



'The Phoenix'- Whitehouse News



"We Rise By Lifting Others"

June 2017

Principal's Scribble...

Dear Parent,

What a year! Here are a few of the many highlights:

- Achieving the **360 E-Safety ICT Award**;
- Celebrating our **25 year friendship with St. James's** with an exciting year of events that included S.T.E.M. workshops, Forest School sessions for Nursery and Year 1, a joint fun day and a family residential;
- A successful **Anti-Bullying Week** and an upgraded '**New Year, New You**' week;
- Continued development of the **Roald Dahl Library** with topic non-fiction packs;
- Upgrading of our Year 1 to 7 **topic planners**;
- Embedding our **open plan** nursery and enhancing **outdoor learning**;
- Excellent **Christmas services** and a **Key Stage 2 Show**;
- Very pleasing **literacy and numeracy results**;
- Our Y.7 pupils are heading off to **5 secondary schools** and **5 grammar schools**!

As a principal I **could not be prouder of our children and staff**. I am also very grateful to our parents for their support in 2016/17.

I wish you all a lovely summer and I look forward to another exciting school year ahead.

Yours sincerely,

F. Bailie

Non-Uniform Day

On our last day, Friday 30th June, we will be having a non-uniform day. We kindly ask that all children and staff donate £1 for a 'dress down' Friday. Your support would be very much appreciated.



Diary Dates - Express!

June

SPECIAL NOTE: All medicines kept in school must be collected by 12.30pm on Friday 30th June. Medicines will only be given to an adult. All medicines not collected will be sent to a local pharmacy for disposal.

28th - Nursery Graduations Services;

- Year 6 Parental Interviews;

29th - Year 6 Activity Day;

30th - Non-Uniform Fundraising Day £1;

- Summer Holidays begin! No school lunches served today. Year 1 to 4 finish at 12pm (with older siblings) and K.S.2 at 12.15pm.

August

23rd - School Office reopens;

30th - School begins* (half day);

- Breakfast Club begins at 8.15am;

31st - School continues* (as above);

September

1st - First full day.

* Year 2 to 4 pupils will leave at 12pm (with older siblings) and Key Stage 2 at 12.15pm. This will allow for all non-teaching staff to receive important pastoral care training and child protection training updates. **Nursery and Year 1 pupils have individual start plans.**

"Learning to Live"



Summer Fair Success!



We would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who came to support our Summer Fair on Friday 2nd June. It was a brilliant, fun and beautiful evening! We would like to thank our community for their generous support. This event would not have been possible without the efforts of our fantastic P.T.A. We wish to give them a special word of thanks for their loyal years of support and work for the school. We also want to give Miss Blain a massive thank you who successfully managed the Summer Fair.



School Uniform Supplier Reminder

Please read the attached abridged version of our School Uniform Policy. Purchases can be made from G&J Geddis, York Street, or www.ourschooluniform.com (or in Lisburn).



Companies who supported our Summer Fair

Beattie's Centra, Botanic Avenue

Spar, Doagh Road (Rathcoole Filling Station)

Holiday Inn, Antrim

Go Outdoors, Newtownabbey

B&Q, Newtownabbey

Homebase, Newtownabbey

Mothercare, Newtownabbey

Nando's, Abbeycentre

Pharmacy Plus, Whiteabbey

Coffee Bean, Merville

Maysoon Beauty, Merville

Playzone, Newtownabbey

Bombay Dreams, Newtownabbey

Many thanks!



Important Information!

The main school office will be opened from Wednesday 23rd August if anybody has any issues or needs to get in contact before the beginning of term.

In case of an emergency before the 23d August, the principal, Mr F. Bailies contact details are as follows:

wbailie552@whitehouseps.newtownabbey.ni.sch.uk

Please note that this email is strictly for urgent issues and should not be used for general enquiries.



Nursery Forest School



The nursery children were lucky enough to take part in Forest School work this year. They spent time at our Forest School area and also went on a bus to visit our friends at St. James. We had so much fun getting muddy and taking part in all the activities. Thank you to our lovely parent helpers!



Uniform Policy

September 2017

Key Points to remember:

All uniform items should be clearly **marked with your child's name**.

Footwear - **Children should wear sensible flat black shoes to school (not trainers.)** No platform soles or high heels are allowed.

Children are not to come to school with **unnatural coloured dyed hair or/and outlandish/ extreme hairstyles** that cause a distraction to others.

The only jewellery permitted in school on health and safety grounds is a **wristwatch and a medical bracelet**. Watches should be removed and medical bracelets covered with a sweatband to partake in P.E.

Earrings are strongly discouraged in school. If parents opt for their child to wear earrings they must only be small studs, either silver or gold.

Children who are participating in P.E., swimming, sports clubs and /or physical activities must not wear earrings. On days when these activities are scheduled children must leave their earrings at home. We do not want pupils removing and replacing earrings. This is due to the potential risk of injury, earrings being lost/stolen and the spread of infections. ***Staff will not be responsible for the removal, insertion or storage of earrings.***

Make-up is not to be worn to school by children.

School Uniform

- Red school sweatshirt with the approved logo
- Dark green polo shirt with the school embroidered badge
- Dark grey trousers or knee length grey skirt
- Black/grey socks (boys)
- White/grey socks or plain grey/black tights (girls)
- Plain flat black shoes

P.E. Uniform (Year 3 to Year 7 only).

- White round neck t shirt with red embroidered school name
- Dark green shorts
- Black plimsolls
- Hair band/clip to tie back long hair
- P.E. kit should be in a named draw string bag

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 next 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;

Review and update our P.D.M.U. provision.

End of Year Report

- The Eco Committee achieved their **Bronze Award** and had a **new Waste Week** to promote 'green' values across the school. I am sure you have all noticed the **lovely new garden** area that Miss McIntosh and Mrs Weir have developed. It is fab!
- The P.D.M.U. Team have completed some **baseline work** on the status of the area in the school. In 2017/18 to 2018/19 we hope to have a major focus on refining our work within P.D.M.U.
- The Education Authority seem to have finally signed off on the **new outdoor learning zone**. To be fair, this type of funding has been a first for the Education Authority but now they have gotten over the administration issues they are totally committed to the completion of the park in the near future.
- The end of year **literacy and numeracy results**, yet again, were very pleasing. Nearly all pupils are either meeting or exceeding their potential and our numeracy results have increased again!

Holiday List 2017/18

School begins on Wednesday 30th and Thursday 31st August with short days. Year 2 to 4 pupils will leave at 12 noon 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 2017.

The school will be closed for two training days on the **28th and 29th September.**

School ends on **Friday 27th October** from 1pm to 1.15pm.

School begins on **Monday 6th November.**

School ends on **Wednesday 20th December** from 12noon to 12.15pm.

School begins on **Monday 8th January.**

School ends on **Wednesday 14th February** from 1pm to 1.15pm.

School begins on **Monday 19th February.**

School ends on **Friday 23rd March** at 12pm to 12.15pm

School begins on **Monday 9th April.**

School ends on **Friday 4th May.**

School begins on **Tuesday 8th May.**

School ends on **Friday 25th May.**

School begins on **Tuesday 29th May.**

School ends on **Friday 29th June** from 12noon to 12.15pm.

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.

