



## Newsletter April 2022

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

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) or by phoning the school office on 02879632822



## Easter Holiday

**Term 2 ends on Friday 8 April at 12 Noon**

Please ensure you have made arrangements to collect your children from school.

There will be no dinners this day, but the school bus will be running as normal.

I trust all our pupils, staff and parents will have a well deserved rest over the Easter break.

**Term 3 Begins on Monday 25 April**



## Getting Closer to Normal



We have made the decision to make some changes to our school routine after Easter. The rationale for these changes is to bring us closer to a "normal" school day. We have had consistently low numbers of Covid-19 cases in school over the past half term and we are confident that now is the time to make the change.

We do however reserve the right to keep this under review and should the situation change, we will be very quick to move back to a stricter bubbled approach.

The changes are as follows:

- *We will be returning to normal drop off and collection arrangements which will mean an end to the staggered drop off and collection of pupils in the mornings and afternoons (Please see the information below).*
- *We will be returning to in person, whole school assemblies, with social distancing between classes on a Thursday morning.*

### **New School Morning Arrangements**

7:45 - 8:30: Breakfast Club (you must pay to attend - Booking via the School Money App)

8:30 - 8:50: Morning supervision (children can arrive at anytime during this period and report to the front playground)

08:50: Classes collected from the playground by class teachers

### **New School Collection Arrangements**

#### ***Monday - Tuesday***

**13:50:** P1, P2 collected

**15:00:** P3, P4, P5, P6, P7 Collected

#### ***Wednesday - Thursday***

**13:50:** P1, P2, P3 collected

**15:00:** P5, P6, P7 Collected

#### ***Friday***

**14:00:** P1-P7 collected

## Safe Drop off in the Mornings



We have a new pathway, crossing and fence in place to help keep everyone safe in the mornings and afternoons.

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

- Please drive slowly when on the school grounds, not exceeding 5 miles per hour
- Please park in a designated parking space if you wish to accompany your child to the drop off area
- Please ensure you do not park over the end of the new crossing
- Please do not allow any children to cross the road without being supervised
- If using the drop off lay-bys, please have your child/ren exit on the kerbside and not the roadside of the vehicle
- **Please do not use the drop off lay-bys 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.

## Parent Teacher Interviews

- Parent teacher interviews will be taking place via phone calls again this time on the Week Beginning Monday 4 April
- School will end each day (Mon 4 to Thurs 7) at 1 pm to facilitate this
- School ends on Friday at 12 noon
- Parents are now required to book their time slot to receive a phone call online (Link below)
- Staff will call you as close to your time as possible
- Please book your slot at the following link if you have not already done so;

[Parent Teacher Interview Booking Link](#)

- The Password is MPS2022 (Case Sensitive)
- There is a help sheet for booking on our Website (Link below)

[Booking help sheet](#)



## Polling station

The school has been informed it will be required as a Polling Station on Thursday 5 May. This will be an Exceptional Closure for all staff and pupils.



## 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 appeal to you for your support with these matters.





## School Money

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

Somethings to bear in mind:

1. Dinner Payments cannot be made after midnight for the next school day. If you miss this deadline, inform the school office in the morning and we will ensure your child receives a dinner. We will then add the meal on and you can pay it the next time you log into your account.
2. This is the same for our Breakfast Club. If you have missed the midnight deadline for booking, you are still able to send your child in the morning. They will be marked as attending by the breakfast staff and we will then add this onto the system. You will be able to pay for this the next time you log into your account.

If you have any queries, please feel free to phone the school office (02879632822) or send us an email to the school info account ([info@magherafelts.magherafelt.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@magherafelts.magherafelt.ni.sch.uk))



## Breakfast Club Changes

Our Breakfast Club is proving to be very successful.

- It runs every morning from **07.45 until 08.30** when Morning Supervision begins
- **You can however drop your child off at anytime up to 08.20 to take part**
- The **cost** is **£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 online payment and booking system School Money.
- ***After the Easter Break, the Breakfast club will end strictly at 08.30. The children who attend Breakfast club will then move to the front playground for Morning Supervision before class starts at 8.50am***



## After School Care Changes (Ruby Roos)

### After School Care

Ruby Roos booking has changed!

Children can now be booked on an hourly basis, the pricing structure is below

1 Hour.....£3.50

2 Hours.....£7.00

3 Hours.....£10.00

4 Hours.....£13.00

During Ruby Roos, 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, I would encourage you to give them a go. The children who attend really enjoy it.



## Magherafelt PS After School Childcare



### 2 OPTIONS



#### OPTION 1

Book our afterschool  
Childcare directly

Choose a time and cost to  
suit you.

1 Hour	£3.50
2 Hours	£7.00
3 Hours	£10.00
4 Hours	£13.00



#### OPTION 2

Book one of our afterschool  
Clubs then simply select  
Childcare as an add-on

Choose a time and cost to  
suit you.

1 Hour	£3.50
2 Hours	£7.00
3 Hours	£10.00

#### CONTACT

info@mr-sports.co.uk  
07835 616730

PART OF THE MR SPORTS GROUP



### FIRST TIME BOOKING?

Click below to watch our  
Short tutorial.

[VIEW NOW](#)

### HOW TO BOOK

- 1 Visit our booking site:  
mr-sport.co.uk/booking
- 2 Select the venue:  
Magherafelt PS or  
Magherafelt (Ruby Roos)
- 3 Add to the basket  
select the basket icon and follow  
the instructions.

Click below to go directly  
to the booking site

[BOOK NOW](#)

## 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](#)



## 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)

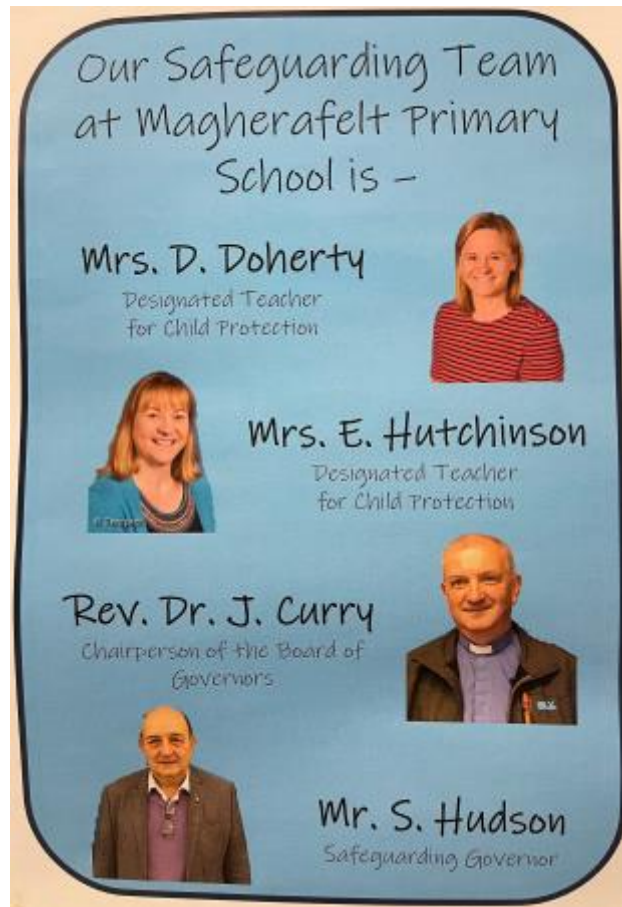
## Safeguarding and Child Protection

The school's Child Protection Policy is on the school website. at this link [Full Safeguarding Policy \(June 2021\)](#).

An outline Policy is also available at this link [Safeguarding Policy Summary \(June 2021\)](#)

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](#)

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

[Website Calendar](#)



## 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**.





## 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.



