



# 'The Phoenix' - Whitehouse News



**"We Rise By Lifting Others"**

September 2018

## Principal's Scribble...

Dear Parent,

It is that exciting time when we welcome new families and look forward to another fantastic school year.

Just a few key areas that require your support:

Visit our **website** every week to stay informed. Also, our **Phoenix** newsletter is now only distributed electronically. On the website go to the **Contact** tab at the top of the homepage and enrol for email and text alerts. Also download the app to your phone. We will provide hard copies via the school office upon request .

Please remember our school is a **nut free** zone. **Dogs** are also not permitted on the school grounds. The campus is also an **non-smoking** campus.

I would like to thank parents for all the **ice packs** that were sent into classes. If you have not done so already we would really appreciate one being sent in for each child.

With no working assembly, **school budgets across Northern Ireland are in crisis**. At present our budget is sound but it is very tight! We are working hard to raise money from other sources but it is challenging. We can get through this if we work together. Here is one way you can help. **Every year dozens of parents fail to claim free school meals who are entitled to them.** The result is that we lose out on **thousands of pounds of funding**. Therefore, if you can qualify please apply. Despite these challenges, with your support, 2018/19 will be another great year!  
Yours sincerely,  
F. Bailie

## 'Celebrating 80 Years of Learning and Success'

This year our school is celebrating its 80th anniversary. This is a fantastic milestone for our school.

We are planning a number of events to highlight and mark this special year for our school.

On the week beginning the 24th September pupils will be asked to help design a birthday logo and slogan.

I hope you will enjoy this year of celebration and thanksgiving.

## "Say Cheese!"

Opus will be in school on Thursday **4th October**. Remember to send in a brush or comb!



## Good Attendance

Our attendance target is for a minimum of 96%.

**Poor attendance is 90%**. This is the level we believe seriously impacts pupils' learning. 3-4 days absence each half term will result in a 90% or less attendance level.

If your child's attendance **falls below 90%** you get an alert letter home.

If **it continues to decline** your child's attendance will be tracked. You may also be offered support from our **Family Connection** parent support worker, Karen. This is a very pastoral service to help families to improve attendance.

If your child's attendance falls below 85% your family will be referred to the Education Welfare Service. Mr Kennedy is our E.W.O.

**Learning to Live**

## 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 **Tuesday** 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.

**Believe in children**  
 **Barnardo's**  
Northern Ireland

## 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)

### S.M.I.L.E. Night

## 'Jack and the Beanstalk'

**Wednesday 17th October @ 7.00pm**



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

Please plan to attend. We want to inform parents about our S.D.P. Discipline and Pastoral Care Policy Reviews.

# Blueprint 2020

September 2018/19 sees the sixth 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 and improve school management;

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

## September Update

Late August and September is a very exciting and busy time in our school. Here are a few of the highlights:

Our Year 5 staff are being trained in using **tablet technology to boost pupils' numeracy thinking skills**. Year 5 classes will have new tablets and will use them to learn mathematics using the Singapore/Shanghai type approach to numeracy. We hope our pupils will have a fantastic learning experience.

The teachers spent valuable time updating their planning for the new half-term to **use I.C.T. to enrich pupils' literacy lessons**.

The whole staff received some excellent training to promote their understanding of **special educational needs**. We also received some excellent discipline training from a top U.K. trainer .

## Celebrating 2017/18

In 2017/18, working with all our community, we achieved so much as a school. As we begin a new year I want to revisit just a few of our successes.

Our pupils are at the centre of all we do, therefore, I thought using the acrostic **CHILDREN** would be very fitting:

**C**ontinued success in promoting **numeracy standards and practice**;

**H**ub School Shared Education status achieved (centre of excellence);

**I**nternational School Award gained recognising our global vision;

**L**aunch of ‘**Thrive**’ a new community learning and wellbeing partnership,

**D**evelopment of **new P.D.M.U. Policy and Scheme** across the school,

**R**ights Respecting School Award achieved after two year’s hard work;

**E**rasmus project, ‘**Da Vinci/2019**’, started to promote creative numeracy;

**N**ew **Outdoor Learning Zone** (Phase 1) built in the Summer Term.

These are just a selection of our achievements from 2017/18. I would encourage you to visit the school website and click the ‘Our School’ link to find out more about our successes.



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## Looking ahead to 2018/19

I am proud of what we achieved last school year, however, we need to always strive to get even better at what we do.

In 2018/19 we have **high expectations** for our pupils and the school as a whole. Schools have sometimes been described as the '**future** in four walls'.

Therefore, here is a summary of our goals for the year ahead:

**F**orm a **new School Development Plan** with our community for 2019-21;

**U**se I.C.T. to **enrich pupils' literacy** and **improve school administration**;

**T**o link **P.M.U., R.E. and R.S.E.\*** more effectively to support our pupils;

**U**se new technology in K.S.2 to enhance **creativity and mathematics**;

**R**ecieve our **Eco Green Flag Award** by June 2019;

**E**ighty years of our **history and success celebrated** in 2018/19.

\*Relationships and Sexuality Education.

This is just a simple summary of our goals for 2018/19. I would encourage you to visit the school website and click the 'Our School' link to find out more about our future plans.

Regards,  
F. Bailie September 2018



# Uniform Policy

September 2018

## 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

## Holiday List 2018/19

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

School ends on **Thursday 25th 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 1pm to 1.15pm.

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.



# 2018/19 Key Dates\*

## Autumn Half-Term

### SEPTEMBER

- **17th** - Y.5 'Meet the Teacher' at 1:10pm (A.R.) then 1:30pm.
- **18th** - Y.3 'Meet the Teacher' at 1:30pm.
- **19th** - Y.2 'Meet the Teacher' at 1:30pm.
- **19th** - Election of Parent Governors 7pm.
- **21st** - UN Sustainable Goals and Charity Appeal Launch.
- **24th** - Launch 80th Anniversary logo and slogan competition.
- **24th to 27th** - Y.1 Interviews.
- **25th** - Year 7 at Sentry Hill
- **27th** - Child Protection Assemblies
- **28th** - School closed for training.

### OCTOBER

- **2nd** - Interview letters issued.
- **4th** - School Photographs
- **5th** - Charity Fitness Day
- **8th** - Shared Education Week
- **8th & 9th** - Bible Exhibition. Pupils from St James's and Whitehouse explore the story of the Bible together.
- **10th** - K.S.1 pupils share videos to develop their learning & friendship.
- **17th** - Family S.M.I.L.E. Night for Y. 1 to 7. pupils and their parents. Come and enjoy 'Jack and the Beanstalk' @ 7pm and hear about the work of the school.
- **17th** - Yr.1 Workshop for Jolly Phonics at 1pm and 7pm.
- **19th** - Firework Safety Workshop
- **22nd** - Travelling Book Fair Week
- **23rd** - Harvest Celebrations at St John's
- **24th to 25th** - Early Closure at 1pm (Year 1 to 3) and 1.15pm (Year 4 to 7) for interviews.
- **26th** - School closed all day for interviews (except for Y.1 who had interviews in late September.)
- **29th October to 2nd November** - Half-Term Holiday.

## Christmas Half-Term

### NOVEMBER

- **5th** - School begins!
- **5th** - Poppies go on sale today.
- **12th** - Anti-Bullying Week.
- **14th** - Y.1 Numicon Workshop at 7pm.
- **16th** - Children in Need Day
- **29th** - Year 5 Titanic Visit

### DECEMBER

- **4th** - Milk order for Term 2.
- **11th** - Yr. 1 & 2 Nativity @ 10am
- **12th** - K.S.1 Nativity@10am
- **12th** - Pupils' Christmas Dinner (£2.60)
- **18th** - Nursery Nativities
- **20th** - K.S.2 Carol Service @10.30am and P.T.A. Disco Day
- **21st** - Christmas Holidays begin! Early closure 12pm Yrs. 1 to 3 and Year 4-7 at 12.15pm.

## Winter Half-Term

### JANUARY

- **4th** - School begins!
- **7th - 11th** - 'New Year, New You 2019'
- **24th** - Year 3 Shared Education R.S.P.B. Big Schools' Bird Watch

### FEBRUARY

- **5th** - Internet Safety Day
- **15th** - Michael Morpurgo Author Bash.
- **15th** Early Closure at 1pm (Year1 to 3) and 1.15pm (Year 4 to 7)
- **18th to 19th** - Half-Term Holiday.

## Easter Half-Term

### FEBRUARY

- **20th** - Parent/Teacher Interviews. School closed all day. Details to follow
- **21st and 22nd** - School closes at 1pm/1.15pm for admin and training.
- **25th** - 1st Scholastics Book Fair

### MARCH

- **18th** - School closes at 1pm (Y.1 to 3) and 1:15pm (Y.4 to 7).
- **19th** - School closed for training.

### APRIL

- **12th** - Easter holidays begin. Early closure 12noon Yrs. 1 to 3 and Yrs. 4 to 7 at 12.15pm.

## Summer Term

- **29th** - School begins!

### MAY

- **6th & 7th** - Holiday
- **8th** - School begins!
- **16th** - Year 7 Shared Education STEM Day/ Year 3 S.E. Ulster Museum Trip/ Year 4 S.E. Minibeast Hunt
- **17th** - Michael Rosen and Principal's Pen
- **27th** - May Holiday
- **28th** - Early Years Sports' Days
- **30th** - KS2 Team house Sport's Day
- **31st** M&M Productions Treasure Island

### JUNE

- **5th** - 80th Anniversary Buddy Class School Picnic
- **6th** - 80th Anniversary Thanksgiving Assembly
- **7th** - 80th Anniversary Garden Party (Details to follow).
- **10th-14th** Money Week
- **17th- 21st** Half Price Book Fair
- **17th - 21st** - Principals' Pen gallery
- **18th** - Reports issued
- **24th** - Y.7 Leavers' Assembly at 9.30am
- **25th** - Y.3 - Y.6 Prize Giving Day
- **27th** - Nursery Celebration
- **28th** - Summer Holidays begin! Early closure 12noon Years 1 to 3 and 12.15pm Year 4-6 .

**\*All of these dates are subject to change. Please check monthly Phoenix and**