

TOREAGH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Please remember: Stay Safe. Think of others.



Should your child or member of your family have any of the Covid symptoms, they should be tested and consequently follow the PHA guidance.

Remember if anyone in your house is being tested or has symptoms, you should NOT send your child to school.

Severe Weather Guidance for Parents

As we move into the winter months, the potential for severe weather increases. There have been prolonged periods of frost and snow in recent years which have had an impact on the day to day running of some services. The following advice is designed to help you know how school will deal with such eventualities this incoming year.

In the event of severe weather, Toreagh PS will endeavour to remain open unless we cannot operate safely and effectively or that the risks of continuing to operate are such that it is in the best interests of the pupils, staff and parents to close. The decision as to whether to stay open or closed is a difficult one for a school to make and is not taken lightly. While we appreciate school closure may be an inconvenience to parents/carers, safety is our priority and we ask for your understanding in this.

The nature of the climate in Northern Ireland means that weather conditions can change and develop very rapidly and decisions about school closure are often taken at short notice. We do our best to make the right judgement call and inform parents as quickly as possible. If we do have to close, we will be informing you by text.

Primary One Admissions 2021

Information will be placed on the website later this week. This will include a video tour of the school, the prospectus and important dates. In the light of circumstances this year, it is also my intention to have a zoom call with new families to the school, in order to answer any questions parents might have.



Christmas

It is great to see the Christmas trees being put up in the classrooms. The children are starting to get excited, which is wonderful.

Christmas Emails Week beginning 7th December

The children will be unable to send cards to each other or their teacher this year. However, if your child wants to send a little message to the whole class or teacher, why not send an email. Address it to your child's teacher. The teacher can then show these to the class.

Christmas Jumper Day Friday 11th December

The children can wear a Christmas jumper/ bright jumper to school. Tracksuit bottoms/ leggings and trainers may also be worn. Unfortunately, Christmas headgear eg. reindeer antlers etc should not be worn. Remember to wear a coat! Hopefully this will bring a bit of Christmas cheer to us all.



Christmas Video and Charity

Each class is working on their song/poem for our Christmas video. We hope to have this on the website by Friday 11th December.

In the past many parents have very generously given their child's class teacher/classroom assistant a Christmas gift. Although this was always very much appreciated, this Christmas season we are encouraging a donation to our charity instead of purchasing a 'teacher' gift.

If you would like to donate to our charity, please send your donation in an envelope either tomorrow or next Thursday. Thank you.

Diary Dates

Friday 18th December 2020

School will close for Christmas Holiday. Pick up times will be on next week's note.

Monday 21st – Friday 1st January 2021

Christmas Holidays

Monday 4th January 2021

Term 2 School commences at the usual start times.

Thursday 7th January 2021

P1 applications open at 12 noon on Education Authority website.

AQE Test Dates

Saturday 9th January 2021

Saturday 16th January 2021

Saturday 23rd January 2021

Friday 29th January 2021

P1 online applications close at 12 noon.

Other Information

Department of Health and Social Care Trust

Phone First Service Northern Trust is designed for patients, including children, who are feeling unwell and considering travelling to Antrim Area Hospital Emergency Department,

Causeway Hospital Emergency Department or Mid Ulster Minor Injury Unit with an injury or illness which requires urgent treatment but is not immediately life threatening.

When you call the 'Phone First' service your condition, or that of the person you are calling on behalf of, will be clinically assessed and arrangements made for you to access the most appropriate service to your needs. This may mean offering you an appointment at the Emergency Department or Minor Injuries Unit, organising further investigations or redirecting you to your local GP or GP Out of Hours.

The Phone First service will improve patient safety in terms of preventing overcrowding and reducing long waits in our Emergency Departments. It will also help reduce the risk of Covid-19 infection and transmission.

The services operate on a 24/7 basis and is available by calling 0300 123 1 123 or using the Interpreter Now App.

We would encourage you, if you have reason to seek urgent care, to please 'Phone First' if the condition is not life threatening. If the situation is critical or life threatening

C L Morrow
Principal