



'The Phoenix'- Whitehouse News



"We Rise By Lifting Others"

June 2016

Principal's Scribble...

Dear Parent,

What a year! A few of the highlights include: Our new '**Catalyst of Change**' Shared Education Project has been such a success. From our nursery Forest School work, new K.S.2 STEM afternoons, the launch of the 'Rights Respecting School' process and our fantastic family residential.

We have also enjoyed the launch of our '**Order of Phoenix**' house competition. Also the upgrading of our **website** has also been very successful. We want to make this site a hub for communication and learning resources.

Academically we have again enjoyed a set of **very pleasing results**. Our end of Key Stage 2 results places us well above similar schools across Northern Ireland. Within **literacy we are operating over 8% above the norm** and within **numeracy over 7% above the norm**.

Our Y.7 pupils are heading off to a wonderfully range of post-primary schools. This includes **6 secondary schools** and **8 grammar schools!**

We have **completed a very ambitious school development plan** and are hoping to **launch a new plan in October 2016**.

As a principal I **could not be prouder of our children and staff**. I am also very grateful to our parents for their support and encouragement. I wish you all a wonderful summer and I look forward to another exciting school year in 2016/17.

Yours sincerely,

F. Bailie

Non-Uniform Day

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



Diary Dates - Express!

21st June - Deadline for return of school reports for all classes

24th June - Y.7 Leavers' Service - 9.30am

27th June - Nursery Graduations Services

29th June - P.T.A. Disco - Note to follow - no uniform today;

30th June - Non-Uniform Fundraising Day £1 - Summer holidays begin! **No school lunches will be served**. Finishing times:

Y. 1 & 2 at 12noon with older siblings;

Y.3 & 4 at 12.15pm with older siblings;

Key Stage 2 at 12.30pm.

This routine, for health and safety reasons, must be strictly followed.

Tues. 30th & Wed. 31st August - School begins!

All Y.2 to Y.7 Pupils start school for the new year. Nursery and Year 1 pupils have individual start plans. Both days will be half days. However, the Breakfast Club begins on 30th August. We have frozen the £1 cost per day for the year ahead.

No school lunches will be served. This will allow for all non-teaching staff to receive important pastoral care training and child protection training updates.

Y. 2 to Y.4 at 12noon with older siblings

Key Stage 2 at 12.15pm.

Please Note: Milk orders will only be taken on the 31st August so children will be asked to bring their own milk or water for the first two weeks! Thank you in advance.

"Learning to Live"

Year 7's Favourite Memories

We have had many great experiences in Year 7. These included school trips and exciting activities. One of the main trips was the residential at Bushmills Education Centre and we enjoyed it very much. The activities included canoeing, which was great as the teachers didn't like getting soaked! We also did orienteering and lots of people got lost in the wood. We also enjoyed the dorms and Alley Cats where we got to spend time with our best friends.

As part of our Victorian topic we visited Sentry Hill and we all enjoyed the visit to the house and our picnic in the garden. We did lots of entertaining activities but one of our favourites has to be 'Heart Start'. We learnt first aid skills and DRSABC. In this six week course we learnt what to do if someone is choking, having a heart attack or a cardiac arrest and finally how to treat serious bleeding.

We would like to say thank you to our teachers and everyone who has helped us throughout the year.

Calum McKendry & Emily Allen

My favourite memory of WPS was when Year 7 went to Bushmills. I enjoyed the high ropes because I love adventurous activities. My favourite subject is English because I really enjoy writing stories! **Mia Barr**

My favourite memory of WPS was when we went to Bushmills. I loved the high ropes, orienteering, canoeing and the obstacle course. My favourite subject is art because we did illustrated words and an artist came in.

Carmen Kidd

My favourite memory of Whitehouse Primary School was in P7 when I went to Bushmills and went canoeing. My favourite subject is Maths because it is practical and fun! **Joshua Foreman**

My favourite memory of WPS is getting to go swimming with my friends. My favourite subject is science because it is creative and really fascinating!

Ryan Browne

My favourite memory was when we watched the Paddington movie in the portable cinema at school.

My favourite subject is P.E. because of all the games we play. **Charlie Johnston**

My favourite memory of Whitehouse PS was canoeing at Bushmills. **Layton McClurg**

My favourite memory of WPS was when we did Lights, Music, Dance because I enjoy dancing and music. I'm really going to miss this school as I have some of the best memories with my friends. My favourite subject is English because I enjoy writing and I like making up my own stories.

Mollie Fitzpatrick

My favourite memory of WPS was when we went to Bushmills. I climbed the leap of faith and hung on to the red triangle but it was raining and I slipped off! I was fine because I had a harness on. My favourite subject is math because you learn ways to figure out problems/puzzles and use strategies to find the answer to questions. **Sam McGookin**

My favourite memory of WPS was when we went to Bushmills. My favourite activity was canoeing when we saw a seal and everybody got soaked. My favourite subject is art because I am very good at it and I enjoyed looking at Vincent van Gogh's paintings.

Harry McManus



Cycling Proficiency Week 6th - 10th June 2016

Cycling Proficiency taught me how to be safe on my bike. **Saul Kidd**

The cycling proficiency scheme was great fun. My favourite bit was learning the hand signals and cycling round the gravel pitch putting them into practice.
Thomas Worthington.



We've have been doing cycling proficiency and it is really fun. We have learnt the laws of the road and how to check a bike. **Stuart Bentz**

I really enjoyed doing cycling proficiency because we learnt how to be responsible cyclists and also have fun on our bikes.

Emily McArthur

Cycling Proficiency has been one of my favourite things in Year 7. I really liked riding round the gravel pitch practising my signals.

Zak McConaghy



HEARTSTART SCHOOLS PROJECT



In year 7 we took part in a great project called Heart-start. We learned how to put people into the recovery position when they are unconscious. We also learned how to do CPR, abdominal thrusts and how to treat serious bleeding. I think it was a good thing to teach Y7 pupils how to do first aid and I would recommend it for next year. **Owen Knox.**



Year 7-Victorian Style

My favourite memory of WPS was when I went to Sentry Hill and got to learn about the Victorians and go inside a Victorian house! The gardens were beautiful!

Cydney Waring



We had great fun playing in the garden at Sentry Hill.



When we went to Sentry Hill we learned about the Victorians and we got to go inside the house. We had a picnic outside and we played football in the garden.

Reece Kernaghan



We learned what it was like to go to school in Victorian times.



We did vocal gymnastics and learned that the Victorians thought that children should be seen and not heard.





Summer Fair Success!



We would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who came to support our Summer Fair on Friday 3rd June. It was a brilliant, fun and sunny day! We raised an amazing amount of money! We could not have achieved this without the hard work of our fantastic P.T.A. We wish to give them a special word of thanks for their loyal years of support and effort for the school. Thank you! We also wish to give Miss Blain a massive thank you who successfully managed her first year in charge at Summer Fair.

An extended special thanks is given to the many local businesses who kindly provided wonderful prizes for our ballot.



School Uniform Supplier Reminder

Please read the attached abridged version of our School Uniform Policy. Purchases can be made from Rascals in Monkstown, G&J Geddis in Belfast, or www.ourschooluniform.com



Report Format

Reports will be issued on 16th June. Here are a few points to remember:

- ◆ Please read the advice notes sheet first.
- ◆ Pupils' attainment is being compared with the whole UK, rather than just the class.
- ◆ Keep the white copy of the report.
- ◆ Comment on, sign and send back the coloured copy of the report to school.

Communication & Using Mathematics Levels.

At the end of Y. 4 and Y.7 pupils can be awarded a level 1 to 5. It is expected by the Department of Education that most pupils in **Yr. 4 will achieve a Level 2** and by **Yr. 7 a Level 4**. Level 5, however, is no longer common due to a revision in guidelines. A level 5 in Communication/English will be particularly rare.



Important Information!

The main school office will be opened from Monday 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 30th 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 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

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.

End of Year Report

- Our Shared Education has been a tremendous success. The Education Authority have used our school's work as a model of good practice for other schools. We were visited by two E.T.I. inspectors who were very positive about our work to date.
- We have many strides in both literacy and numeracy. Statistically we have done very well. Two highlights have been the launch of our Roald Dahl Library and our continued development of Numicon.
- Our school also completed a two year Erasmus+ project based around Key Stage 2 mathematics. The feedback has been fantastic! In early June we shared our work at a conference in Kildare. Our pupils' work looked very impressive.
- Much work has been done to increase the profile and impact of the School Council. This included a presentation to the Board of Governors and a revamp of our lunchtime routines. Also our 'New Year, New You' Week was very successful.

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.

