



'The Phoenix'- Whitehouse News



"We Rise By Lifting Others"

June 2018

Principal's Scribble...

Dear Parent,

I recently signed off over 460+ reports for our pupils. It was a **very positive experience** to read about how well our pupils are learning.

As a school we have also made some very pleasing strides in 2017/18. Please read our '**End of Year Report**' in this Phoenix for a summary of just some of our achievements.

It would be remiss of me not to highlight a '**hat trick of awards**' achieved recently:

1. We earned our **Silver Eco Award**;
2. We gained our **Silver Rights Respecting School Award** with top marks!
3. On our first entry we were awarded '**Highly Commended**' status in the **Northern Ireland I.C.T. Excellence Awards**.

I want to **wish our Year 7 pupils well** as they head off to a wide number of secondary and grammar schools. We look forward to hearing of their future successes in the years ahead.

I want to wish **Mr Evans well as he prepares for his retirement**. He has been an important figure in the life of our pupils and the school. I wish Mr Evans many happy and healthy years of deserved fun and travel in his 'golden years'.

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 2017/18. I wish you all a lovely summer and I look forward to another exciting school year ahead.

Regards, F. Bailie

Reminders:

Defibrillator Access

Thanks to the P.T.A. we now have a defibrillator if it is ever required. It can be accessed from the school office during school hours for our community.



Non-Uniform Day

Friday 29th June. £1 donation, please! All money will be used to invest in our new play area.

Diary Dates - Express!

June

SPECIAL NOTE: All medicines kept in school must be collected by 12.30pm on Friday 29th June. Medicines will only be given to an adult. All medicines not collected will be sent to a local pharmacy for disposal.

25th - Year 7 Leavers' Service at 10.30 a.m.

27th - Nursery Celebration Event.

27th - Year 6 Parent A.Q.E. Interviews.

29th - Non-Uniform Day (£1, please).

Early Closure: 12pm (Y.1 to 4 + older siblings) and 12:15pm (K.S.2). No lunches will be served today.

Summer Holidays begin 2nd July 2018!

The school office will open again on Wednesday 22nd August, 2018.

The first day for pupils to return to school will be on Thursday 30th and Friday 31st August (both days will be early closures at 12pm and 12:15pm). No school lunches will be served on these two days. The first full day will be on Monday 3rd September.

"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 1st June. It was brilliant fun! 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 as well as Miss Campbell and the Year 6 children who organised/ managed the school fair ballots.

Year 6 tell us how they successfully organised and managed the ballots below:

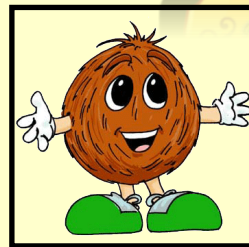
For the school fair this year, our class (Y.6 Miss Campbell), were in charge of the ballots. The school fair was held on Friday 1st June. Our whole class picked different companies to write to and we used persuasive writing to get some prizes for our ballots e.g. The Ramp House, Air-Tastic and many, many more! We wrote the letters, added pictures and detail. Eventually when we were finished Miss Campbell sent them out. We received 21 prizes! Next, we wrote thank you cards. We sold the ballots through the school week to make lots of money for our school. Then, we got ready for the school fair. We made posters, photocopied the ballot sheets, cut out the ballots and folded them. There were a lot of lucky winners and all the prizes were won. We tried our best to be the top fundraiser at the fair. It was £525. I say we crushed that source. We raised £1.196! This will help us buy more books etc. for school, The school fair was amazing!

By Aimee Mercer, Amber Higgins, Tanea Halliday, and Grace Cranston

Companies who supported our Summer Fair

Maldron Hotel (Airport)
Dundonald Ice Bowl
Streamvale Farm
Tayto Castle
Fortwilliam Golf Club
Active Feet
Odyssey Cinema
Hairways
The Lost City Adventure Golf
Ampitheatre Wellness Centre
Rathlin Island Ferry Company
W5
Aurora, Bangor
Lagan Valley LeisurePlex
Odyssey Bowl
The Ramp House
We Are Vertigo
Airtastic
Merchant Hotel
Ownies
Hairville
Exploris
The Works, Abbey Centre

Many thanks!



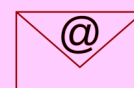
Important Information!

The main school office will be opened from Wednesday 22nd August if anybody has any issues or needs to get in contact before the beginning of term.

In case of an emergency before the 22nd 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.



Uniform Policy

September 2018

(See school website parents' section for suppliers)

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

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 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 school achieved its **Silver Eco Award** after a year's hard work. It was a lovely day when the pupils on the Eco Committee got the good news!
- The Rights Respecting School Award Steering Group were thrilled when they achieved the **Silver Level Award** (the old Level 1 Award) after two years of commitment. The assessor felt we are already very close to Gold Level! Only a few schools have achieved Gold Level.
- The I.C.T. Team attended a reception in the Merchant Hotel to be presented with our '**Highly Commended**' **I.C.T. Excellence Award** for promoting independent learning. This was our first year of entering this process and we were so pleased the judges were so impressed.
- The school's annual results for **literacy and numeracy** are being studied by the school's leadership team. We believe this is the most pleasing set of results in the past six years. The most positive is the high proportion of pupils achieving or exceeding their expected outcomes in both literacy and numeracy.

June 2018 End of Year Report

This has been a great year in terms of both effort and achievement. We could not possibly capture them all on a single piece of A4 paper. We will simply try and discuss our key strategic goals for 2018/19.

Strategic Leadership

Our school **leadership teams** have operated very well and key members of staff have completed leadership training. This training has been noted by assessors who have visited our school in 2017/18.

We have had another **excellent Shared Education year** with our friends in St. James's Primary School. This has included **S.T.E.M. experiences** for Years 5 to 7 (with some new elements for Year 7), **outdoor learning** has been extended from Nursery to Year 2, Year 3 and 4 have also added some **great new joint curricular events** and our school achieved our goal of attaining **Rights Respecting School Award (Silver Level)**. We also had a **joint family residential** in Ballycastle in November and a **brilliant culture night** this June.

The Year 1 classes in both schools worked together to develop a draft **Play Policy** to support our pupils' learning. Finally, our school was selected as a **Shared Education Hub School**. This means our vision and practice is seen to be of very high level. We will now train schools across Northern Ireland and receive will £22,000 of new funding.

We have worked very hard to develop **'Thrive'**. This is a new community wide effort to help all our young people reach their goals. Over the next year you will hear more of this exciting innovation.

Ethos

The new Outdoor Learning Zone (Phase 1) has finally been completed. Over the next five years we want to work with a range of funders and our P.T.A. to create an area that will enrich our pupils' learning.

By July 2018 we hope to be assessed for our **British International School Award**. We have also had a fun and interesting year working with five schools across Europe developing numeracy. We hosted a very success conference in Belfast earlier this term.

The Eco Committee has had a great year and achieved our **Silver Eco Award** and are working towards our **Green Flag** for next June.

This May our **Girls' Football Team** also won a local tournament in very testing conditions. It was very hot! While we have had other sporting achievements the girls' game is a relatively new venture for our school.

Learning and Teaching

We achieved our best literacy and numeracy report in the past six-years. The numeracy scores were helped by our involvement in the **Learning by Questions** mathematics/I.C.T. project. Only seven schools were selected in Northern Ireland. All our Year 6 pupils were given tablets and access to fantastic online resources.

The teachers linked **numeracy/thinking skills more systematically to their I.C.T. planning**. The school was award **'Highly Commend' in the Northern Ireland I.C.T. Excellence Award**.

Teachers evaluated our work within **P.D.M.U.** (Personal Development and Mutual Understanding).

Staff updated their **P.D.M.U. planning** and helped create a **very comprehensive new policy and scheme**.

Principal's Comment:

This is an impressive year's work. This report I feel deserves an A for effort and attainment!

I want to thank our community for its support. Congratulations to the children for their efforts and success.

However, I want to say a special thank you and well done to all my staff for all that has been achieved! FB

Holiday List 2018/19

School begins on Thursday 30th and Friday 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 2018.

The school will be closed for a training day on **Friday 28th September.**

School ends on **Friday 26th October** from 1pm to 1.15pm.

School begins on **Monday 5th November.**

School ends on **Friday 21st December** from 12noon to 12.15pm.

School begins on **Friday 4th January.**

School ends on **Friday 15th February** from 1pm to 1.15pm.

School begins on **Thursday 21st February.**

The school will be close on **Monday 18th March at 12pm and 12.15pm** for staff training. The school will begins on **Wednesday 20th March.**

School ends on **Friday 12th April** at 12pm to 12.15pm

School begins on **Monday 29th April.**

School ends on **Friday 3rd May.**

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

School ends on **Friday 24th May.**

School begins on **Tuesday 28th May.**

School ends on **Friday 28th 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.

