



'The Phoenix' - Whitehouse News



"We Rise By Lifting Others"

September 2016

Principal's Scribble...

Dear Parent,

It was great to welcome so many parents to our 'Meet the Teacher' evenings. I believe it was a very positive night for all those parents who attended. I want to thank staff for being so willing to stay for the late evenings.

2016/17 marks the beginning of a new school development plan cycle. I would love to see as many parents as possible attend our consultation event on the 19th September at 7pm.

We have already had our first big success. With the help of our local counsellor, Paul Hamill, we have received a £25,000 grant from the local council for a new outdoor classroom and play area. Over the coming three years we hope to invest over £50,000 in developing this new part of our campus.

We are excited by 2016/17. Let us all work together to achieve great things for our pupils.

Yours sincerely,
F. Bailie

Building Brighter Futures



On Friday 16th October every child in our school will be invited to take part in a sponsored fitness event. Its purpose is to raise £2,100 to split across our three chosen charities.

This year our three charities are:

- Penny Tuppence (Local)
- Guide Dogs for the Blind (National)
- Lepra (International)

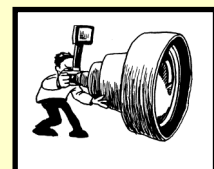
This approach reflects our goal of helping our children to see their responsibilities to their school, the local area and the global community. Not only is this a practical way of raising money but a great method of teaching children to count their blessing and have compassion for others.

Help us support these excellent causes.

Only one form per family is expected.

"Say Cheese!"

Opus will be in school on Thursday 6th October. Remember to send in a brush or comb!



Learning to Live

Blueprint 2020

September 2016/17 sees the fourth year of our dynamic six year school development strategy. This innovative and far ranging plan will bring our school to the next level in terms of learning and services to our community.

In this section we want to share some of our key strategic goals for the year ahead and then focus in on a few of the key innovations. Over the year we will regularly report on what has been achieved and the new projects that we develop.

Strategic Leadership

To share good practice across the school and beyond to enhance staff development and pupils' attainment. This will include the development and coaching of curriculum leaders.

The continued development of Shared Education with St. James's Primary School. In particular, this will allow the schools to promote S.T.E.M. and Forest School learning as well as achieving 'Rights Respecting Schools' status.

To engage with community stakeholders to increase aspirations, attainment, early intervention and collaboration. This will include focused family learning support interventions.

Ethos

Implement and review a whole school wellbeing strategy.

Achieve the British Council's International School Award by June 2018.

Use the pursuit of the Eco Green Flag, by June 2019, as a means to educate our school community to be more eco friendly.

Learning and Teaching

90+% of pupils, in both, Literacy and Numeracy will achieve as expected or above.

I.C.T. will more effectively enrich creativity, thinking skills and improve school management.

September Update

This month the whole school community will engage in Rights Respecting School Award training. This represents the beginning of a year's hard work to achieve this very prestigious school charter mark.

We also met up with the staff from St. James's Primary School to explore how we can share good practice and work together for the advantage of both schools. In particular, we have discussed cooperation in mathematics.

At the end of September we will be having two very valuable training days to explore how iPad technology can be used to develop numeracy skills and creativity. In addition to this we will be investigating new technology options and developing an enhanced e-safety scheme of work.



'Catalyst of Change'



25 years together

Shared Education

Whitehouse Primary and St James are delighted to celebrate 25 years working together.

Mr. McConkey and Mr. McKeague (past principals of both schools) in 1991/2 started a friendship that has shaped our two schools and the lives of so many children ever since. The relationship grew when our country was emerging from the 'Troubles'. Today our partnership has been recognised across the country and even internationally as a model of excellent practice. Last year our school was visited by a team of E.T.I. inspectors. They were extremely positive about our progress.

How will we celebrate our 25 years together?

We will continue our Shared Education Project. This will involve the following key elements:

S.T.E.M. Workshops - Key Stage 2 pupils from both schools will take part in joint **Science, Maths, Engineering and Technology** modules. Children will complete four or five modules; each lasting seven weeks. These will include for example, robotics and M.A.D. Science lessons.

Nursery and Primary one Outdoor Learning Experience - Nursery pupils from both schools will explore the wonderful outdoors on the grounds of their schools. In small groups they will take part in a whole range of outdoor activities to create, explore and solve problems with their new friends.

This year, work will also begin with the Year 1 children from both Whitehouse and St James's. Parent volunteers will also be encouraged to join us on these sessions and will be trained on how to support children's learning in the outdoors.

Rights Respecting School Award -

Both schools will engage in the 'Rights Respecting School' Award Scheme. We hope to have achieved level one status by the end of the next school year.

These strands will gather momentum over the next three years and we are keen for everyone to get involved. We feel very strongly that Shared Education is a unique opportunity for relationships to be developed between pupils, parents and staff. We believe that the chance to explore and celebrate diversity is a key element of the project and will help our children be leaders in real community change.

In addition,

Year 5 will take part in the Peace Proms;

There will also be a Year 5 Family Residential from the 29th - 31st March 2017;

Finally, there will be a celebration evening when both schools will be presented with a piece of artwork that will be commissioned to mark our 25th Year Anniversary.

We believe that both Mr McConkey and Mr McKeague will be very proud of what their friendship has achieved in 25 very special years.

In Focus: School Development

2016/17 marks the beginning of our new school development plan. Our last development plan brought a number of very pleasing successes.

Here is a summary of our key success in our last three-year plan:

- ♦ A new **leadership structure has been developed**;
- ♦ Training was **provided for curricular leaders**;
- ♦ Literacy and numeracy scores increased significantly over the three years;
- ♦ Excellent end of Key Stage 2 results put the school **well above expected levels** for similar schools across Northern Ireland;
- ♦ Significant progress was made to **improve our use of pupils' test results** to inform our teaching and our reporting to parents;
- ♦ **Accelerated Reading** has been successfully introduced in Key Stage 2;
- ♦ The development of our new **Roald Dahl Library**;
- ♦ **K.S.2 Author Bash Days** have been piloted developed;
- ♦ **Reciprocal Reading researched** and training provided for K.S.2 staff;
- ♦ **Numicon** was introduced into Year 1 to Year 4;
- ♦ **IzaK9 Mathematical Problem-solving** has been introduced into K.S.2.;
- ♦ The Nursery has been involved in training to **identify, support and track children with additional** needs more effectively;
- ♦ The Nursery Unit explored **outdoor play via Forest Schools**;
- ♦ New **iPads and additional laptops** have been introduced across the school;
- ♦ **S.T.E.M. workshops piloted** in Key Stage 2;
- ♦ The school has successfully bid for a £90,000 **Shared Education bid** with St. James's P.S. Over three years to promote S.T.E.M. subjects and better community links;
- ♦ An ambitious whole school **Wellbeing Three Year Plan** was launched;
- ♦ Three **Anti-Bullying Weeks** were developed and piloted;
- ♦ The staff have spent time updating the **Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policies**;
- ♦ The **'Order of the Phoenix'** house competition launched successfully;
- ♦ **'New Year, New You'** wellbeing community week was piloted and evolved;
- ♦ **Our new website, app and texting** service were introduced;
- ♦ **New playground routines and equipment** were developed.

A few of the more visible developments in **2016/17** will include:

- The school will enhance its **I.C.T. provision for pupils and staff**;
- Our **website** will be developed as a resource for learning;
- Our links with St. James's will be extended as **we celebrate our 25th anniversary year**;
- We will have a Shared Education 25th Anniversary **Residential for Year 5 families**;
- **Forest School learning** will be extended into Year 1;
- We will pursue our **Green Eco Flag**;
- The school will begin the development of an **outdoor learning and play area for use of our pupils and the wider community**;
- The school will achieve the **Level 1 Rights Respecting School Award**;
- The school will continue to **promote pupils' wellbeing** via its whole school strategy;
- The P.T.A. will encourage **community fitness events**;
- The **Key Stage 2 pupils will stage a night of dance, drama and music** in June 2017.

As you can see we have a busy year ahead. We need your support if we are to achieve these goals. We are, however, confident that we can reach all these challenging objectives by June 2017.

Our three year plan is very exciting. We are looking forward to helping provide a service to our community that will year on year promote higher standards for all.

Every month in the Phoenix we will report on key progress we have made. Please keep yourself informed by reading these updates.

TIME FOR ME



Time 4 Me is a Barnardo's support service working in schools. It supports children families and schools when life gets tough. Time 4 Me will be in our school every week this year. Our Time 4 Me Counsellor is Julie Magowan and she will be in school every Wednesday morning.

Time 4 Me helps with the things children face growing up which can affect their learning. We support children and families coping with:

- Bereavement
- Changes in the family (e.g. divorce, illness, conflict)
- Friendship problems
- Bullying
- Worries about school work or moving to 'big school'

If you think your child would benefit from counselling speak to Mr Bailie, Ms Kennedy, Mrs Watson or your child's teacher. Julie will be happy to chat about the service and how it can help.



Pastoral Care Team



Pupils' safety and care is our first priority. If you have any concerns we have a team of staff who are trained to support pupils and families. This team focuses on both child protection and wider pastoral support.

Team Leader: Mrs R. Watson
Mr Harris (K.S.2)
Miss Hasson (Early Years)
Mrs Spratt (Nursery)

S.M.I.L.E. Night

'Beauty and the Beast'

**Wednesday 12th October
@ 7pm**



All Year 1 to 7 pupils are very welcome. There is no cost to attend this fantastic theatre production. All child must be accompanied by a parent/carer.

Please plan to attend!

Holiday List 2016/17

School begins on Tuesday 30th and Wednesday 31st August with short days. Year 2 to 4 pupils will leave at 12noon and Year 5 to 7 will leave at 12.15pm for both these days. There will be no lunches served these two days. Nursery and Year 1 pupils, however, will be phased in gradually. Details will be provided during information sessions in June 2016.

The school will be closed for two training days on the **29th and 30th September.**

School ends on **Friday 28th October** from 1pm to 1.30pm.

School begins on **Monday 7th November.**

School ends on **Tuesday 20th December** from 12noon to 12.30pm.

School begins on **Thursday 5th January.**

School ends on **Wed. 15th February** from 1pm to 1.30pm.

School begins on **Monday 20th February.**

School ends on **Friday 7th April** at 12pm to 12.30pm

School begins on **Monday 24th April.**

School ends on **Friday 28th April.**

School begins on **Tuesday 2nd May.**

School ends on **Friday 26th May.**

School begins on **Wednesday 31st May.**

School ends on **Friday 30th June** from 12noon to 12.30pm.

*** The school has one additional training day to be taken. When this date has been confirmed we will contact parents to allow as much time as possible.**

NOTES:

The holidays above detail the days the children are not at school. The staff work a total of 10 training days. Five of these days are worked during the agreed holidays (normally during August) and five training days during the rest of the school's calendar year.



Dates For Your Diary

Autumn Half-Term

SEPTEMBER

- **14th** - Club survey to be issued.
- **19th** - Charity Appeal Launch
- **19th** - P.T.A. Annual General Meeting & S.D.P. Meeting @ 7pm.
- **20th to 23rd** - Year 1 Interviews
- **23rd** - Annual Child Protection Assemblies.
- **23rd** - New school council elected for Yr. 3 to 7.
- **28th** - Pupils' club notes issued.
- **29th & 30th** - Teacher training days for maths & I.C.T.

OCTOBER

- **3rd** - School clubs begin.
- **6th** - School photographs!
- **7th** - Charity Fitness Day
- **12th** - Family S.M.I.L.E. Night for Yr. 1 to 7. pupils and their parents. Come and enjoy 'Sleeping Beauty' @ 7pm and help us launch our new S.D.P.
- **12th** - Yr.1 Workshop for Jolly Phonics at 1pm and 6pm.
- **14th** - Harvest Celebrations!
- **21st** - Firework Safety Lessons.
- **24th to 28th** - School Book Fair 8.30am to 9am and 1.30pm to 3.15pm.
- **24th to 28th** - Early Closure at 1pm (Year 1 to 4) and 1.15pm (Year 5 to 7) for parental interviews.
- **28th** - Non uniform day and Roald Dahl Celebration.
- **31st to 4th** - Half-Term Holiday

Christmas Half-Term

NOVEMBER

- **7th** - School & clubs begin!
- **7th** - Flu Vaccination Day
- **11th** - Poppy Day - Special Somme theme to mark 100th anniversary.
- **14th** - Friendship Week
- **18th** - Children in Need Day
- **23rd** - 'Love for Life' - Yr. 6 & 7 parents' night @ 7pm (puberty).
- **30th** - Open Night for new Nursery & P.1 pupils for 2017/18.

DECEMBER

- **13th** - Yr. 1 & 2 Nativity@10am
- **14th** - K.S.1 Nativity@10am
- **15th** - Nursery Nativities
- **19th** - K.S.2 Carol Ser. @10am.
- **19th** - P.T.A. Disco
- **20th** - Non-uniform Day & a visit from a special celebrity!
- **20th** - Christmas Holidays begin! Early closure 12noon Yrs. 1 to 4 and Key Stage 2 at 12.15pm.

Winter Half-Term

JANUARY

- **5th** - New term begins.
- **9th** - 'New Year, New You' Week

FEBRUARY

- **1st** - Y.6 Transfer Night @ 7pm
- **7th** - Internet Safety Day
- **10th to 14th** - Interview Week (details to follow).
- **15th** - Michael Morpurgo Day. Early closure at 1pm (Year 1 to 4) and 1.15pm (K.S.2).
- **16th to 17th** - Half-Term

Easter Half-Term

February

- **20th** - School & clubs begin!
- **27th** - 'Festival of Words' & Scholastics Book Fair (8.30am - 9am and 2pm to 3.15pm).

March

- **24th** - Red Nose Day.

APRIL

- **7th** - Easter Holidays begin! Early closure 12noon Yrs. 1 to 4 and Key Stage 2 at 12.15pm.

Summer Term

APRIL

- **24th** - Summer Term begins.

MAY

- **1st** - May Day Holiday
- **29th to 30th** - May Holiday

JUNE

- **1st** - Nursery to Year 4 Sports' Days - 9am, 10am and 11am.
- **2nd** - P.T.A. Summer Fair from 5pm to 7pm. Early Closure at 1pm (Yr.1 to 4) and (Yr. 5 to 7) 1.15pm.
- **6th** - Key Stage 2 Sports' Day from 10am to 12.30pm.
- **14th** - Reports to be issued.
- **19th** - Half Price Book Fair
- **21st to 22nd** - K.S.2 Show 7pm
- **23rd** - Y.7 Leavers' Assembly at 11am.
- **26th** - Nursery Graduations
- **30th** - Summer Holidays begin! Early closure 12noon Years 1 to 4 and 12.15pm Key Stage 2.