



## Newsletter December 2021

Welcome to our December Newsletter. Here you will find lots of information about what has been happening through the month of December and you will also find some important information about things that will be happening in in January.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us by emailing [info@magherafelts.magherafelt.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@magherafelts.magherafelt.ni.sch.uk)<sup>1</sup> or by phoning the school office on 02879632822



## Holidays

The school term will finish on Tuesday 21 December at 12.00 noon

School meals will not be provided, but the school bus will be running as normal.

This will be a Non-Uniform Day.

The Spring term commences for all children on Wednesday 5 January 2022



## Applications for P1 September 2022

If your son or daughter is due to start Primary 1 in September 2022 an on line application form must be completed. This form can be found at [www.eani.org.uk/admissions](http://www.eani.org.uk/admissions)<sup>2</sup>

Application forms will go live on Monday 10 January 2022. All forms must be completed by Friday 28 January. Any documentary evidence (eg birth certificates) is now to be uploaded to the portal alongside your application.

If you need any assistance with this, technical or otherwise, please do not hesitate to be in contact with our school office on 02879632822 where we will be delighted to help you.

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<sup>1</sup><mailto:info@magherafelts.magherafelt.ni.sch.uk>

<sup>2</sup><http://www.eani.org.uk/admissions>

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.			
<b>STEP ONE</b> Admissions Criteria Published on Website	Pre-School 17 Dec 2021	Primary 17 Dec 2021	Post-Primary 12 Jan 2022
<b>STEP TWO</b> Online Applications Open	Pre-School 10 Jan 2022	Primary 10 Jan 2022	Post-Primary 1 Feb 2022
<b>STEP THREE</b> Online Applications Close	Pre-School 28 Jan 2022	Primary 28 Jan 2022	Post-Primary 23 Feb 2022
<b>STEP FOUR</b> Notifications of Applications Outcome	Pre-School 28 April 2022 Stage One 16 June 2022 Stage Two	Primary 28 April 2022	Post-Primary 21 May 2022
For more information on the admissions process please visit <a href="http://www.ea.org.uk/admissions">www.ea.org.uk/admissions</a>			



## Morning Arrangements

I would like to thank parents for all their continued support with the staggered drop off in the morning. With the current rise of Covid numbers in the winter period, this remains an essential part of our procedures to keep everyone safe.

I would also like to remind P1 and P2 parents, **not** to enter the school playground in the morning, instead to leave your child at the entrance gate.

The P1 and P2 gate will be closed shortly after 9am, if your child is arriving after this point, I would ask you to bring them into school via the school office. This is to ensure our school site is secure and all the children are kept safe. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

**We are making one small change to the P7 start time, please see Below.**

Here are the drop off times for each class;

**P1 LW** - Start time: 8:50 am

**P2 NA** - Start time: 8:55 am

**P3 JB** - Start time: 8:50am

**P4 KMcA** - Start time: 8:55am

**P4/5 DD** - Start time: 9:00am

**P5 HB** - Start time: 8:50am

**P6 EH** - Start time 8:55am

**P7 MA** - Start time 8:50am



## Safe Drop off in the Mornings



I would ask parents/guardians and anyone who drops off children in the mornings to take particular care to keep everyone safe. I would specifically request you adhere to the following advice:

- Please drive slowly when on the school grounds, not exceeding 10 miles per hour

- Please park in a designated parking space if you wish to accompany your child to the drop off area
- Please do not allow any children to cross the road without being supervised
- Please use the designated road crossing from the school carpark. No child should be crossing from the Nursery carpark across the grass
- If using the drop off laybys, please have your child/ren exit on the kerbside and not the roadside of the vehicle
- Please do not use the drop off laybys for parking. These are only designed to be used to park for a short period of time whilst dropping off your child/ren.

Please understand, I raise these issues to ensure the safety of everyone on the school site.

## Cinema Trip

We are looking forward to our visit to the Cinema on Monday 20 December. Please ensure you have returned the pro forma on the letter previously issued.



## Social Media

It has come to our attention that a number of our Key Stage 2 children are on social media sites such as Instagram and TikTok.

The recommended age for setting up a social media account such as Instagram, Snapchat and TikTok is 13 yrs, meaning no primary school age children meet the minimum age requirements.

I would therefore strongly suggest that all parents delete such apps from their children's phones as they often encourage inappropriate conversations.

I ask for your support with these matters.



## School Money

School Money is proving to be a very useful tool for parents and the school alike.

However we are aware some parents have had some issues with logging on and processing payments recently. School Money have sent the following steps for parents to work through if they are having this issue:

- Check that the mobile number and email address match with what you have on your SchoolMoney system (check for spelling, duplicate letters, etc)
- Check that they are entering the child's name as it appears on your system
- Make sure the parent is not Auto filling any of the information and that they are typing everything in from scratch
- Ask the parent to clear their history/cache from the device they are using. If they search how to do this on the internet, it will give them instructions for their device/browser.
- Ask the parent to try a different device/browser
- Make sure the parent isn't keeping the website up in the background on their phone. Advise them to close all web pages open in the background and to open a fresh web page every time they log in

If you have attempted all of the above and you are still having issues, please contact the school office on 02879632822 or send us an email to the school info account ([info@magherafelts.magherafelt.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@magherafelts.magherafelt.ni.sch.uk)<sup>3</sup>)

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<sup>3</sup><mailto:info@magherafelts.magherafelt.ni.sch.uk>





## Wraparound Care

Our Wraparound Care is proving to be very successful so far. Here is a short reminder of the details below:

### Breakfast Club

Our breakfast club will be operated by our own school staff

- It runs every morning from **07.45 until the child's class begins**
- **You can however drop your child off at anytime up to 08:30 to take part**
- The **cost** will be **£2.50 per session, no matter how much of the session your child is there for**
- Each child will be offered a selection of cereal, fruit, yoghurts, toast and a drink.
- Booking operates through our new online payment and booking system School Money.

### Afterschool Care

Ruby Roos are looking to gauge interest for January 2022 as they plan ahead for the new year. They offer a service that gives children the opportunity to stay within our own setting here on our school grounds from the end of the school day until 6pm in the evening.

The children will complete their homework, have a snack, take part in some games, arts & crafts activities, sports and above all have some fun.

If you haven't used these facilities to date, but are interested in your child taking part, please complete the survey from Ruby Roos below:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdi17GjN7i1SG6wbA38id6SmJpfQG6rkJGWwcWQjTuAzjncg/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdi17GjN7i1SG6wbA38id6SmJpfQG6rkJGWwcWQjTuAzjncg/viewform?usp=sf_link)

Alternatively you can create an account and book a session at the following link:

<https://rubyroos.magicbooking.co.uk/Identity/Account/Login>



# RUBY ROOS

## Covid Symptoms and Pupil Attendance



The PHA are now solely responsible for identifying close contacts within schools. Therefore, the PHA will be in Contact with you if they have identified your child as a close contact in school.

Your child may still attend school as normal **unless the PHA instruct you otherwise.**

**However, if there has been a positive case within your household, it may be prudent to err on the side of caution and keep your child at home until they have a negative test.**



I would ask you to follow all the advice the PHA give to you. I would also request that you inform the school office if your child has tested positive for Covid-19 or has been asked to self-isolate by the PHA and will therefore not be attending school.

Should your child display any symptoms of Covid-19

- **A high temperature**
- **A new continuous cough**
- **A loss of or change in sense of smell or taste**

PHA advise you to self-isolate and book a PCR test for your child ASAP.

I sincerely hope you all keep safe and well.

If your child has been absent from school for a covid-19 related, or indeed any other reason, I would kindly request that you fill in the form at the following link and return it with your child on their first day back.

Absence Explanation Form<sup>4</sup>



## Social Distancing



Social distancing of 1 metre will remain in place between adults and as far as possible between adults and pupils.

Each class continues to act as a single consistent bubble with minimal prolonged interaction with other classes (e.g. dining hall).

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<sup>4</sup><https://bit.ly/3iupJ2S>

**I would ask parents/guardians to strictly adhere to this at drop off and collection times.**

## Hygiene and PPE



Pupils continue to wash hands immediately on arrival at school and regularly throughout the day (using soap and water). Younger children will be supervised to ensure hands are washed properly.

Touching of faces, eyes, mouths, noses should be discouraged. A limited amount of hand sanitiser will be available for visitors.

Parents may wish for their child to have individual hand sanitiser. Pupils should wear clean uniform each day. Classroom windows will be opened to increase natural ventilation where possible.

PPE is only required in a small number of cases, e.g. when a member of staff is dealing with intimate care or giving medication. Any staff and pupils who wish to wear face coverings throughout the school day should bring their own personal supply.

Adults visiting the school site will be asked to wear face coverings.

## Healthy Break Policy



As a school we believe strongly in the benefits of our children being provided with a healthy break. This discipline can help to establish good eating and drinking habits for your child's future health, enabling them to make healthier choices for themselves. A healthy break can also help pupils sustain good concentration and behaviour for longer periods in the classroom.

Healthy break options which are recommended include:

unflavoured water or milk

fresh fruit and/or vegetables

bread-based products, for example white or wholemeal bread, rolls or baguettes, toast, plain bagels, wheaten, soda, pitta bread, plain bread sticks or crackers. Please provide fresh sugar-free fillings, avoiding sugary spreads.

We would be very grateful for your support in this important area. It can become very difficult for children who have been provided with a healthy snack to observe other children in their class having a less healthy option (e.g. chocolate bars, biscuits or crisps)

## Safeguarding and Child Protection

The school's Child Protection Policy is on the school website. at this link Full Safeguarding Policy (June 2021)<sup>5</sup>.

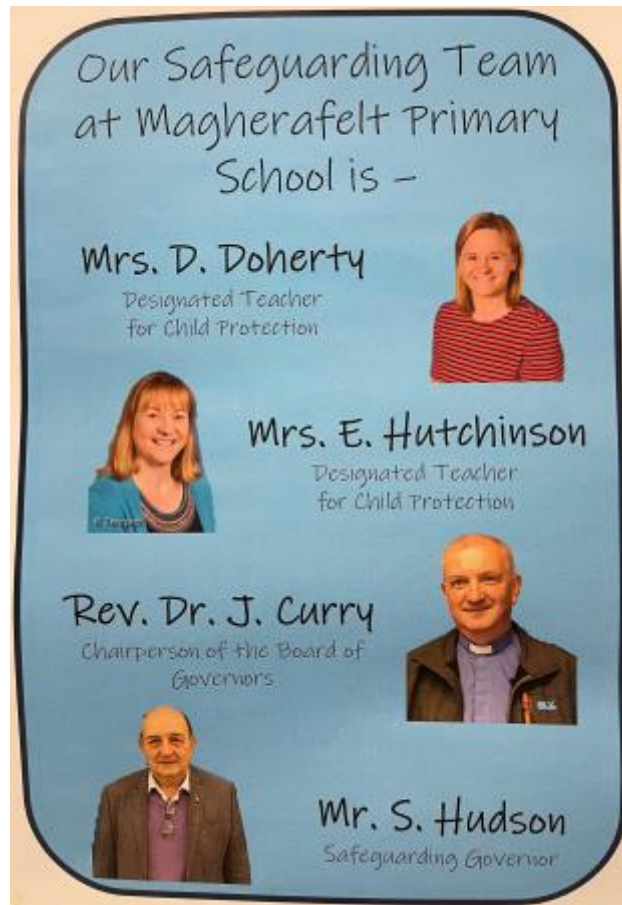
An outline Policy is also available at this link Safeguarding Policy Summary (June 2021)<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>5</sup><https://www.magherafelts.com/documentlink/235/?open=true>

Please take time to read this policy carefully.

If you have a Child Protection concern you should speak to the staff detailed in these policies for advice: Designated Teacher –Mrs D Doherty, Deputy Designated Teacher - Mrs E Hutchinson Please complete the pro forma confirming you are aware of this policy (This will be sent home with your child).



## School Calendar 2021/2022

A calendar for the school year has been attached and updated on the website. You will find it at the link below.

School Calendar 2021/2022<sup>7</sup>

You will also find some important dates on the calendar on our school website:

Website Calendar<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>6</sup><https://www.magherafeltps.com/documentlink/237/?open=true>

<sup>7</sup>[https://storage.googleapis.com/siteassetsswd/269/docletter/20211123032432\\_28\\_School\\_Calendar\\_2021-22\\_Parents\\_.pdf](https://storage.googleapis.com/siteassetsswd/269/docletter/20211123032432_28_School_Calendar_2021-22_Parents_.pdf)



## Medication Policy

Throughout the school year we ask all parents to complete and return to school a completed medication form if medication is to be administered to your child. This is of particular relevance for children with asthma, allergies or long term medical conditions.

## Peanut Allergies – Nut Free Zone

There are a number of children in school who have an allergy to peanuts.

To minimise the risk of children taking severe anaphylactic reactions to peanuts we would ask that ***NO CHILD*** consumes any nut products in school. Please help us make Magherafelt Primary School a **Nut Free Zone**.

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<sup>8</sup><https://www.magherafelts.com/calendar/>



## Website and Social Media

Please remember to access our school website regularly during the year:

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

The website will be updated regularly with, important information and also with work from our pupils.

Another useful point of contact is our FB and Twitter pages. Please give us a like and subscribe at the links below:

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/MagherafeltPS>

FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/MagherafeltPS/>

These pages will be updated with relevant information throughout the year as well.

Due to the rising popularity these social networking sites, staff and Governors have agreed that they will be setting a good example to the children in our school when using these sites.

We also invite parents and guardians of the children in our school to do the same.

The school's Online Safety Policy outlines the conduct expected of staff, parents and pupils.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that if you have any concerns, issues or comments about school, the staff and I are available to speak to you. Such matters should not be discussed on social media sites.

Thank you for your continued support.



## Merry Christmas

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Peaceful New Year!

I trust everyone will have a very enjoyable, restful and safe Christmas break

Ian Somerville

Principal



