



'The Phoenix' - Whitehouse News



"We Rise By Lifting Others"

October 2016

Principal's Scribble...

Dear Parent,

On Wednesday 12th October at 7pm we are looking forward to welcoming many of our pupils and parents to a theatre production of **'Beauty and the Beast'**.

This night is a celebration to launch our **new school development plan**. We want families to have a lovely night and as they leave they will be offered a user-friendly version of our new three year plan. We would ask that you come along and 'Be our Guests' for a great night.

At the end of October we will have our first cycle of **parent interviews**. I am grateful that nearly all parents have arranged to attend these very important meetings. Please try to keep your appointment times.

I want to commend parents on maintaining the **high level of school uniforms**. It makes a difference. Please keep it up!

Yours sincerely,

F. Bailie

Principal

Parent Teacher Interviews



On the week beginning the 24th 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 31st October and end on Friday 4th November.

School begins again on Monday 7th Nov.

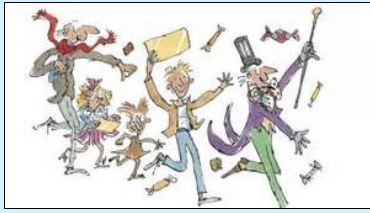
Charity Fitness Day



On Friday 7th October we held our annual Charity Fitness Day. The children had a super day and at the same time have helped other children and people 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 28th October the school will hold our second '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 24th to Friday 28th Oct.

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. This term we are already looking forward to almost £1,000 of free books from last year's fair. Thank you!



'Keep Connected!'



We are working very hard on our new website and by June 2017 we hope to have a whole range of new services. **We are allowing parents to watch the construction process** to see how hard we are working at our communication processes.

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.

When we feel the website is approaching completion we will have an official launch of our new Pupil and Parent Zone with a community competition. In the meantime check in and see how we are developing this new service for our families.

Blueprint 2020

September 2016/17 sees the fourth 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 2016/17.

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:

September was a hard working time of **settling in and establishing routines** for the year ahead. In addition to this we made some very significant progress:

We held a joint **Rights Respecting School Award training workshop** with our friends in St. James's Primary School. We also **increased our Shared Education Key Stage 2 S.T.E.M. workshops** from Year 5 to now include joint classes for Year 5 and 6 pupils from both schools.

We also had **two very hard working training days** at the end of September. The staff engaged in **iPad training to teach numeracy and thinking skills** across the school. The next day we also critically **examined our work within ICT**, planned for **enhanced E-Safety** in our lessons and also **linked ICT to our numeracy lessons**.

Definitely the staff deserve an 'A' for their efforts!

Diary Dates



- **24th to 28th** - School Book Fair 8.30am to 9am and 1pm to 2pm.
- **24th to 28th** - Early Closure at 1pm (Year 2 to 4) & 1.15pm (Year 5 to 7) for parental interviews.
- **28th** - Roald Dahl Day! Non-uniform Day - £1 donation to school funds, please.
- **31st to 5th Nov** - Half Term Holiday

NOVEMBER

- **7th** - School & Flu Vaccination Day!
- **14th** - Anti-Bullying Week
- **18th** - 'Children in Need' - £1 Donation.
- **30th** - Open Night for new Nursery & Year 1 pupils for Sept. 2017 from 6pm to 8pm.

DECEMBER

- **13th** - Foundation Stage Nativity @10am
- **14th** - Key Stage 1 Nativity @ 10am
- **15th** - Nursery Nativities @ 9.30am & 10.30am
- **19th** - 10am - Key Stage 2 Carol Service
- **19th** - P.T.A. Disco
- **20th** - Christmas Holidays begin!
Early closure 12noon (Years 1 to 4)
12.15pm (Years 5 to 7) - No lunches today.

JANUARY

- **5th** - New term begins.
- **9th** - 'New Year, New You' Week

Pastoral Care Team



Pupils' safety and care is our first priority. If you have any concerns we have a team of staff who are especially trained to support pupils and families. This team focuses on both child protection and wider pastoral support.

Team Leader: Mrs R Watson

Mr G Harris (Yr.5-7)

Miss C. Hasson (Yr. 1 - Yr. 4)

Mrs C Spratt (Nursery)

'New Year, New You 2017'

On the week beginning the 9th 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 2017 and beyond.

