



'The Phoenix' - Whitehouse News



"We Rise By Lifting Others"

October 2017

Principal's Scribble...

Dear Parent,

I would like to thank the parents who attended our **SMILE Night**. While pupils enjoyed an excellent production of 'The Hunchback' I got the opportunity to discuss our S.D.P. , including key pastoral issues, with a great group of parents.

At the end of October we will have our first cycle of **parent interviews**. Remember the pick up arrangements and try to keep your appointment times, please.

Over the October holidays new parking bollards and fencing will be installed. Despite the expense, I believe this work is essential. Some drivers have been ignoring the parking rules, including parking over the crossings! The bollards/fencing will restrict parking. I want to stress, however, this could have been avoided if a small group of parents had done what was politely requested.

I want to commend parents on maintaining the **high standard of school uniforms**. Please keep it up!

Yours sincerely,

F. Bailie

Parent Teacher Interviews



On the week beginning the 23rd October we are holding interviews. It is important that we have all parents at these crucial interviews. Please remember, to facilitate interviews, that the school will close early each day that week:

- **Nursery and Year 2 to 4 will be released at 1pm (with their older siblings);**
- **Year 5 to 7 will be released at 1.15pm.**

Lunches will be served as normal during this week.

The half term holidays begin on Monday 30th October and end on Friday 3rd November.

School begins again on Monday 6th Nov.

Charity Fitness Day



On Friday 6th October we held our annual Charity Fitness Day. The children had a super day and at the same time have helped other children and adults in need in our local community and internationally. We are still collecting our sponsorship money. I would like to thank our families for their generous support. Please send in any outstanding money as soon as possible.

"Learning to Live"

Roald Dahl Day



On Friday 27th October the school will hold our third 'Roald Dahl Day'. As you all know Roald Dahl is one of the most loved of all children's authors.

Every class will watch a 30 minutes extract from a famous Roald Dahl book. The pupils in the early years will do some art related to the movie they have watched. Key Stage 2 pupils will work in teams to compete in a Roald Dahl table quiz.

A day to make great memories and encourage pupils to read. Please note this year we are not asking pupils to dress up. In March during our 'Festival of Words' pupils will get a chance to dress up. So save up your good ideas!



To coincide with our celebration of the life of Roald Dahl and our parent interviews the Travelling Book Fair will be in school from Monday 23rd to Friday 27th October.

It will be available for browsing and purchasing in the school foyer every morning from 8.30am - 9am and again from 1pm.

Any commission raised by the book fair will buy new books for our pupils. Your support would be very much appreciated!



'Keep Connected!'



We are working very hard on our new website. Please see the new parents' Zone. You can see topic overviews as well as finding lots of valuable information about your child's year group. Last year we got over 50,000 hits on the site!

Please consider downloading the app and/or signing up for email on the site. We are striving to gain our Green Eco Flag. This would be helped massively if we could move to a paperless system for communication. If you have a computer or/and smart phone save our website to your favourites: **www.whitehouseps.co.uk**

In addition, please download the app **Schools NI**. Then go to **Antrim** and select our school. By having this app you will be able to see our latest news (including photographs), view our calendar and read all recent letters that have gone home.

Also go to the tab at the top of the homepage entitled '**Contacts**'. In this section you can very quickly enrol for our email system. **The recent hurricane warning highlights the importance of parents getting connected.**

Blueprint 2020

September 2017/18 sees the fifth 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 hope to develop in 2017/18.

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.

October Update:

At the end of September we took two days to work on our P.D.M.U. curriculum, planned for 'New Year, New You 2018' as well as revisiting our risk assessments across the school. It was an intense but also a very worthwhile few days.

In September we also developed new handwriting resources and strategies for improving handwriting skills in Year 5. Over the next year we want to really focus on presentation skills. In June 2018 all Key Stage 2 pupils will engage in a handwriting and presentation competition. Pupils will receive Bronze, Silver and Gold certificates for their achievements. One pupil will be awarded by the Governors the 'Principal's Pen for 2018'.

We were very excited when our Year 6 pupils received their new tablets. These will enable them to pilot a new piece of numeracy software that aims to increase their thinking skills and problem solving abilities. We believe that this work will help us boost pupils' enjoyment of numeracy as well as their achievements in mathematics.

Our topic in Year 5 this term is 'The Sea'. We have enjoyed writing poems about sea creatures in literacy and we also draw some fish and crabs in Art.

I dreamed
I was a hungry shark
Down at the bottom of
the dark blue sea
Searching for some
people to eat
Sneakily.

Erin Hamilton



I dreamed
I was a sneaky squid
In a clear sea
Shooting ink
everywhere
Continuously.

Daniel Ogilby



I dreamed
I was a cute seahorse
In the lovely sea
Diving in the coral reef
Quietly.

Olivia Nesbitt

I dreamed
I was a slippery sea
snake
In the Atlantic Ocean

Swimming in the rock
pools
Peacefully.

C.I Neely



I dreamed
I was a beautiful
seahorse
In the deep blue sea
Swimming and having
lots of fun
Happily.

Katy Foster



I dreamed
I was a slippery
dolphin
At the surface of the
Atlantic Ocean
Jumping in and out of
the water
Quickly.

Jamie Glass



I dreamed
I was a scared sea
turtle
In the middle of the
Mediterranean Sea
Swimming away from a
family of sharks
Nervously

Will McClean



I dreamed
I was a shy
hammerhead shark
In the deep blue sea
Swishing from side to
side
Quickly.

Blake Henry

I dreamed
I was a rose red crab
On the golden shiny
sand
Kicking about and
climbing on rocks
Energetically.

Mya Clarke



Our topic is "the sea" and we have written super poems using the Narrative genre. We have also begun our All Stars programme and loved creating a display.

Ben Seath

Fat Fish

I dreamed I was a fat fish

Stuck in a tiny rockpool

Trying to get out

Sadly.



Dan Kerr

Diving Dolphin

I dreamed I was a diving dolphin

At the Portlewart Strand

Doing flips

Happily.



Jessica Sloan

Crazy Crab

I dreamed I was a crazy crab

On the sandy, warm beach

Pinching my enemies toes

Fiercely.



Emily Eaton

Silly Seahorse

I dreamed I was a silly seahorse

I'm in the colourful coral reef

I'm sitting on a sting ray

Quietly.



Matthew Weir

We're at the seaside for the day

My family and I are going to play

I want to tell you what it's like

But not just using the power of sight

I can smell the fabulous fresh air

I can hear the wonderful waves

I can touch the soft sand

I can taste the perfect picnic

I can see super shells

Use your senses, yes all five

And you'll feel you're really alive



By Ellie



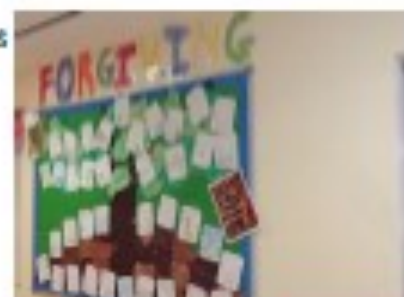
By Lea Lily

By Molly W



By Charlie

Our All Stars Display



Diary Dates



- **23rd to 27th** - School Book Fair 8.30am to 9am and 1pm to 2pm.
- **23rd to 27th** - Early Closure at 1pm (Year 2 to 4) & 1.15pm (Year 5 to 7) for parental interviews. **SCHOOL LUNCHES SERVED AS NORMAL ALL WEEK.**
- **24th** P.S.N.I. Firework Safety Workshops
- **27th** - Roald Dahl Day! Non-uniform Day - £1 donation to school funds, please.
- **27th** - Flu Inoculation Day
- **30th Oct. to 3rd Nov** - Half Term Holiday

NOVEMBER

- **6th** - School begins again!
- **6th** - Poppies go on sale today.
- **10th** - Remembrance Day Services
- **15th - 17th** - Y.5 S.E. Residential
- **17th** - 'Children in Need' - £1 Donation.
- **20th** - 'Operation Blue' Anti-Bullying Week
- **28th** - Milk Order for Term 2 issued.
- **29th** - Open Night for new Nursery & Year 1 pupils for Sept. 2018 from 6pm to 8pm.

DECEMBER

- **4th** - Year 7 Residential at Bushmills
- **13th** - Foundation Stage Nativity @10am
- **14th** - Key Stage 1 Nativity @ 10am
- **18th** - Nursery Nativities at 9.30/10.30am
- **19th** - Key Stage 2 Carol Service at 10am.

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

Mrs Clifford (Early Years)

Mrs Spratt (Nursery)

'New Year, New You 2018'

On the week beginning the 8th January we will launch our annual 'New Year, New You' week. It aims to promote the wellbeing of all our pupils, our families and the wider community as we begin a new year.

Our P.D.M.U. Team are working very hard to plan this week. They are going to consult with our new school council to get their input.

In November's edition of the Phoenix we will preview how we intend to help us all be more physically active, stay safe, be emotionally secure and aspire to reach new goals in 2018 and beyond.