



Cranmore Integrated Primary and Nursery School Newsletter- September 2024

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[Check out our school website](#)

Welcome Back

It is hard to believe that the summer is now behind us and we have started another new school year. All the staff hope you have had a lovely holiday (with at least a little sunshine) and are as excited about our new school year as we are.

We are delighted to welcome all of our new families including those in Nursery and Primary 1 and several other families throughout the school. This year we are delighted to have welcomed our largest ever number of pupils back to Cranmore which demonstrates the faith that parents have in our staff and in our integrated ethos. Moving forward the Board of Governors want to look at how we can continue to grow our school further and if possible create more places within our school.

Most of you will already know that important and useful information such as the holiday list, School Meal Menus and general information can be found on the school website at www.cranmoreips.co.uk. You will also received regular updates via SeeSaw and the school Facebook page. Can I just take the opportunity to remind you that if there are any issues or concerns regarding your child these should in the first instance be addressed with the class teacher. Opportunities to speak with the class teacher can be arranged by contacting the school office on 028 90 664410.

We are all aware of the difficulties that ongoing civil unrest has had in communities across our city but we want to reiterate that as an integrated school we are a shared space for everyone, all of our families are treated with respect and fairness. This year we are seeking to renew our Excellence in Integration Award and we want to maintain and build on our collective responsibility to 'The Cranmore Way' to ensure that are children are safe, happy and provided with the best of educational opportunities.

We hope that everyone has now received their uniforms and that children will wear their uniform with pride. Children are very settled this week and are to be congratulated on making a great start to what will undoubtedly be another successful school year.

Kind regards

Mr W Doherty

Principal

School Uniform

*At the beginning of this new school year we would like to remind parents that it is essential for children to wear full school uniform every day. The Cranmore uniform consists of a black/ blue jumper, a white polo shirt with the school logo and trousers, a skirt or a pinafore. Blue and white checked summer dresses and grey shorts are available at low costs from shops such as Dunnes, Tesco and Sainsburys and can be worn in warmer weather. Children may only wear black shoes. **Trainers of any kind are not permitted.** Children are not permitted to wear nail polish or jewellery other than **a watch and a small pair of plain studs.** Long hair should be tied back using school colours, **extreme hair styles i.e shaved, dyed or designs are not permitted.** PE uniform should be plain navy or black shorts and the school PE shirt. Plain tracksuit bottoms are acceptable in cold or wet weather. Team sports shirts, shorts or tracksuit bottoms are not permitted under any circumstances.*

ALL UNIFORMS MUST BE CLEARLY LABELLED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME

Medical Conditions

Please inform the school in writing of any medical conditions relating to your child. It is the parent/ guardian's responsibility to ensure that any medication needed has been given to school and that it is kept in date. No pupil may keep any medication, including inhalers, in their schoolbag. All medication such as inhalers and Epipens should be labelled, boxed and given to the teacher. Teachers are not

contractually able to administer medication but will supervise its administration if there are clear instructions to be followed.

Please ensure when the data capture form is sent home, that all medical conditions are listed on it. If they are not, please add these onto the data collection form so that they can be added to the system.

Healthy Eating

*Healthy children are happy children! Cranmore is a 'Health Promoting' school. We thank you in advance for your support in this initiative by ensuring that your child has a **healthy snack whenever possible**. Packed lunches should also reflect this policy. We understand that the current financial climate is putting a great deal of pressure on families but it is important to remember that a healthy snack such as an apple or a few grapes is less expensive than chocolate or crisps!*

*We as a staff will continue to reinforce the healthy eating message in school. We would encourage all pupils to bring fruit for break for **Fresh Fruit Friday**. A treat day will take place each half term when pupils can have a free choice in line with the '**Nut Free**' policy.*

Please remember when making packed lunches or preparing snacks for your child that we are a 'nut free zone' as several children and members of staff have severe allergies. This also applies on any occasions when food is sent into school.

Seesaw

This year, children should bring their Numeracy and Literacy homework back into school for marking each day. They can continue to post their spelling homework on Seesaw each night, other homework does not have to be uploaded. You must be on the Class app to upload to your child's folder and not the Family app. Children from P5 - P7 should be encouraged to upload their own work. The class teacher will mark the spelling homework on Seesaw and provide feedback.

More than one adult can be connected to each child's folder so both parents can connect separately. If you have not been able to connect to your child's Seesaw Folder, please contact the school office and leave a message for the class teacher who will send you a code.

The policy of the school remains that if a child is absent due to illness the teacher will not be able to provide work to be completed at home.

Please avoid contacting teachers by posting on your child's journal. Teachers can be contacted via the school office or by sending a note in with your child.

Attendance

*To ensure that parents have adequate time to arrange holidays and childcare, a second copy of the school holiday list for 2024-2025 can be found below. **All Holidays taken during term time will be unauthorised.** Absence interrupts your child's learning and is disruptive for the teacher and class as a whole. It is important that it is kept to an absolute minimum.*

*In exceptional circumstances, where children need to be absent for a reason other than illness, parents must write to the Principal **in advance**. Failure to do so will mean that your child will be marked as having an unauthorised absence. Like all schools we are vigilant when monitoring attendance and the Department of Education expects that every child has at least 95% attendance each year. This is equivalent to 9 days absence. If a child's attendance falls below 85%, we must make a referral to the Educational Welfare Service.*

**Cranmore Integrated Primary and Nursery School
School Holidays 2024/2025**

Month	Inclusive Period		Number of School Days	Description
	From	To		
August 2024	1	31		Summer Vacation
October 2024	28	31	4	Halloween
November 2024	1	1	1	SDD
December 2024	23	31	7	Christmas Vacation
January 2025	1	3	3	Christmas Vacation
February 2025	10	12	3	SDD
	13	14	2	Mid-Term Break
March 2025	17	17	1	St Patrick's Day
April 2025	17	25	7	Easter
May 2025	5	5	1	May Bank Holiday
	6	6	1	SDD
	26	26	1	May Bank Holiday
	27	27	1	SDD
July 2025	1	31		Summer Vacation

Please note during School Development Days (SDD) the school and nursery will be closed for all pupils to allow staff training.

Teachers for 2024 - 2025

Nursery - Mrs Sansome

P1 - Mrs Bell

P2 - Mr Carson

P3 - Mrs Cahill (Miss Grazier)

P4 - Mrs Millar

P5 - Miss Joyce

P6 - Mr Duggan

P7 - Miss Dobbin (Currently covered by Miss Sinclair)

Learning Support - Miss Sullivan

Staff update

We would like to offer a huge congratulations to Miss Grazier who got married over the summer holidays and is now known as Mrs Cahill!

We would also like to welcome Mrs Sandsome who will be the new Nursery teacher and Miss Sullivan who is our new Learning Support teacher. We are delighted to have them and know that you will all make them feel very welcome.



1 - Miss Sullivan



2 - Mrs Sansome



3 - Congratulations Mrs Cahill!

'Talking Integration' @ Feile 2024

As part of their promotion of integrated education the IEF commissions Micro-Polls to assess the interest among parents in areas throughout Northern Ireland. Micro-Polls are surveys conducted by polling company LucidTalk in a specific targeted area. In July they conducted a poll in West Belfast and the results were shared as part of the annual Feile. The IEF asked Mr Doherty to take part in a discussion panel around integrated education. This was a great opportunity to talk about the benefits of educating children together and to showcase the work of our school. The poll demonstrates a high level of interest among parents for schools such as Cranmore which are openly welcoming of all faiths. A copy of the Principal's speech is available on the school website under the Documents and Policies section titled 'West Belfast Micro-Poll July 2024'.

Buddy Chat

Buddy Chat is a new resource for P4 children which introduces them to children who have a range of communication difficulties and equips them with a five step guide to improve how they interact together.

Mrs Millar has been involved in the pilot programme for the lessons since 2019. Due to COVID it took longer to complete than anticipated but the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists were delighted to hold the launch of the programme in Cranmore on 29 August.

A big thank you to the choir who had been learning the Buddy Chat song and sang as our visitors waited on the event to start. Well done to everyone in Primary 4 last year who helped with the practice run of the final lessons.

In an ever-changing digital world we are pleased to have a new resource which helps children develop this important life skill; communicating!





Anti Bias Training for Staff

During the August staff training days, we spent some time working with the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education. This was a great opportunity to introduce new members of staff to the integrated ethos and an excellent refresher for existing staff. Many thanks to Jessica and Fiona who delivered the session.



NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe Assembly

Speak out. Stay safe. is a programme for children aged 5-11 which aims to help children understand abuse in all its forms and to recognise the signs of abuse. Children are taught to speak out if they are worried, either to a safe adult or Childline.

This child friendly programme is aligned with the curriculum and consists of age appropriate virtual assemblies and supporting classroom based activities which we have reviewed, alongside NSPCC volunteer led face to face workshops for children aged 6-7 and 9-11. The content is delivered in an engaging and interactive way with the help of the NSPCC mascot Buddy.

Mr Doherty will lead the assemblies which will be followed up by a lesson in class and a workshop led by NSPCC for P3, P6 and P7 pupils.



13 September - Swimming begins for P6

18 September - P6 Bible Exhibition

24 September - P7 Uberheroes

8 October - P6 and P7 Life Exhibition

24 October - P7 Uberheroes

21 - 25 October - Parent Teacher Meetings - School will close at 1.45pm for all pupils. One Bus only

28 October - 1 November - Halloween Holidays



Q. Why did the kid eat his homework?

A. Because the teacher said it was a piece of cake!



BACK TO SCHOOL Word Search

Solve the following puzzle by finding all the hidden words!

D	S	I	R	S	R	E	G	K	S	R	R	P	L
E	R	Y	E	R	U	P	E	R	E	S	A	R	E
S	A	N	P	D	R	T	B	G	R	S	O	G	B
K	P	S	A	N	E	K	U	S	S	K	O	O	B
C	A	S	P	U	O	N	R	S	C	G	L	E	O
R	A	E	E	O	B	R	W	S	O	H	I	G	C
A	L	C	N	R	K	O	O	B	E	T	O	N	N
Y	S	E	C	G	R	R	R	S	H	R	O	C	
O	B	R	I	Y	E	G	N	I	T	I	R	W	L
N	B	O	L	A	L	I	O	G	K	S	O	A	R
S	O	O	D	L	U	S	S	L	A	O	O	K	A
U	R	I	I	P	R	U	O	U	N	R	R	E	E
T	N	K	R	H	B	N	R	E	H	C	A	E	T
G	C	C	E	C	X	O	B	H	C	N	U	L	B

RULER	BOOKS	TEACHER	READING
NOTEBOOK	RECESS	SCHOOL	PLAYGROUND
PAPER	GLUE	PENCIL	LUNCHBOX
WRITING	ERASER	CRAYONS	DESK

