




Newsletter



14th January 2022

Happy New Year

Dates for your Diary January – March 2022

Nursery and Primary 1 Applications	<p>Portal is now open on EA website. www.eani.org.uk</p> <p>Applications to be made online between Mon. 10th Jan – 12 noon Fri. 28th Jan 2022</p> <p>Please note: Even if your child attends Sion Mills PS Nursery Unit, you still need to make an application for Primary 1.</p>
Parent/Teacher Meetings	These will be held from the week beginning 24 th January – mid-term break. Staff prefer face to face meetings, so these will be socially distanced and no longer than 10 minutes, to keep everyone safe.
NSPCC Number Day	Friday 4 th February in aid of NSPCC. 
February Mid-term	Mon. 14 th – Fri. 18 th February
St Patrick's Weekend	Thurs. 17 th March – Mon 21 st March (inclusive)

NSPCC Numeracy Day

Take part in Dress-up-for-Digits and have a fun-filled day of maths activities and games, while raising money to support the NSPCC. Further information will be shared on See-saw and in class over the coming weeks.



Our Wee Place

Mrs Sproule's class were delighted to join with every Primary 1 pupil in Northern Ireland who received a beautifully illustrated book, written by Sophie Kirtley and Ellan Rankin to commemorate 100 years of Northern Ireland. As they read *Our Wee Place* they can learn about the area we live in as they follow Emily and her Granda's adventure around Northern Ireland.



Wet or snowy play-times

It would be helpful if children had a spare pair of socks/tights, trousers and blue t-shirt in their bags. These clothes can then be used if they get wet or dirty during playtimes. If your child has wellies or boots please send to school so they can get outside if it's not raining/snowing heavily. Thank-you.

Sion Mills

Youth Outreach PROGRAMME

Everyone welcome! FREE entry

Every Saturday for 6 weeks from 15th January 2022
6:30pm to 8:00pm – 7-10 year olds
8:30pm to 10:00pm – 11-16 year olds
Venue: Church of Ireland Hall, Mill Lane, Sion Mills

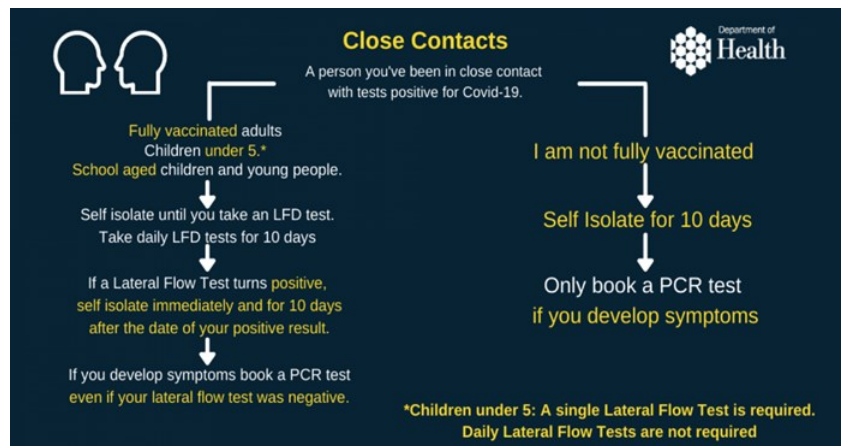
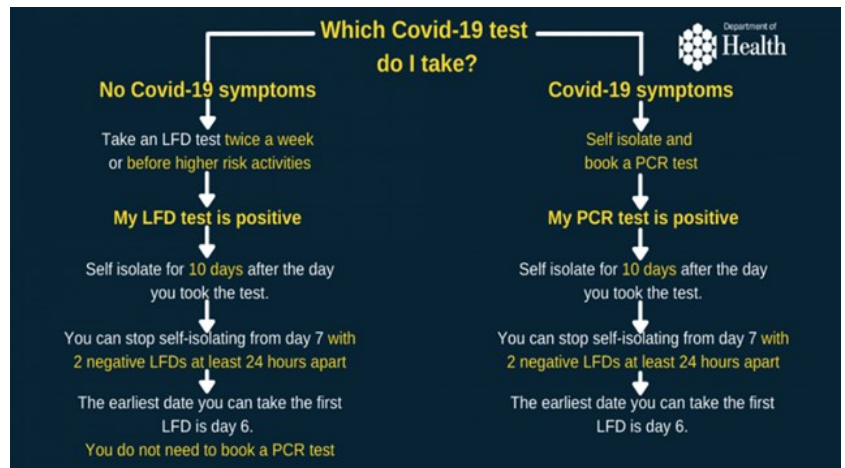
Icebreakers Arts and Craft Games
Skills for life Youth Justice
Team challenges Community safety
Online safety Cooking
Photography and videography
Tuck shop/coffee bar Computer skills
Employability skills Youth ministry

For more info, contact Nigel Collins on 07447 433336 or Rev Jonathan McFarland on 07866 583991

Latest PHA Guidance Flowcharts



Hand-writer of the Month December	
P1S	Aimee McCaughey
P2 SpLU	Mia Durey
P2H	James Porter
P2C	Meera Catterson
P3C	Toni O'Brien
P4L	Rionnah Deazley
P5K	Lexi Millar
P6/7C	Kaitlin Duffy
P6/7McG	Tommie-Leigh McColgan



Remote Learning

I need to advise you that you may get notification of your child's class having to move to remote/home learning due to staff shortages, should I be unable to find substitute staff. It is our intention to use existing staff as much as possible to keep children in school, but I am compelled by risk assessments to prioritise health and safety and this may mean I have to ask you to keep your children at home. ***Please note this will be a last resort and for the shortest time possible.***

Healthy Breaks & Lunches

Sion Mills Primary School operates a Healthy Breaks policy. The vast majority of children bring **healthy breaks such as fruit/vegetable portions, sandwiches with cheese or simply butter, milk or water.**

Please remember NO NUTS or EGGS. Any fruit (apart from Kiwi) or vegetable is acceptable.



Children who bring their own lunch for the middle of the day meal – we strongly encourage parents to include more 'healthy' options than processed food such as bars and crisps.

We recognise many children are 'faddy' eaters and finding food that will keep for a few hours can be challenging, especially in a busy family life. Two good websites where you might find trustworthy ideas/advice are:

<https://www.foodafactoflife.org.uk/whole-school/whole-school-approach/healthy-lunchboxes/>

<https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes/>

With the new year, it is a good time to remember the Healthy Breaks policy. Thank you.