



'The Phoenix' - Whitehouse News



"We Rise By Lifting Others"

September 2017

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:

Please take care in **parking and driving** in the school grounds. Also show consideration to our neighbours in the surrounding streets. The new parking bollards and fences will be fitted over the October holidays. They were due to be installed over the summer but there was a delay with the suppliers.

If your child has a **food allergy** that we do not know about you need to contact Rosemary in the kitchen. Written confirmation is required to provide a special menu for your child.

Our school is a **nut free** zone. **Dogs** are also not permitted on the school grounds.

There are **massive cuts** coming! Please lobby politicians to maximise school resources. I am 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, 2017/18 will be another great year!

Yours sincerely,
F. Baillie

Building Brighter Futures



On Friday 6th October every child in our school will be invited to take part in a sponsored fitness event. Its purpose is to raise £2,100 to split across our three chosen charities.

This year our three charities are:

- Diabetes NI (Local)
- NSPCC (National)
- Moldova Village Appeal (International)

This approach reflects our goal of helping our children to see their responsibilities to their school, the local area and the global community. Not only is this a practical way of raising money but a great method of teaching children to count their blessings and have compassion for others.

Help us support these excellent causes. **Only one** form per family is expected.

"Say Cheese!"

Opus will be in school on Thursday 5th October. Remember to send in a brush or comb!



Learning to Live

Blueprint 2020

September 2017/18 sees the fifth 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 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 skills and improve school management.

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 6 staff are being trained in using **tablet technology to boost pupils' numeracy thinking skills**. Every Year 6 pupil will have a tablet 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.

Our school also gained highly prestigious **Erasmus+ funding** to promote science and mathematical learning in partnership with five other schools across Europe.

In addition, we are updating, in conjunction with our parents, **key pastoral policies** including Behaviour, Anti-Bullying and R.S.E. policies. Not a bad start to 2017/18!

Principal's Report

Celebrating 2017

In 2016/17, 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:

Celebrated 25 years of friendship with St. James's Primary School;

Happy pupils enjoyed better outdoor play;

Improved e-Safety by achieving the prestigious 360 ICT Award;

Leadership & Curriculum Teams impacted pupils' learning;

Developed new ways of encouraging families learning together;

Raised standards of literacy and numeracy for the fifth year in a row;

Evolved 'New Year, New You' Wellbeing Week in January 2017;

New website extended and it got over 50,000 hits!

These are just a selection of our achievement from 2016/17. I would encourage you to visit the school website and click the 'Our School' link to find out more about our successes.

Looking ahead to 2017/18

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 2017/18 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:

Focused use of ICT to improve numeracy and thinking skills;

Update PDMU* to improve pupils' emotional and social intelligence;

To review key pastoral policies as part of a regular two year cycle;

Upgrade our Eco Award to Silver Level;

Rights Respecting School Level 1 to be achieved (Shared Education);

European Erasmus+ Project to foster creativity and S.T.E.M.

***PDMU stands for Personal Development & Mutual Understanding.**

This is just a simple summary of our goals for 2017/18. 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 2017

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

'The Hunchback'

Wednesday 11th October @ 6.30pm

S.D.P. & P.T.A.

Annual General Meeting



All Y.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. and the work of our excellent P.T.A.

Dates For Your Diary *

Autumn Half-Term

SEPTEMBER

- **18th** - Charity Appeal 2017 letters sent home.
- **19th to 22nd** - Year 1 Interviews
- **22nd** - Annual Child Protection Assemblies
- **22nd** - New school council elected for Yr. 3 to 7.
- **25th** - Pupils' club notes issued.
- **27th** - Shared Education S.T.E.M. Family Night at 7pm in Whitehouse Primary School.
- **28th & 29th** - School Development Days (pupils off school for two days).

OCTOBER

- **2nd** - School clubs begin.
- **5th** - School Photographs
- **6th** - Charity Fitness Day
- **11th** - Family S.M.I.L.E. Night for Y. 1 to 7. pupils and their parents. Come and enjoy 'The Hunchback' @ 6.30pm and hear about the work of the school and the P.T.A.
- **18th** - Yr.1 Workshop for Jolly Phonics at 1pm and 7pm.
- **20th** - Harvest Celebrations at St John's at 10am and 11am.
- **23rd to 27th** - School Book Fair 8.30am to 9am and 1.30pm to 3.15pm.
- **23rd to 27th** - Early Closure at 1pm (Year 1 to 4) and 1.15pm (Year 5 to 7) for interviews.
- **27th** - Non-Uniform Day
- **30th October to 3rd November** - Half-Term Holiday

*All of these dates are subject to change. Please check monthly Phoenix and website for any updates.

Christmas Half-Term

NOVEMBER

- **6th** - School begins!
- **15th** - Y.1 Numicon Night at 7pm.
- **15th-17th** Year 5 Shared Education Family Residential.
- **17th** - Children in Need Day
- **20th** - Anti-Bullying Week.
- **29th** - Nursery and Y.1 Open Night.

DECEMBER

- **4th - 7th** Year 7 Residential
- **12th** - Yr. 1 & 2 Nativity@10am
- **13th** - K.S.1 Nativity@10am
- **13th** - Pupils' Christmas Dinner
- **18th** - Nursery Nativities
- **19th** - K.S.2 Carol Service @10am and P.T.A. Disco Day
- **20th** - Non-Uniform Day
- **20th** - Christmas Holidays begin! Early closure 12pm Yrs. 1 to 4 and Key Stage 2 at 12.15pm.

Winter Half-Term

JANUARY

- **8th - 12th** - 'New Year, New You'

FEBRUARY

- **6th** - Internet Safety Day
- **9th to 13th** - Parent - Teacher Interviews. Details to follow
- **14th** - Michael Morpurgo Author Bash Day. **(Non-Uniform Day.)**
- **15th to 16th** - Half-Term Holiday.

Easter Half-Term

FEBRUARY

- **19th** - School begins
- **26th** - 'Festival of Words' & Scholastics Book Fair

MARCH

- **1st** - World Book Day
- **26th** - Easter holidays begin. Early closure 12noon Yrs. 1 to 4 and Key Stage 2 at 12.15pm.

Summer Term

APRIL

- **9th** - Summer Term begins.
- **16th - 20th** - ECO Week

MAY

- **7th** May Day Holiday
- **21st - 25th** - Money week
- **25th** - Non-Uniform Day
- **28th** - May Holiday
- **30th** - Sports' Days

JUNE

- **1st** - P.T.A. Summer Fair from 5pm to 7pm.
- **13th** - Reports to be issued.
- **18th** - Half Price Book Fair
- **25th** - Y.7 Leavers' Assembly at 9.30 - 11.30am.
- **26th** - Y3 - Y7 Prize day
- **27th** - Nursery Celebration
- **29th** - Summer Holidays begin! Early closure 12noon Years 1 to 4 and 12.15pm Key Stage 2.