



### Remote Learning

The Department of Education for Northern Ireland have advised us that children should only be marked present if they are engaging in remote learning. I would encourage all children to engage in their Seesaw activities, not just to get a present mark but because Seesaw activities:

- have been planned by the teachers based on what children would be learning in school at this time of year. By completing the activities as planned, your child will continue to make academic progress.
- provide structure to your child's day. This is good for their mental health & well-being.

All teachers are very aware of the pressures of lockdown and are therefore very understanding & flexible regarding the completion of Seesaw activities.

In order to support you as best we can your child's teacher will be in contact (by phone) on Monday 18 January should your child not be engaging in Seesaw or if the teacher feels that your child could engage a little bit more.

Should it still prove difficult for your child to engage I will be in contact the following week to offer my support.

**I KNOW THAT IT IS REALLY DIFFICULT TO BALANCE EVERYTHING BUT I WOULD REALLY ENCOURAGE YOU TO ENSURE THAT YOUR CHILD ENGAGES IN SEESAW AS MUCH AS THEY POSSIBLY CAN.**

### Assembly

Each week I plan to send out a short assembly which will encourage the children to think about their mental health and well-being. I will encourage them to:

- Be Active
- Keep Learning
- Take Notice
- Connect
- Give

I'm hoping that the assemblies will be uploaded to the school's YouTube site and will be accessible via a link that will be sent through Seesaw.

### Nursery & Y1 Applications

We have produced three short videos in lieu of Open Night. A day in the life of WPSNU and a focus on Nursery & Y1 are available on our school website [www.whiteheadps.com](http://www.whiteheadps.com). If you would like to chat to me, please don't hesitate to contact me on 02893353280.

Online applications ([www.eani.org.uk](http://www.eani.org.uk)) opened on Thursday 7 January 2021 at 12.00 noon.

### AQE Transfer Test

I'm sure that you are all aware that the AQE transfer test has now been cancelled completely. Y7 children will not complete an AQE test this year.

Post Primary schools will publish their admissions criteria over the next few weeks.

While incredibly difficult for Y7 parents there is very little that can be done until the schools publish their criteria. If any parent wishes to speak to me don't hesitate to contact me. Once admissions criteria have been published and subsequently throughout the rest of the transfer process I will be available to support and advise parents as required.

And to those boys and girls who were due to sit the test, I think you are just simply amazing. It has been an absolute roller coaster ride but all of the additional work that you have completed has not been in vain. You may not be able to do the test but all of that work will stand you in really good stead when you move into Y8. I know that Mrs Hill & Mr Baird have been working hard to implement Plan B on Seesaw and I'm sure that you will really enjoy the activities that they have planned for you. Well done boys & girls.

I would also like to record my thanks to Mrs Hill & Mr Baird who have worked tirelessly to keep the children motivated and on task, yet taking account of the pressure that the children have been placed under with regards to AQE.