

Cranmore Integrated Primary and
Nursery School Newsletter- September
2025

47 Finaghy Road North

Belfast

BT10 OJB

028 90 664410

[Check out our school website](#)

Message from Mr Doherty

Dear Parents

Welcome back after the summer break. Hopefully you enjoyed the lovely weather and managed to have some rest. Can I especially welcome those of you who are new to Cranmore and I trust that this will be the beginning of a very positive relationship between you and the school.

For parents who are new to the school please find attached some key information concerning the health, welfare and safety of your child. The leaflets offer you advice and guidance on how to deal with issues around Child Protection, bullying, special needs and can also be downloaded from the school website.

I would encourage you to take time to read over the leaflets so that you are assured that your child's well-being is very important to us.

A hard copy of our Consent Form has been sent home with every child today. Under new GDPR legislation it is important that you complete the Consent Form and return to the class teacher as soon as possible. A copy of the Privacy Notice for Pupils and Parents along with other GDPR documents are available on the school website.

As an integrated school good communication between the school and parents is crucial. We have a number of ways that we keep you the parents updated can you please remember to check the bags every day for any written communication and if you have access to the internet check the school website for announcements. You will find the latest news, announcements, Newsheets and class pages on the website at www.cranmoreips.co.uk. Messages and photographs are also regularly uploaded to our Facebook page and also on the SeeSaw platform. We also forward information directly to your own personal e-mail address and provide you with updates to your mobile phone via Parentmail. If you do not receive email or text communication

it may be because you have not given up to date contact details. If this is the case, then please confirm your details with Mrs Rafferty in the School Office.

Reports show that parents, carers and families are by far the most important influences on children and that children who are supported by parents and school working in partnership, do better and behave better. We want you to help us and we want to help you in caring for and educating your child. If there are things that we need to know we rely on you to tell us so that we can do things better and carry out our role to the very best of our ability.

We look forward to working together with you to ensure that your child is supported and successful this year.

Yours sincerely

Mr W Doherty

Breakfast Club

This year the price of Breakfast club will increase to £2 per day. Breakfast club does not start until 8am and children cannot be admitted before this time!

School Office Hours

Just a reminder that the school office will close each day for lunch between 1.00 - 1.30pm.

Mobile Phones and Smart Watches

Last year the Dept of Education published guidance to all schools on mobile phones and similar devices during the school day. The guidance is available on the DE website under circular 2024/14. We would remind all parents the pupils are not permitted to bring mobile phones and/or smart watches to school. Any pupil who brings a mobile phone or similar device into school will be deemed to be in breach of school policy. The device will be collected by the class teacher and parents will be contacted and asked to come to school and collect the device.



Counselling

Dear Parents/Carers

I am pleased to inform you that we are funding counselling in our school this year. This will be provided by Tommy McKeever, a very experienced counsellor with many years experience working with Primary age children. He was the first counsellor that ever worked in Cranmore when we first introduced it so we are delighted to welcome him back. Counselling is available to any pupil and really adds to the pastoral supports we offer in the school.

Tommy will work directly with individual pupils but also supports the team of adults around them. The most common reasons children come for counselling are:

- Changes in the family
- Bereavement
- Worry and stress
- Friendship issues
- Worries about schoolwork and learning
- Illness in the family. Tommy will visit school every Friday and will meet with parents for an initial assessment of need before 1 to 1 work begins with the pupil. If you would like to discuss getting support for your child, please speak with me or your child's teacher.

Once a space becomes available in the counselling timetable, we will arrange for you to meet the Counsellor to see if *counselling* is a suitable support. If your child is in year 5, 6 or 7 s/he can ask to see the Counsellor. Your child's class teacher may also speak with you if s/he feels that your child would benefit from a counselling request. *However, no counselling intervention can begin without your consent and involvement.* Yours sincerely Mr W Doherty

Principal

Cranmore Integrated Primary and Nursery School School Holidays 2025/2026

Month	Inclusive Period		Number of School Days	Description
	From	To		
August 2025	1	31	21	Summer Vacation
October 2025	27	30	4	Halloween
	31	31	1	SDD
December 2025	22	31	8	Christmas Vacation
January 2026	1	2	2	Christmas Vacation
February 2026	9	11	3	SDD
	12	13	2	Mid-Term Break
March 2026	17	17	1	St Patrick's Day
April 2026	1	10	8	Easter
May 2026	4	4	1	May Bank Holiday
	5	5	1	SDD
July 2026	25	25	1	May Bank Holiday
	26	26	1	SDD
	1	31	23	Summer Vacation

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

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.



Public Health Agency
4th Floor
12-22 Linenhall Street
Belfast BT2 8BS

Tel: 0300 555 0114 (local rate)
www.publichealth.hscni.net

September 2025

Dear Principal

Healthy eating resources to support parents

All schools are encouraged to advocate a consistent message about healthy eating, as per the [Food in Schools Policy](#). This means all food and drink provided and consumed within the education setting should be nutritious and of good quality. School meals are a great choice, however if parents decide to provide a packed lunch, or morning break or snack, the following guidance may be useful for healthy eating tips and ideas.

- [Are you packing a healthy lunch?](#)
- [Healthy breaks for schools](#)
- [Healthy Choices – Choose wisely: advice for parents on nutrition and activity for primary school children](#)



In addition, parents or teachers may wish to make use of the [Public Health Dietitians - YouTube Channel for free videos](#). I would suggest the following would be the most beneficial to parents:



- [Healthy Lunchbox and Snack Ideas](#)
- [Snacks for children](#)
- [Healthy Eating During the Primary School Years](#)
- [Fussy Eating](#)
- [Constipation in children](#)
- [Nutrition for Teenagers](#)

For your convenience, I have attached a flyer which details how to access the videos. By sharing this flyer via school newsletters, sharing platforms or social media you will be playing a key role in improving public health amongst your staff, pupils and the wider community.

Yours faithfully,

Jemma Theobald
Regional Food in Schools Coordinator | jemma.theobald@eani.org.uk

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.

Parents Council

Last year, we were delighted to relaunch the Cranmore IPS Parents Council. We encourage all parents to get involved in the Parents Council as this is an important way of supporting school events, fundraising and getting to know other parents. Details of this year's Parents Council meetings to follow so please try to support these as much as you can.

Excellence in Integrated Education Award

As you know, last June we successfully renewed our Excellence in Integrated Education Award. We have now received the official feedback from the assessors, this is a summary of what they said:

The assessors saw good evidence that Cranmore took forward the recommendations from the previous EIEA in 2018. Cranmore Integrated Primary and Nursery School is a welcoming and enthusiastic environment. The assessors saw evidence of common purpose within the school community, and a sensitive awareness of the need to continually work on maintaining inclusion and welcome for everyone in an evolving social environment. It was clear through visiting classrooms and in talking to staff, parents and pupils that providing a positive educational experience is at the core of the school. Good policies and planning support this, and the parents feel that the school is accessible and responsive. Positive values which support Integration are integral to the school statement of vision and the associated 'Cranmore Way'. Material for

prospective parents and subsequent induction and welcome information ensure that parents are aware of the Integrated nature of the school, and regular communication continues throughout the life of the school. Engagement with NICIE training for staff, good Integrated school links, and innovative activities such as the Anti-Bias Tour and workshop for parents and the school Community Day keep Integration at the heart of the school and continually developing.

Shared Education and Trust Programme Activities

This year we will again be working with our friends from Old Warren PS and Scoil Na Fuiseoige through our shared education programme. Primary 5 and Primary 6 will take part in a range of activities focussing on Literacy and developing ICT skills as well as peace and reconciliation.

Primary 4 and Primary 7 will be working with our friends from Cliftonville IPS and Oakwood IPS through the Trust Programme which is funded by the IEF. They will visit a number of different places of worship within our local community in order to develop a better understanding of the similarities and differences between different faiths.

Sporting Opportunities at Cranmore

Cranmore Judo Academy – starting next Wednesday 10th September. This is a wonderful opportunity for children to learn a new skill and represent our school in local competitions. Sign up via ‘The Judo Academy’ website by clicking on their Cranmore link.

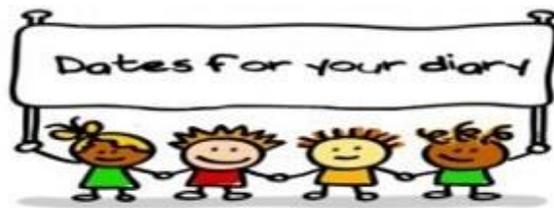
<https://www.thejudoacademy.com/>

This year children will also have an opportunity to take part in:

- Gaelic
- Badminton
- Hockey
- Sonal Sportz classes

Wellbeing

We are continuing into our second year of the Being Well Doing Well programme. This means we are prioritising Mental Health across the school for both children and staff. We have introduced daily check ins each morning and are starting off our whole school celebrations with Hello Yellow in October. This event is part of World Mental Health day and we raise money for the 'Young Minds' charity . We have workshops organised for each class across the year as well as introducing the 'Take 5' tool within the classrooms. Take 5 allows us to connect, learn, be active, take notice and give back.



September

10 September - Judo Club starts

12 September - P6 Swimming begins

WB 22 September - After Schools Clubs start

17 September - Whole school Flu Vaccine

18 September - P7 Malone College After School club starts

24 September -P7 Uberheroes

October

10 October -World Mental Health Day

WB 20 October - Parent Teacher Interviews

24 October - Halloween Dress Up Day

27 - 31 October - SCHOOL CLOSED FOR HALLOWEEN



Q. Why did the kid study on an airplane?

A. He wanted a higher education.



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	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
NOTEBOOK
PAPER
WRITING

BOOKS
RECESS
GLUE
ERASER

TEACHER
SCHOOL
PENCIL
CRAYONS

READING
PLAYGROUND
LUNCHBOX
DESK

