



Whitehead

Primary School
& Nursery Unit

Friday 11 December

'LEARNING AND GROWING TOGETHER'

Key Dates in December

- **Friday 11 December** – Christmas Dinner Day. Children shouldn't wear school uniform but wear something 'Christmassy' instead.
- **Tuesday 22 December** – Last Day of Term (children will finish at the times outlined below)
 - Y7 - 11.45am
 - Y6 – 11.50am
 - Y5 – 11.55am
 - Y2 & Y4 12.00pm
 - Y1 & Y3 12.10pm

Nursery & Y1 Applications

As we can't have Open Night this year we have produced some short videos which will be posted on our website and Facebook page on Monday 14 & Monday 21 December. If you would like to chat to me, please don't hesitate to contact me on 02893353280.

Online applications (www.eani.org.uk) open on Thursday 7 January 2021 at 12.00 noon.

You will be aware that someone in our school community has tested positive for COVID-19. We have been very fortunate that this is our first positive case in school and I would like to thank everyone; children, parents and staff for their support, ensuring good hand hygiene, social distancing and the wearing of face masks. **Please keep going, it is absolutely vital that we don't let down our guard.**

When a bubble bursts because there is a positive case in a class, all children and members of staff are considered by PHA to be close contacts and are therefore required to self-isolate (they can't leave their house for 14 days). Miss McClay's class will self-isolate up to and including Friday 18 December 2020. For fear that they could return on Monday 21 December and then be forced to self-isolate again, I have informed Miss McClay's class that they should not return to school until after Christmas.

A few parents have already contacted me regarding their child's attendance in school from Monday, 14 December 2020, concerned that any positive cases in school could result in children having to self-isolate over Christmas. For example, any class bubble that bursts on Friday 11 December will have to isolate up to and including Christmas Day. As a school we wouldn't want any child to have to self-isolate on Christmas Day, or indeed over the Christmas holidays, and I fully understand the concerns regarding vulnerable and elderly family members who hope to be spending Christmas with you.

You all know how important I believe attendance to be, however I am also acutely aware of how anxious parents are that the Christmas they are hoping for, might not be able to happen. While I would be unable to mark your child present, I would fully understand if you chose to keep your child at home from Monday 14 December. If you do decide to keep your child at home, I would encourage you to complete the learning pack that was sent home earlier in the year. At half term in October you completed days 1 and 2, therefore, days 3 to 10 should be completed. The work can be marked and kept at home. There is no requirement to send the work into school.

I am sure that you are also aware that there is talk of another Covid-19 surge in January. For the sake of all our children, and particularly those Year 7s who will undertake their AQE tests, I hope this surge will not affect the re-opening of schools. **Should we find that schools do not re-open in January we will begin remote learning using Seesaw on Wednesday 6 January.**

Christmas Concert & Carol Service

One of our parents Ricky Linton has recorded the Christmas Concert and the Carol Service and we hope to be able to post them on Seesaw on Friday 18 December.

Phone First – 24/7

Please see the information below from the Department of Health encouraging everyone to 'Phone First' before going to Antrim Emergency Department.

PHONE FIRST-24/7

Make sure you PHONE FIRST before going to Antrim or Causeway Hospital Emergency Departments, or Mid Ulster Hospital Minor Injuries Unit.

0300 123 1 123

TEXT RELAY NUMBER: 18001 0300 123 1 123
or Interpreter Now app

**Get directed to
the right care**

**Avoid busy
waiting rooms**

Stay safe

Save time



FOR EMERGENCIES - 999

Including: stroke, heart attack, loss of consciousness, breathing difficulties, severe bleeding or major trauma

ALWAYS CALL 999 IMMEDIATELY



Health and
Social Care



DoH

www.health-ni.gov.uk

How to access Urgent and Emergency Care Services

For Urgent Care Treatment that is not life threatening, PHONE FIRST before going to Antrim or Causeway Hospital Emergency Departments, or Mid Ulster Hospital Minor Injuries Unit



0300 123 1 123

TEXT RELAY NUMBER: 18001 0300 123 1 123
OR INTERPRETER NOW APP



A healthcare professional will guide you to the right care, first time

Emergency Departments

Mental Health Services

Further Investigations

Minor Injuries Unit

GP, Pharmacy or Community Care

FOR EMERGENCIES THAT ARE LIFE THREATENING 999

Including: stroke, heart attack, loss of consciousness, breathing difficulties, severe bleeding or major trauma

ALWAYS CALL 999 IMMEDIATELY



AMBULANCE

An ambulance will be sent as appropriate