

TOREAGH PRIMARY SCHOOL

Child Protection/Safeguarding Team

Designated Teacher: Miss Morrow (lmorrow225@c2kni.net)
Deputy Designated Teacher: Mrs Wells (ywells497@c2kni.net)
School Governor: Mrs H Apsley (brian_apsley@fastmail.co.uk)



Christmas Post Box

Monday 12th, Tuesday 13th & Wednesday 14th December 2022

Due to popular demand the Christmas Post Box has been extended. Name and class should be written clearly on envelopes. The post box will be in the front hall. P7 children will be our special delivery elves.

Wednesday 14th December

P1 Child Health Scheme Medical with School Nurse.

Parents who are attending this appointment, should meet Mrs Wilson at the front door.

Rehearsal for Christmas Concert Thursday 15th December

Rehearsal for Church Service in Raloo Presbyterian Church Hall.

Children should be left off at 9.00am at the church. **Rehearsal will finish & children should be collected from the church hall. P1 – P3 1.50pm P4 – P7 2.00pm.**

Children who get a free school meal will receive a packed lunch on this day.

No school folders required only break & lunch with a drink in a disposable named bag. NO FIZZY DRINKS OR GLASS BOTTLES.

P1 – P7 children should bring a book or magazine to read during rehearsal. (No electronic devices).



Christmas Concert

Friday 16th December 10.15am – 11.15am at Raloo Presbyterian Church Hall.

Children should arrive at the Church Hall at normal school time 9.00am doors opening at 8.45am. **NO SCHOOL BAGS, LUNCH BOX OR BREAK REQUIRED.**

P1 – P3 should arrive dressed in their costume / Christmas jumper (reference- letter from Mrs Wells, Mrs Robson & Mrs Kincaid).

P4 – P7 should arrive dressed in Christmas jumper, tracksuit trousers/leggings.

After the concert, children should be collected from the hall at approximately 11.15am.

In line with our Child Protection and GDPR policies please only take photographs of your own children. Please be careful what you put on social media sites. It is important we keep our children safe.

Group photographs will be available to view on the website.



This year our chosen charity is Angel Wishes supporting all children throughout Northern Ireland with cancer related conditions.

We will have a 'collection bucket' at our Christmas Concert, where you may give a donation.

Monday 19th December 2022

Children will be doing their Daily Mile.

Tuesday 20th December 2022

Christmas Party Day

Children may come to school in their own clothes/ Christmas jumper and sensible shoes, but please wear a coat as we may be outside at break time.

Wednesday 21st December 2022

Fun Day

School will close for Christmas. Pick up times: P1 – P3 12 noon

P4 – P7 12.10pm

Lunch

As a lot of our children are forgetting their water bottle and a spoon for their jelly or yoghurt, please try to remember these items.

Continue to be vigilant with regards to the symptoms of Strep A, Scarlet Fever and Covid.
YOUR CHILD SHOULD NOT ATTEND SCHOOL IF THEY ARE FEELING UNWELL.
We would appreciate your support with this matter.

C L Morrow
Principal

9.12.2022

Public Health Agency Press Release issued on 6 December 2022

Public urged to be alert to signs of group A strep

Parents and guardians are being urged to be alert for the signs of group A streptococcal (GAS) infections by the Public Health Agency (PHA).

Group A streptococcus bacteria usually cause a mild infection producing sore throats or scarlet fever that can be easily treated with antibiotics. In very rare circumstances, these bacteria can get into the bloodstream and cause serious illness – called invasive Group A strep (iGAS).

As well as an increase in notifications of scarlet fever, which is above the levels we usually see at this time of year, the PHA is also aware of a higher number of cases of iGAS being reported across the UK.

While iGAS is still uncommon, it is important that parents are on the lookout for symptoms of illnesses caused by group A streptococcus bacteria and seek medical advice so that their child can be treated appropriately and to help prevent the infection becoming serious.

What to do if you suspect your child has scarlet fever

Scarlet fever mainly affects children under 10, but people of any age can get it. In the early stages, symptoms include a sore throat, headache, and fever, along with a fine, pinkish or red body rash with a sandpapery feel. On darker skin, the rash can be more difficult to detect visually but will have a sandpapery feel.

The PHA is asking parents to contact their GP if they suspect their child has scarlet fever, because early treatment with antibiotics is important to reduce the risk of complications such as pneumonia or a bloodstream infection.

Dr Joanne McClean, Director of Public Health at the PHA, said: “Scarlet fever usually clears up after about a week, but anyone who thinks they or a child may have it should contact a GP for a diagnosis and appropriate treatment.

“To limit the spread of scarlet fever it is also important to practise good hygiene by washing hands with warm water and soap, not sharing drinking glasses or utensils, and covering the nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing. People should also stay away from nursery, school or work for 24 hours after taking the first dose of antibiotics.”

Don't put off seeking help if your child continues to get worse

There can be a range of causes of sore throats, colds and coughs. These should resolve without medical intervention. However, children can on occasion develop an infection and that can make them more unwell.

The PHA is also urging parents to seek help if their child is very unwell or seems to be getting worse – even if they have started treatment. Parents should contact their GP if they feel:

- their child is getting worse;
- their child is feeding or eating much less than normal;

- their child has had a dry nappy for 12 hours or more or shows other signs of dehydration;
- their baby is under 3 months and has a temperature of 38°C, or is older than 3 months and has a temperature of 39°C or higher;
- their baby feels hotter than usual when they touch their back or chest, or feels sweaty;
- their child is very tired or irritable.

Call 999 or go to the Emergency Department if:

- your child is having difficulty breathing – you may notice grunting noises or their tummy sucking under their ribs;
- there are pauses when your child breathes;
- your child's skin, tongue or lips are blue;
- your child is floppy and will not wake up or stay awake.

Dr McClean continued: "The PHA has issued an urgent message to all primary and secondary care healthcare providers alerting them to increases in group A streptococcal infection. Acting quickly if you suspect anyone has this infection could make a difference to the outcomes."

For further information on scarlet fever, visit www.pha.site/ScarletFever

Rises in recent cases of invasive group A streptococcus across the UK may be due in part to more social mixing, which may also result in other illnesses circulating at the same time. The PHA would therefore urge everyone eligible for the free flu vaccine to get it at the earliest opportunity. In particular we would urge parents of all pre-school children aged two years and over and those aged 6 months to 2 years who are in risk groups to avail of the free flu vaccine.

Find out who is eligible for the winter vaccines and where to get vaccinated see www.nidirect.gov.uk/wintervaccines