13th October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

We’re nearly ready for our first mid-term break of the school year. September has flown in and not without the trials and tribulations of Covid continuing. To date, 36 children and 4 teachers have confirmed positive since our restart. The significant difference is that the requirement for isolation no longer stands for the children and school has remained open for all (despite a few glitches at the very start of the year).

Please keep the school office informed, and me via email, of the Covid situation in your home and always be wary of changes to the daily general health of your children. It’s the only way to manage the inevitable spread of Covid and we need your help in doing so.

I would ask that all adults entering into the school grounds continue to wear a mask for everyone’s safety and peace of mind.

**Parent Teacher Meetings**

This year PT meetings will take place via telephone. This remains the advised procedure in recent guidance from Department of Education. Over the next week or so you will be informed of a time slot. Most calls will take place on Friday 22nd October, as this is the day set aside for PT meetings, however there are some exceptions, and your child(ren)'s teacher will communicate their options to you. Each call will last no more than 10 minutes, so please be mindful of the planned appointments. If you require further discussion this will be noted and addressed after the mid-term break. Primary 1 parents will receive a call after Christmas and not at this time. Those details will be made available to you later in the year. Additional arrangements will be made for those parents needing the help of an interpreter.

We are trying to ensure the children feel safe and secure in our school environment. We have found it takes very little for the children to react sensitively to situations or comments they would have previously shrugged off. With this in mind, our curriculum is little more focussed and paced differently than in other years to meet the needs, both academic and emotional needs, of all the children in our school.

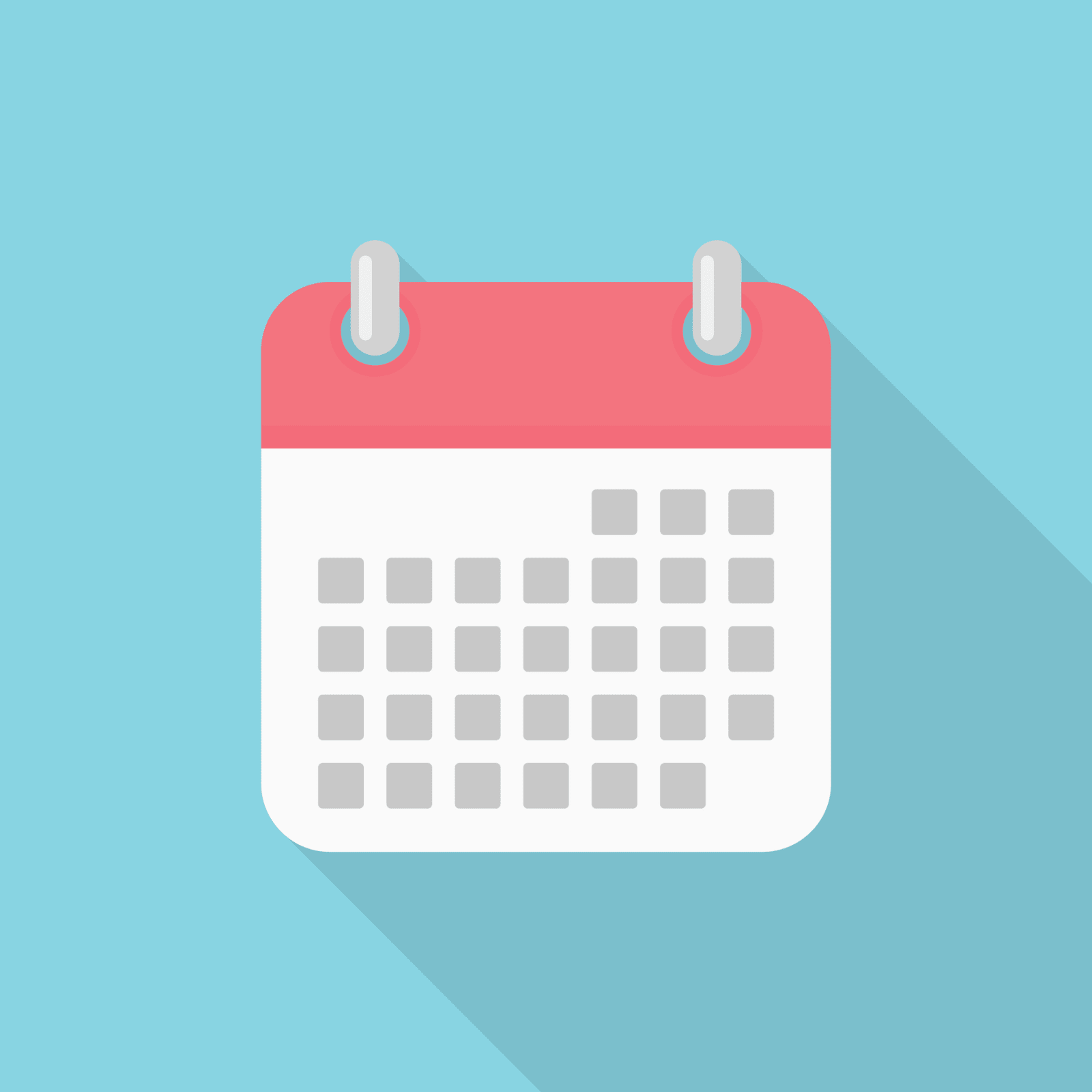
**Home-School Communications including SeeSaw**

As school has returned to normal, with no foreseeable closures due to Covid, the parameters around the use of Seesaw should return to previous levels. We know you value this mode of communication as a direct link to the teacher, but as teachers are in full teaching mode during the day it is unlikely messages will be seen or answered during school hours. Most teachers will take time to answer queries in their directed time, usually between 3 and 4pm and in some cases prior to the start of the school day. It is most important that urgent messages during the school day are sent via the school office, so please take time to make the call. We will no longer be using the app as a “text messaging service” but reverting back to showing off the lovely work of the children and as a means of communication for each class teacher to you.

As always, for the big issues, you can email me, [oodowd352@c2kni.net](mailto:oodowd352@c2kni.net) and I will get back to you as soon as possible.



Please download the SCHOOLS NI app and search for our school, as key letters and whole school information will be communicated through this service. It is a direct link to our school website.

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**Dates of interest. **

Halloween Fancy Dress Fun Day on Thursday 21st October – please keep footwear sensible and nothing too scary regarding face masks.

School closed Friday 22 – Friday 29th October. Children return to school on Monday 1st November.

Keep well and safe, and enjoy the Halloween Break.

Orla O’Dowd

Principal