

Regular news sheet items:

Out of Hours Communication

In the event of us needing to communicate with you outside of school hours or at the weekend; this will be by Text message. **If you have changed your mobile number, please email khunter100@c2kni.net to let Karen know your new number so that you receive essential updates from us.**

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**Morning and Afternoon Clubs**

Morning Club is up and running from 8.00am - £1.00 per child per day. Please note school does not offer any supervision prior to 8.00am. **Please park in the village and walk up the path to school.**

Afternoon Club continues Monday to Thursday from 2.00pm to 3.00pm. £2.00 per child per day. This is for children in P1 and P2 (Mondays to Thursdays) and P3 on Thursdays.

Please endeavour to send afternoon club request slip and payment on a Monday for any days attending during the week.

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Food Allergy Prevention

We currently have several children attending the school who suffer from severe allergic reactions to certain food products, in particular nuts. We would ask you to be mindful of this when sending snacks into school.

We do not use nuts or nut-based products in the school kitchen, and we would be grateful if parents could also try to avoid sending children to school with food or snacks which contain nuts.

Your co-operation in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

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**Car Parking in the School Grounds**

Thank you to everyone for their understanding regarding the car parking arrangements. As previously stated, in the best interests of all our children, cars should not be parked in the school grounds unless a parking pass has been issued by the school office. **This arrangement applies equally to Nursery arrivals and departures.**

Cars should be parked on the roads around the village and adults dropping off or picking up children should walk into the school grounds. Thank you for your co-operation in this important safeguarding matter.

**Car Parking in Gracehill and Gracefield**

Car parking around the village is extremely limited. Please don't break the law or offend our neighbours in the morning or at home time in the afternoon. It has been brought to our attention that some village residents have been unable to access their driveways on occasion. Please be mindful of where you park. We would suggest that parents park at Galgorm and walk with their children to school. We know that parking is difficult, and we appreciate your co-operation in this matter. The Department of Infrastructure has advised school that traffic wardens will be in attendance at various times in Gracehill village. A parking ticket will be issued if vehicles are stopped on the yellow zig-zag markings at the front of school. Parking on double yellow lines can also result in a parking ticket.

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Protocol for the Administration of Medication in Gracehill Primary School

It is important that clear guidelines for the administration of medication in school are in place. Our full Administration of Medication Policy is available to all parents on request. We obviously want to ensure that pupils with medication needs receive appropriate care and support at school. I accept, in principle, responsibility for members of the school staff to give or supervise pupils taking prescribed medication during the school day. However, I would like to acknowledge the fact that all staff do so on a voluntary basis. Please note that parents should keep their children at home if acutely unwell or infectious. The prime responsibility in relation to the administration of medication rests with the parent.

- *Parents are responsible for providing the School with comprehensive information regarding the pupil's condition and medication*
- *Prescribed medication will not be accepted in school without complete written and signed instructions from the pupil's doctor e.g. official printed prescription label/individual medical plan.*
- *Staff will not give a non-prescribed medicine to a child unless there is specific prior written permission from the parents.*
- *On request to administer any medication parents will be issued with a copy of our Administration of Medication Policy and a consent form.*
- **Children should not bring any other tablets or medication to school for self-administration.**

All medication must be delivered to the school office, in normal circumstances by the parent/carer. At the office a School Parental request for the Administration of Medication form must be completed. All medication must be presented in a secure and labelled container as originally dispensed. Each item of medication must be clearly labelled with the following information: -

- Pupil's name and class
- Name of medication
- Dosage
- Frequency of administration
- Date of dispensing
- Storage required (if important)
- Expiry date

Thank you for your assistance in these very important matters and to all our staff for the care and support they provide to our children. A copy of our full Administration of Medication Policy is available at the School Office on request.

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### **Concussion Awareness – Who needs to know?**

The Department of Education has requested that all schools should write to parents/guardians to highlight the need for you to keep all organisations informed if your child receives a concussion injury.

Concussion is a brain injury which is usually caused by hitting the head for a fall. It can happen at any time, anywhere: for example, during sports, in the school playground, or at home.

Concussion must always be taken seriously and it is vitally important that any child/young person suspected of having concussion should immediately be stopped from continuing whatever activity they are doing and be assessed by a medical professional for diagnosis and guidance.

A second injury when a child has concussion can be extremely serious and may even be fatal. It is vitally important therefore that medical clearance is sought before your child returns to school/play. Children should not resume physical activities such as Physical Education (PE), sports or games until permitted to do so by a medical professional.

Concussion may also affect your child's ability to learn at school. This must be considered, and medical clearance should be sought before the child returns to school. As symptoms vary from child to child, a graduated return to school programme may be needed.

If your child suffers a concussion in school or outside school, it is vitally important that you keep all people/organisations with responsibility for caring for your child informed so that they are aware of the potential dangers and any restrictions that may apply to the activities your child is permitted to do.

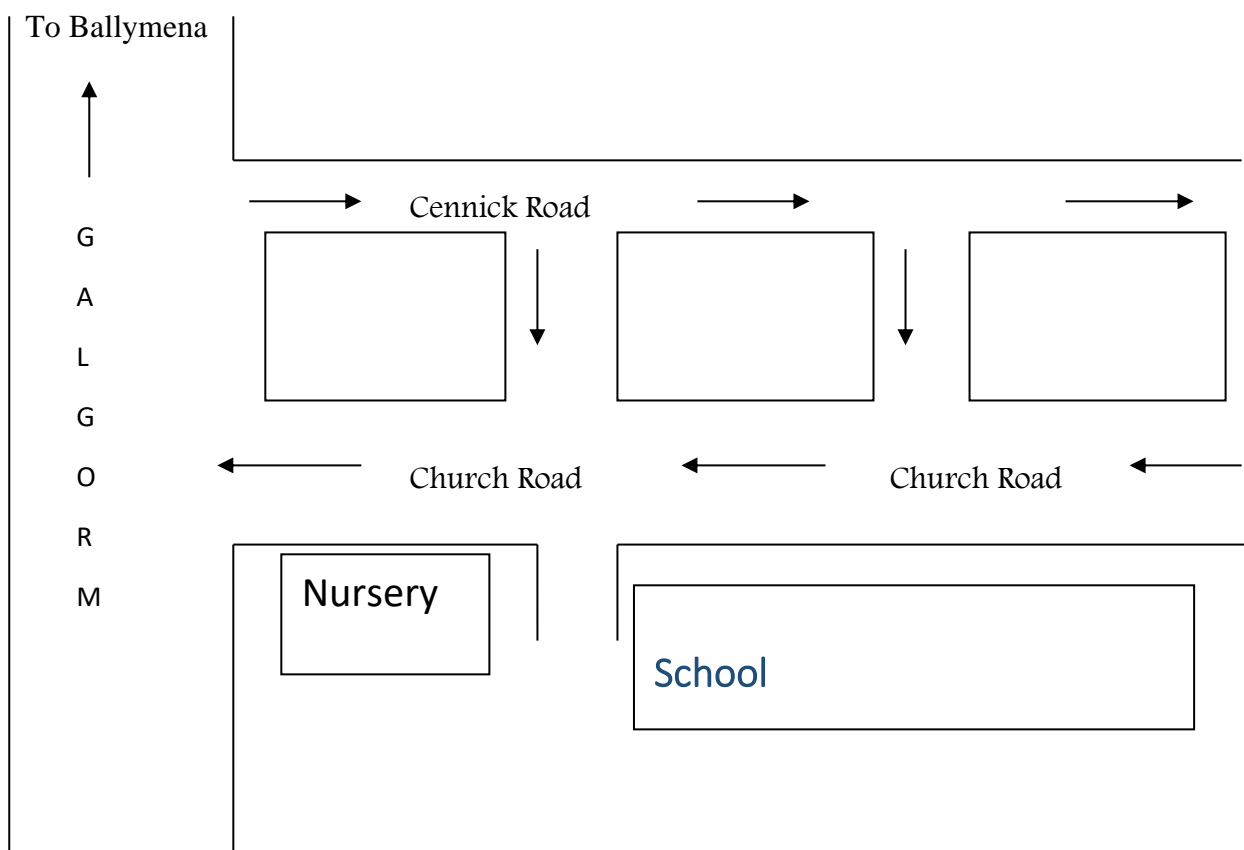
The 'Recognise and Remove' leaflet produced by the Department of Education and the Department of Culture, Arts, and Leisure is available on the Department of Education's website <http://www.education-ni.gov.uk> and provides guidance on the signs to look out for.

### Voluntary One Way System

We have found it helpful if parents – at drop off and pick up times – use the following system if driving to school.

Please enter the village by Cennick Road and cross to Church Road via Academy Street or Montgomery Street.

Please park carefully and try not to block the school gates or our other drivers.



### Healthy Breaks Policy

As a School we realise the importance of children staying hydrated. We encourage pupils to drink water or milk during the school day.

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Dogs in the playground



We would ask parents and carers to please refrain from bringing dogs into the playground at 2pm and 3pm dismissal. We have some pupils who are frightened of dogs and therefore find the presence of a dog in the playground a stressful experience.

Mini Break for P5s to P7s

Just a reminder that P5 to P7 pupils can avail of Mini Break on a daily basis. Please see price list below.

Mini Break Price List

Every day the items below are available

Toast.....30p
Cereal.....45p
Baguette (full)70p
Baguette (half)40p
Bagel (full)70p
Bagel (half)40p

Milk30p
Water250ml 40p
Water.....330ml 55p
Banana30p
Grapes50p
Orange/apple30p
Cucumber.....30p



A selection of the below are only available on Tuesday & Thursday

Muffin (full).....50p
Pizza.....30p
Scones.....40p
Pancakes.....30p
Wheaten Bread.....40p
Yoghurt Loaf.....30p

Strawberries50p
Pineapple30p
Melon40p
Water Melon50p
Pears30p
Carrot Sticks.....30p



Gracehill Primary School



Online Safety Newsletter

January 2024

WhatsApp

You must be at least 16 years old to register for and use WhatsApp.

WhatsApp is a free messaging app that allows you to send messages, voice notes, photos and videos.

What should I be aware of?

Group chats: One of the key features is the group chat function. Everybody in the group, even if they are not one of your child's phone contacts, will be able to see all messages within that group. If your child is added to a group with someone that they have previously blocked, that person can still see their messages and send them messages within the group chat. In settings, you can change who can add your child to groups. You can leave a group chat at any point so talk to your child and encourage them to leave any chat that makes them feel uncomfortable.

Location sharing: you can share your location on WhatsApp. Talk to your child about when this would be appropriate to use but also the potential danger of sharing their location, for example with strangers.

Blocking/Reporting: Show your child how to block and report other users or inappropriate content. You can find out how to do it based on your child's device here:
<https://faq.whatsapp.com/1142481766359885/>

Further information

NSPCC provide further advice and tips to help keep your child safe:
<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/online-safety-blog/2023-01-12-is-whatsapp-safe-for-my-child/>

New devices

If your child has a new device, have you set up parental controls?



Consoles

All consoles offer parental controls such as limiting the time spent on the device or restricting who your child can communicate with. Find out the specific settings below:

- **PlayStation:** <https://www.playstation.com/en-gb/support/account/psn-safety-parents-guide/>
- **Xbox:** <https://www.xbox.com/en-GB/family-hub>
- **Nintendo Switch:**

<https://www.nintendo.co.uk/Hardware/Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls/Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls-1183145.html>



Mobiles/Tablets

You can set up parental controls and restrictions on most mobile devices, which can limit what your child can access. Additionally, make sure appropriate settings are applied on the apps your child is using.

- Apple devices: <https://www.apple.com/uk/families/>
- Android devices: <https://families.google/familylink/>

Further information

Internet Matters provide a checklist here:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/e-safety-checklist-getting-your-kids-tech-devices-set-up-safe>

LEGO Fortnite – PEGI 7

Lego Fortnite is free to play (in game purchases are available though). The game has been rated as PEGI 7, meaning that the content is suitable for children over the age of 7. However, you should be aware that this game can be played with up to seven people (or solo). Lego Fortnite is only accessible on Fortnite, so you must download the main game. When setting up an account, if your child is under the age of 13, then they will be given a 'cabined account,' therefore certain features will be disabled (such as communicating with other players) unless you override them.

Please ensure you set the parental controls as appropriate for your child, we also recommend setting the appropriate settings on the console itself.

There are two worlds available - Survival or Sandbox, you can find out more about each world here so you can decide which would be best for your child:
<https://www.lego.com/en-gb/themes/fortnite/lego-fortnite-parents-guide>

Users of this guide do so at their own discretion. No liability is entered into.
Current as of the date released 01.01.24.

YouTube

YouTube is intended for users over the age of 13 (however, children of all ages may use the Service and YouTube Kids if enabled by a parent/legal guardian).

What if my child is under the age of 13?

If your child is under the age of 13 then your child should use either YouTube Kids or a Supervised Account. Which option you choose, will depend on your child's age and your requirements.

- **YouTube Kids** – this is a separate app that includes a smaller selection of videos based on the age you select:

- Preschool (ages four and under)
- Younger (ages 5–8)
- Older (ages 9–12)

- **Supervised accounts** – this is a parent-managed version of YouTube. You can select one of the following options, again depending on your child's age and your requirements:

- **Explore** - Generally for viewers aged 9+.
- **Explore more** - Generally for viewers aged 13+
- **Most of YouTube** - This setting includes almost everything on YouTube except for videos marked as 18+ and other videos that may not be appropriate for viewers using supervised experiences.

Google have created a table to show the differences between YouTube Kids and a Supervised account to help in your decision:

<https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/10315420>

Posting videos

You should be over 13 to post videos. If your child does post videos on YouTube, ensure they understand what information they should keep private and what to do if they receive negative comments. Talk to them about the different settings available -

1. Public: anyone can view the video.
2. Private: video can only be viewed by users that you select.
3. Unlisted: only people who have the link to the video can view it.

YouTube have produced these safety tips for teens when posting content:

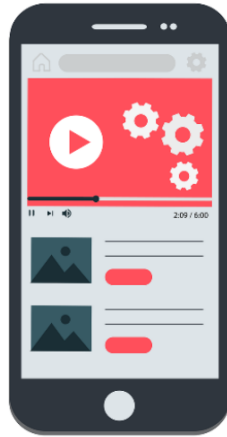
<https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/2802244>

How can I make YouTube safer?

- **Explore YouTube together** and see what they like to watch. Make sure your child understands that they can **talk to you** if they see anything that makes them feel uncomfortable online.

- **Restricted mode** - is an additional setting (when logged in via a Google account) to restrict the availability of mature content.

- Ensure your child knows how to **report inappropriate content/comments**. Find out more here: <https://support.google.com/youtube/answer/2802027>.



A Guide to the Online Safety Bill

The Online Safety Bill is a new set of laws to protect people online. The laws will make social media companies more responsible for the safety of their users on their platforms. The Government have created a guide to the new laws detailing how the laws will protect children and adults. For example, the new laws mean social media companies will have to show how they are enforcing age limits.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/a-guide-to-the-online-safety-bill>

YouTube Content Warning

The INEQE Safeguarding Group have published a report warning about the YouTube cartoon series called Jeffy. Due to the content being animated, viewers may believe that it is suitable for children to watch when in fact the content is inappropriate. You can find out more here:

<https://ineqe.com/2023/11/09/safeguarding-update-youtube-cartoon-jeffy>

World Events

There are a lot of distressing events happening around the world, which your child may see online. Childnet have published an article discussing how you can support your child when they see something worrying or upsetting online. The article also directs you to other organisations that you can contact if you require further help and support:

<https://www.childnet.com/blog/navigating-violent-online-content-from-global-events/>