



Dates for the diary....

Prize Day is on 26th June and this a year we plan to make it slightly different 😊

Sports Day is planned for 7th June and this year we have a beach theme. 😎
For more information, see our sports Day letter on the school website.

Outdoor SOS

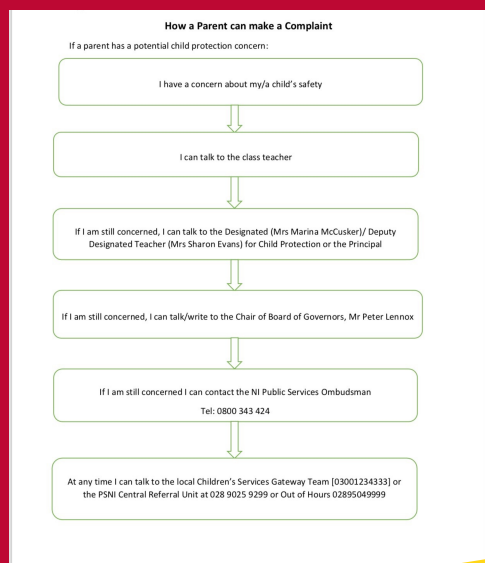
We appreciate our parents involvement in this event over recent years and this year is no different!
If you can spare any time at all between 4-8pm on Friday 10th May to paint or help tidy up existing play areas, we would be delighted. Our children are getting involved too.....they are weeding and washing! #everylittlehelps



Safeguarding

Reporting a concern

Visit our
policy on
school
website



Our Safeguarding Team

We have
talked to
children about
how we help
them stay safe
in school

**Designated Teacher: Mrs
M McCusker**
**Deputy Designated
Teacher: Mrs S Evans**
**Online Safety Officer: Mrs
J Nelson**
**Governor for Child
Protection: Mrs F Brimley**
Chairperson: Mr P Lennox

Pupil Leadership

Please encourage our pupils to apply for leadership roles within school next year.

There are many great many opportunities....digital leaders, rights respecting ambassadors, anti-bullying ambassadors etc. Children receive training in these areas and it provides great opportunities for the children to contribute to our school and feel part of the decision making, shaping school policy

Thank you for your homework survey responses. Updates on the revised policy will be published on the school website.

In the next few weeks an Anti-bullying consultation will be shared with parents, staff and governors. The '*Addressing Bullying in Schools Act (NI) 2016*' comes into effect in schools in September 2019 so our current policy will need to comply with new legislation. Pupils will provide their thoughts and input at school council and responses, updates to the policy will be published on the school website.



2. The classroom offers a safe base.

Children should be able to take comfort in the familiarity of school. Organisation and management of classrooms and the school environment offers children a place for security, comfort, relaxation and learning.



Staff are consistent, and relationships of trust are established through clear boundaries, expectations and routines.



6. Transitions are significant in the lives of children.

A nurturing approach helps children to make the difficult transition from home to school. However, on a daily basis there are numerous transitions that a child has to make. E.g. between different classes, some subjects may be more challenging than others to particular children, between class time and play time, between different adults. These changes can be difficult for some children, so it is important for these to be dealt with in consideration of the child's needs and appropriate support offered to make these transitions more comfortable and less unsettling.



1. Children's learning is understood developmentally

Every child is an individual and learning and support is tailored to their specific needs; emotional, behavioural and academic. Through a nurturing approach, staff respond to children not in terms of 'one size fits all' expectations about 'attainment levels' but in terms of the children's developmental progress assessed through the Boxall Profile Handbook. The response to each individual child is underpinned by a non-judgemental and accepting attitude.

5. All behaviour is communication.

When responding to behaviour, nurture encourages adults to think, 'Given what I know about this child and their development what is this child trying to tell me?'

Understanding what a child is communicating through behaviour helps staff to respond in a fair way. If the child can sense that their feelings are understood this can help to diffuse difficult situations. A range of strategies are used to respond to behaviour and adult make the link between the external/ internal worlds of the child and respond appropriately with all factors considered.



The six principles of nurture



Castledawson Primary School is a nurturing school.

'Planting seeds for success; grow and blossom together.'

3. Nurture is important for the development of self-esteem.

Nurture involves listening and responding. Children respond to being valued and thought about as individuals. This involves noticing, praising and celebrating small achievements. In a nurturing school nothing is hurried and children have the chance to work at things and to enjoy and take pride in their completion.

4. Language is understood as a vital means of communication.

Language is more than a skill to be learnt. It is a way of putting feelings into words. Children often act out their feelings as they lack the words or vocabulary to explain 'how they feel'. With nurture the informal opportunities for talking and sharing e.g. welcoming the children in the morning, having lunch with the teacher, discussing our feelings daily as part of our morning routine are as important as the formal lessons for teaching language skills. Words are used instead of actions to express feelings and opportunities are created for extended conversations or encouraging imaginative play to understand the feelings of others.



Move It Monday
Talk It Out Tuesday
Well-ness Wednesday
Thankful Thursday
Feel Good Friday

We are celebrating nurture week with lots of different activities.
We plan to introduce a new morning greeting with our classes....you've maybe seen some example videos of social media!
We'll also be continuing to implement the strategies we've undergone during staff training.



Next Wednesday-Friday we plan to hold a bake sale in school. All buns will be 30p and children will bake the buns in school. Any donations of unwanted/uneaten Easter Egg chocolate will be gratefully received!!