daily activities via Google Classroom, or the school website, for those children who are isolating due to Covid and are well enough to work from home. Please request this from your child's teacher or via the school office. We do not expect children who are ill to be completing work. Please remember that the class teacher may be still teaching a class, so it will be later in the afternoon before they would be able to post tasks for individual pupils isolating.

Reminder- please notify me by email of any positive cases jmcmillan521@c2kni.net

I hope everyone continues to stay well as we try to get through this current rise in cases.

For the latest Covid information, please click on the following links:

[Covid 19 information hscni](#)

[NI Direct Covid 19 information](#)

Please remember to wear a mask at drop off, pick up times and around school, thank you.



Uniform

The education minister has stated that opening windows is the most effective way of ventilating classrooms. We have the windows in all classrooms and the hall open, to allow ventilation throughout the day. Our heat is on (apart from today as we have had a problem with the boiler, hopefully this will be resolved this afternoon) and most of it therefore disappears out the window. On cold days there can be a noticeable drop in the temperature in the classroom. It might be a good idea to put an extra layer underneath pupils' shirts, a thermal, skin or t-shirt and tights for girls would be advisable. Pupils may also wear their school hoodie or their school coat, in class, over their school jumper if they need to on cold days. The staff have also been putting on extra layers.

After School Activities

Due to the expected rise in Covid cases and the difficulties with the January weather, we did not plan any after school activities for January/early February.

In term one we tried our best to have our afterschool activities outside, trying to limit the spread of infection while playing sport.

We also wanted to limit the number of visitors/coaches in school over Jan/Feb and we predicted a drop in staffing due to Covid at the start of the year. We have had a significant number of pupil Covid cases and a lot of staff absence, so our forward planning was a good decision.

We hope to start our after school activities programme again after half term.

Due to Covid restrictions, we are not able to arrange hockey, football and netball matches against other schools yet, we hope this will return late term 2/3.

We were delighted that the children were still able to compete at the cross country competition.

Pupils are still getting a wide variety of activities during their PE time in their class bubbles and are participating in the daily mile scheme and swimming (P5-7).



We endeavour to do our best to keep classes open with sufficient staff. This is very difficult, as substitute staff are very hard to find at the moment and all schools are experiencing the same problems. I am very grateful to our staff, who have covered for each other in many ways and have taken on other jobs/roles to keep our school open and operational for pupils. Our aim will always be to try to keep pupils in school but when cases in P1 increased to 50% of the class testing positive, we had to move to remote learning to try to keep our school community safe. This is difficult for the staff and I am very grateful to them for the many hours they put in preparing work for children who are isolating.

Menu changes

There have been a number of disruptions to deliveries in the kitchen but the staff are doing their best to cook what is on the menu each day.

There have also been staff absences in the kitchen but we are thankful that they have still managed to provide a hot meal for our pupils every day.

School Dinners



Parent Teacher meetings

Will take place week **7th-11th March**. We will be in touch with further information about the format of these nearer to the time.



ParentPay

This will be our new online payment scheme for school meals, after school clubs and trips. This is being set up for our school at the moment and staff are undergoing training. I will be in touch with further details about how parents set this payment system up on their phones/laptops etc. and the date that the online system will be going live.

Nursery and P1 Admission

If you are looking to apply for a nursery or P1 place for your child for September 2022 please see the information below and click on the link for further advice as to how to apply. Online applications should be placed between **10th-23rd January**.

<https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions/applying-for-a-school-place>

School Admissions 2022/23			
Information for parents/guardians			
Please see below key dates in admissions for year 2022/23. For parents/guardians the first date of note is the publishing of admissions criteria of schools on the EA website.			
	Pre-School	Primary	Post-Primary
STEP ONE Admissions Criteria Published on Website	17 Dec 2021	17 Dec 2021	12 Jan 2022
STEP TWO Online Applications Open	10 Jan 2022	10 Jan 2022	1 Feb 2022
STEP THREE Online Applications Close	28 Jan 2022	28 Jan 2022	23 Feb 2022
STEP FOUR Notifications of Applications Outcome	28 April 2022 Stage One 16 June 2022 Stage Two	28 April 2022	21 May 2022
For more information on the admissions process please visit www.eani.org.uk/admissions			

P7 Transfer

Parents have the right to express preferences for the schools they would like their child to attend, but no child can be guaranteed a place in any school or any particular type of school. It is strongly recommended that when applying, you should list at least four preferences and you may need to nominate more than four schools if the schools you are nominating are normally oversubscribed. You should include at least one non grammar school. Click on the link to take you to the EA website for further information:

<https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions/post-primary-admissions-guide>

P7 online applications open 1st-23rd February.

Remember **AQE results** will be issued on **Saturday 5th February 2022**

If anyone has any questions with regards to your post primary application, please telephone school or contact Mrs Allen or myself.

IEPs

Individual education plans have been sent home today with those pupils who are on the SEN register and have targets set for them. Please check your child's school bag today.

PTA

The PTA are continuing to meet monthly, via Zoom, to plan activities for our pupils.

Their next meeting is **Wednesday 2nd March at 7pm**. Look out for the message and request a Zoom link if you would like to come along and join the great group of parents that are raising funds for all the pupils in school. The PTA have recently purchased another interactive panel for the P2/3 classroom and this will be installed next month. These panels make such a difference to the way your child is taught. Please view the video on your child's Google Classroom page to see the digital leaders explain the difference it makes in their classroom.

Cash for Clobber collection- a new bin is located at the side of the school. Please continue to deposit bags of clothes, shoes, curtains, towels, sheets and blankets. The PTA earns funds each time the bin is emptied.



PTA were planning to host a **family quiz** on **Thursday 10th February**. Please complete the form to express your intention to attend. We will be in touch with further information <https://forms.gle/Dt7gHafXvsEUfVvv6>

Red Day- Friday 11th February

The PTA have planned a '**Red Day**'. Pupils can wear red and bring £2, they will get a valentine treat bag and have some fun fitness activities outside.



Swimming

The last swimming session for P6/7 will be Friday 28th Jan.

The first session for P5/6 will be Friday 4th February.

Student Teachers

We are delighted to have two Stranmillis student teachers working in school this year.

Miss Grimley will be teaching P2/3 & P5/6 and Miss Wilson will be teaching in P6/7.

Both students will be working alongside the teacher and will be completing a block practice in the classes from Monday 21st February to 8th April.

Children's Mental Health Week 7-11th February

During this week we will be promoting the importance of looking after your mental health with our whole school community.

WHEN?

Safer Internet Day takes place every February



Safer Internet Day- 8th February

All classes will be completing class activities around the theme of staying safe while using the internet.

Cross Country Final- Thursday 24th February

Best wishes to Annabel, Jesse and Harvey who have qualified for the NI Flahavan's Cross Country Final at Mallusk, Belfast.



Holiday Reminder

Half term- school will be closed 14th-18th February

Thank You to the P7 Class of 2021

We were delighted to receive our seat from the P7 class of 2021. There was a big delay in getting it ordered, processed and finally delivered. Our pupils have already enjoyed stopping for a chat on the bench with their friends at break and lunchtimes. Thank you very much 2021 P7s.



Contractors on site



This week there will be contractors working on the area to the left of the gate. There may be reduced parking as they have vans and machinery. Please ensure that your child stays with you when leaving school, until they reach your car, as there will be a number of lorries, diggers and other machinery on site.

Thank you for your continued support to the staff and myself. As always if you have a worry or a concern, please contact your child's teacher or myself.

J McMillan
Principal