



## 'The Phoenix' - Whitehouse News



"We Rise By Lifting Others"

November 2015

### Principal's Scribble...

Dear Parent,

Last week we **welcomed the inspection service** to our school. They were assessing our work within Shared Education, in particular the progress we have made with developing STEM. Their conclusions were very pleasing. They praised our **innovation, the commitment of our staff and the confidence of our pupils.**

The opening of the Roald Dahl Library has been a really highlight of this term. The **Roald Dahl theme day** was a fantastic success. I want to thank all our parents for all the effort that went into the day.

Please try and **drop into our new library.** It is open every Monday to Wednesday from 2pm. It has a great range of books for our pupils to borrow. We hope you enjoy it!

May I remind parents to **park and drive with great care in Abbey Park.** Parking over driveways, not obeying the one way system and being rude to neighbours is not helpful. Please remember that we must be good neighbours to local residents!

F. Bailie



This month we were very excited to launch our **Year 5 to 7 STEM Workshops.** Pupils are engaging in learning about robotics, computer coding, mathematics in nature, engineering as well as gardening/eco science.

In addition to these quality workshops our Year 5 pupils are involved in **joint lessons with children from St. James's Primary School.** Over the coming two years all our pupils from Year 5 to 7 will also get the opportunity to enjoy working across the two schools.

### Open Night

We would like to remind you about our Open Night on **Wednesday 2nd December from 6pm to 8pm.** It is intended for parents who have a children starting Nursery or Primary 1 in September 2016. You are welcome to bring your child, tour the Nursery Unit and Foundation classrooms. Please pass this information on to any friends who have children starting school or Nursery in September. If you wish to apply on the night please bring your child's birth certificate and a document showing proof of home address.

"Learning to Live"





## Roald Dahl Day

We had a fantastic day on Friday 23rd October as we celebrated the opening of our new Roald Dahl Library.

Mr Baillie began the day with a Roald Dahl assembly. The children learned about the life, works and style of this much loved author.

Each class got to watch or read extracts from his films/books. Y1-4 made beautiful artwork based on their chosen book and Y5-7 had their memories put to the test in a KS2 table quiz. Working in mixed year group teams they battled to be Roald Dahl quiz champions!

In keeping with Willy Wonka and the Chocolate factory there were ten golden tickets hidden in various locations around the school. Five lucky winners were picked from a hat and took home a bag of chocolate goodies. Every child received their very own chocolate coin to celebrate the day.

The day was made particularly special as everyone was invited to dress up as their favourite Roald Dahl character. The Newtownabbey Times came and took some photos and some of our pupils appeared in the newspaper.

We are delighted to announce that our new library, complete with art by our very own Mr "Quentin Blake" Kingsberry, is now open!



## 'New Year, New You'

Tues. 5th - Wed. 8th January 2016



Following on from the success of last year we look forward to bringing in the new year at Whitehouse in style! This will involve an array of activities aimed at encouraging healthy minds and bodies for 2016.

During the week we will offer fun and educational activities from nursery to Year 7. These will include activities to help develop:

- Self-Esteem
- Respect for Others
- Ambition and Aspirations
- Mental & Physical Health
- Good Decision-Making Skills

Not only will this be highly educational but it will be lots of fun!

This week we are finalising the timetable of events. It is our hope that by Monday 30th we will publish the timetable of events for this year.

Some local organisations and businesses are supporting this week. The school are also investing funds into the project. We ask that all pupils donate £3 of a maximum of £6 for a family. We would be grateful if this money could be brought in by Monday 30th November.

# 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.

## **Campus**

- Use our website to keep everyone informed about what is happening in school.

## **November Update:**

This year we have been promoting the work of our school council. We are trying to engage them more meaningfully in the running of the school. This involved a consultation on our new house competition and discipline policy.

We are in the process of updating our school website to make it more practical and attractive for both pupils and parents.

Working with five other schools across Europe the school has been developing practice in mathematics.

The school completed its 'We are Family' Anti-Bullying Week.

## Clubs Update

Our clubs began on the first week of November. Here's a little update of all the fun so far!

Cookery club with Mrs Burns and Mrs Caldwell have made fifteens which were delicious and are looking forward to making some soda bread next.

Coding club with Mrs Richmond and Mrs McNevison have been learning how to write algorithms and are now coding their own games on a programme called 'Scratch'.

Jumping Clay with Mrs Watson and Mrs Robinson have been following an animal theme making worms in apples, owls and the cookie monster.

Netball with Mrs Clifford and Mrs Hawkins have been practising key ball skills and team work and have spotted some brilliant talent already.

Football with Mr Harris and Mr Ferguson have been taking part in some 5-a-side matches.

Grandparents Club With Mrs Purdy have enjoyed making sock snowmen and are looking forward to creating a Christmas decoration soon.

Songstars with Miss Hassan and Miss McIntosh have been practising "Born for Us" and are looking forward to performing it at the Carol Service.

Cars: Maths in Motion with Miss Campbell and Mrs Moore have been measuring race tracks and tuning cars with some tricky calculations. They will soon be ready to race other teams across the globe on the online game.

Art Club with Mrs Hilditch have been exploring how to recycle junk into wonderful pieces of art as well as designing signature pieces using negative space.

Film Club with Mrs McBride and Mrs Ferguson have enjoyed watching 'Surf's Up' and 'Monsters versus Aliens.'

Good News club with the CEF Team have been learning about the stories of David and Samuel and enjoying songs and quizzes.

## A Huge Thank you



I would like to thank all our parents for the generous support for our annual Charity Fitness Day in October.

I am delighted to confirm that we raised over £3,200! This means that we will be able to send £700 to our three nominated charities:

- Northern Ireland Children's Hospice
- Barnardo's (Northern Ireland)
- Operation Cambodia

The remaining money will go to school funds to help support pupils' learning during the year ahead.

We also had our annual Children's in Need Day in November. The pupils and staff dressed up and raised money for this much loved charity. We have raised over £300 to help children who need a helping hand.

Finally, we celebrated Remembrance Day in November. We had a special assembly and the Year 7 pupils created a lovely display for the school hall. We also sold poppies and other British Legion products to help veterans and their families. Thank you!

# Diary Dates

## DECEMBER

- **2nd** - Open Night 6-8pm for new Nursery. & Year 1 pupils for September 2016
- **8th** - F.S. Nativity @10am
- **9th** - KS1 Nativity @ 10am
- **11th** - Nursery Nativities
  - Mrs Spratt's class @ 9.30am
  - Mrs Moore's class @ 10.30am
- **17th** - Am - KS2 Carol Service
- **17th** - P.T.A. Disco
- **18th** - Christmas Holidays begin!  
Early closure 12noon/12.15pm and 12.30pm. No lunches today.

## JANUARY

- **Tuesday 5th** - New term begins.
- **5th** - 'New Year, New You' Week
- **14th** - Nursery Closed for staff training day.

## FEBRUARY

- **8th to 12th** - Early Closure at 1pm/1.15pm & 1.30pm for parental interviews.
- **15th to 19th** - Half-term break.



## Pastoral Care Team



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

Team Leader: Mrs R Watson (Yr. 5-7)

Mrs H Clifford (Yr. 1 - Yr. 4)

Mrs C Spratt (Nursery)

## Exploring Our World

In Nursery we have been very excited to try out our new wet weather gear. This has kindly been supplied by our parents and we are now able to explore all aspects of outdoor learning in comfort. So far we have enjoyed splashing in puddles, squelching in the mud and exploring our new woodland area. We are excited about our first Shared Education visit as we welcome some Nursery pupils from St James' to share our outdoor campus for a morning.

