



'The Phoenix'- Whitehouse News



"We Rise By Lifting Others"

May 2016

Principal's Scribble...

Dear Parent,

This month has been extremely busy but also very successful. The pupils have completed their end of year tests and teachers are working very hard writing **end of year reports**. These will be sent home on the **16th June**.

On the wider aspect of pupils' development we have also had many successes. For example, our nursery pupils, and some of our parents, completed a **Forest School learning experience** with our friends from St. James's Primary School and Nursery Unit.

The school council has also been very active and are helping to shape school policy via new **playground and lunchtime routines**.

Classes across the school have been involved in a **whole range of school trips and workshops** to help their learning. Our Year 7 pupils, for example, have engaged in **transition workshops** to help them as they prepare to move to their new schools.

On Tuesday 14th June our canteen staff are serving a **special Rio Olympic lunch**.

Attendance levels all year have been very high. June is also important. **Please do not spoil your child's learning with casual days off.**

This weekend our Year 7 pupils will be informed of their new schools. **I wish each pupil every happiness in their new schools.**

Yours sincerely,
F. Bailie

Sports' Day

'Get Ready, Steady Go!'

Please come and join us to celebrate the sporting talent of our pupils on the **Tuesday 7th June**. This will be a great day out for all family and friends. Please try and come along.

9am - Nursery Sports - These will take place in the school hall.

The primary school races will take place on the school field (weather permitting).

10am - Primary 1 & 2 Sports - Please send your child to school in shorts, a t-shirt, hoodie and jogging bottoms.

11am - Primary 3 & 4 Sports - Please send children to school in their PE kits with a hoodie and jogging bottoms.

1.15pm - Primary 5 to 7 Sports - Please send children to school in their PE kits with a hoodie and jogging bottoms. The event will be completed by 3pm.



Special Rio Olympic Lunch Menu

14th June 2016

Main Courses:

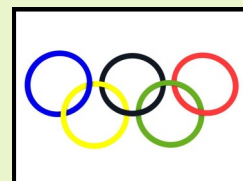
Brazilian Beef Stir Fry or Amazon Chicken Wrap with Copacabana Potato Wedges.

Dessert:

Cookies & Ice Cream

Drink:

Orange Juice



"Learning to Live"

Diary Dates



MAY

27th - Second week of our 'Global Village' assemblies to celebrate diversity in society.

28th - Year 7 Post-Primary School Letters Arrive

30th - May Holiday

31st - School begins again!

31st - Mr Bailie available for Y.7 parents who require advice about allocated new schools .

JUNE

2nd - Year 6 visit Carrickfergus College after lunch

3rd - School Summer Fair from 5pm to 7pm.
School ends early to allow for set up.

Years 1 & 2 with older siblings at 1pm, Year 3 & 4 with older siblings at 1.15pm and Years 5 to 7 at 1.30pm. Nursery pupils can be picked up between 1pm and 1.15pm.

6th - Year 7 Cycling Proficiency Week

7th - Sports' Day (weather permitting!) See page 1 of this month's Phoenix for more details.

8th - Year 6 'Big Science Day' at B.R.A.

9th & 10th - C.E.F. Summer Club (assemblies)

13th to 17th - Scholastic Half Price Book Fair.
Open times from 8.30am to 9am and then from 2pm to 3.15pm.

14th - Special Rio Olympic Lunch

16th - School Reports issued

20th - Year 6 Parent Interviews

24th - Year 7 Leavers' Celebrations Morning

27th - Nursery Graduation Morning

29th - P.T.A. Summer Disco Day

30th - Summer Holidays! (No lunches today)

Years 1 & 2 with older siblings at 12noon, Year 3 & 4 with older siblings at 12.15pm and Key Stage 2 at 12.30pm.

Tues. 30th August - First Day Back!

See and keep safe the holiday list for 2016/17 on page 2 of this month's Phoenix. Please note our closing times and try to book family holidays during these times. High attendance and academic success are strongly linked.

Pastoral Care Team



Dear Parent,

As you are aware we have a very successful Pastoral Care Team. Due to a maternity and an illness, we have had to reorganise our team. This term our interim Pastoral Care Team will be as follows:

Team Leader: Mrs R Watson

Assistant Leader: Miss C Hasson (Nursery to Y.4)

Assistant Leader: Mr G Harris (Y.5 to Y.7)

While our team has changed our commitment to provide great care to our families remains the same.

'Dressing for Success'

School Uniform Suppliers 2016/17

Our Uniform Policy was agreed by the school Governors, the Pupils' Council, parents and staff and is displayed on the next page. We ask everyone to commit to its continued high level of compliance.

There are three uniform suppliers:

Rascals is a local uniform shop located at 1a Jennings Park, Monkstown.

Telephone number - 02890851209

www.ourschooluniform.com is an online platform that parents can order online or parents can visit the shop in Lisburn.

Telephone number - 02892620394

G & J Geddis Ltd is located at 18-22 York Street, Belfast.

Telephone number - 02890 351554

Please note that all suppliers this year have agreed to common standards of quality and shades of garment.

I have also been assured by each supplier of a steady stream of supplies and aftercare.

Finally, if you are entitled to free school meals you will also receive a school uniform grant. Therefore, even if you do not wish to have school lunches apply for free school meals as soon as possible.

Half Price Book Fair



On the **week beginning the 13th June** we will have a **Scholastic Book Fair**. The great news is that all books are half price!

There will also be books available **priced from as little as 50p**. These small books are ideal for days out or holidays at the beach.

There will be an opportunity to purchase books each morning from **8.30am** and from **2pm to 3.30pm** each afternoon.

The school gets a 10% commission from the sale to purchase new books. **We intend to invest this money in our school library**. In particular, we hope to buy new books for our Year 3 and 4 pupils. This will include a whole range of exciting new novels.

There will be a wide selection of books to enthuse readers of all ages. Come along and stock up in time for your summer reading.

May I also remind parents that **every Monday to Thursday from 2pm to 3.15pm** our **Road Dahl Library** is open and available to our families. There are thousands of books that we are happy for your family to borrow free of charge!



Summer Fair 2016

It is hard to believe that we are getting ready for the Summer Fair again!

Please keep Friday 3rd June free and bring the whole family along from 5pm - 7pm. Your family can enjoy our barbeque, have their faces painted, visit a whole range of stalls and have fun on the bouncy castles.

This is a major opportunity to help our very successful P.T.A to raise money for the year ahead.

We hope that the sun will be shining! Please come along and support us.



Best Wishes to Year 7!

On 28th May, Year 7 children will be receiving their acceptance letters for post-primary settings for September. This is a very exciting time and we wish each child well.

In the very unlikely case that your letter does not arrive there is a phone contact for parents to ring on Saturday 28th May from 3pm to 5pm. The number is 25662306. I must stress that this is extremely rare. In my experience it has never happened.

If your child does not get into the post-primary school of their choice, please contact Mr Bailie on Tuesday 31st May to arrange an appointment if you require any additional advice or support.



Blueprint 2020

September 2015/16 sees the third 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

- Introduce 'A Catalyst of Change'. This is a 3 year Shared Education Project which aims to foster outdoor learning, S.T.E.M and community partnership.
- Create a new school development plan for 2016 - 2019.

Learning & Teaching

- Develop the way we teach and learn phonics, spelling and handwriting.
- Continue to enhance pupils' achievements in mathematics.
- Use our iPads, laptops and computers more effectively to support learning.
- In the Nursery encourage better use of our campus to enrich pupils' learning.

Ethos

- Put our 3 year Wellbeing Plan into practice.
- Encourage the work of our School Council as we work towards a Green Flag.

May Update

- This month, in response to our school council, we are piloting a new dual lunch to provide more space and better supervision at lunchtime. The feedback so far has been very positive.
- Our school council have visited the Mayor twice to discuss their work and engage in wider youth democracy.
- On the 18th May we held a fantastic Forest School event with pupils and parents from both St. James's Nursery Unit and our own school. It was a brilliant event that have further deepened the quality of our Shared Education Project.
- All our curricular leaders are evaluating their work from the school year 2015/16. They are also planning ahead for the next three years as part of our process of writing our next school development plan.
- We are in the process of completing our annual assessment of pupils' literacy. The results have been very pleasing. Our results in literacy have improved for the fourth consecutive year. We are also finding that pupils' reading habits and comprehension have been very positively impacted by our Accelerated Reading work.

Uniform Policy

September 2016

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 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.

