



### **Nursery, Y1, Y2 & Y3**

Nursery, Y1, Y2 & Y3 children were so excited coming back into school and it has been such a lovely week with the buzz of the children around the place. I'm sure some of you enjoyed the photos on Facebook. This is what school is all about!!

**The NI Executive announced yesterday that Nursery, Y1, Y2 & Y3 children will remain in school the week of Monday 22 March and they will NOT return to remote learning as originally planned. A decision which I wholeheartedly support.**

### **Easter Holidays**

As stated in a previous newsletter school will now finish for Easter on Thursday 25 March and the holidays will be:

**Friday 26 March – Friday 9 April  
(inclusive)**

### **Y4, Y5, Y6 & Y7**

Despite NI Executive discussions yesterday regarding the return to school of Y4-7 children, no dates have been confirmed. I would love to see Y4-7 children returning to school as soon as possible but **ONLY** if it is safe to do so and as long as it doesn't impact on the long term return to school. I believe that the Executive will discuss this again on Tuesday 16 March.

### **Holiday List 2021/22**

The attached holiday list has been agreed by staff and governors, but is yet to be approved by EA. It is therefore a provisional holiday list, however any changes to it will be minor and would only affect the teacher training day on Tuesday 3 May 2022.

### **Pebble/Rock Art**

Please see the attached note. As we celebrate returning to school over the next few weeks we would love your support to brighten up our pathways in the school grounds.



**Whitehead**  
Primary School  
& Nursery Unit

**'LEARNING AND GROWING TOGETHER'**

## PROVISIONAL HOLIDAY CALENDAR 2021-22

The provisional holiday calendar has been agreed by the Board of Governors and has been forwarded to the Education Authority for approval. Once approved by the Education Authority I will forward you the confirmed holiday list for 2021/22.

SCHOOL BEGINS	SCHOOL CLOSES	HOLIDAY (dates are inclusive)
Wednesday, 25 August 2021	Thursday, 23 September 2021	<b>School Development Day</b> Friday, 24 September 2021 (1 staff training day)
Monday, 27 September 2021	Friday, 22 October 2021	<b>Halloween Half Term</b> Monday, 25 October - Friday, 29 October 2021 (4 days + 1 staff training day)
Monday, 1 November 2021	Tuesday, 21 December 2021 No school dinners	<b>Christmas</b> Wednesday, 22 December 2021 – Tuesday, 4 January 2022 (10 days)
Wednesday, 5 January 2022	Friday, 11 February 2022	<b>Winter Half Term</b> Monday, 14 February – Friday, 18 February 2022 (4 days + 1 staff training day)
Monday, 21 February 2022	Friday, 8 April 2022 No school dinners	<b>Easter</b> Monday, 11 April – Friday, 22 April 2022 (10 days)
Monday, 25 April 2022	Friday, 29 April 2022	<b>May Day</b> Monday, 2 May – Tuesday, 3 May 2022 (1 day & 1 staff training day)
Wednesday, 4 May 2022	Friday, 27 May 2022	<b>Spring Bank Holiday</b> Monday, 30 May – Friday, 3 June 2022 (4 days + 1 staff training day)
Monday, 6 June 2022	Thursday, 30 June 2022 No school dinners	<b>Summer Holiday 2022</b>





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9 March 2021

Dear Parent

Thank you for all of your continued support and engagement with remote learning. Nursery, Y1, Y2 & Y3 have very excitedly returned to school and we are hoping that Y4, Y5, Y6 & Y7 will follow soon. As the children begin to return to school, we have decided it would be a lovely idea to brighten up our paths and walkways around the school grounds.

From walks over the summer, some of you may have seen painted pebbles/rocks with messages of hope, love and lockdown memories placed along costal paths. We would love to invite you, during the next few weeks and over the Easter holidays, to collect some pebbles/rocks with your children and encourage you, as a family, to paint them with your own pictures, names and messages of hope.

Our idea is that, firstly, children from Nursery to Year 3 will begin placing their pebbles from the front entrance gate along the path and when year groups 4-7 return, those children can continue by placing their pebble/rock down when they arrive at school.

**How to create pebble/rock art:** The first thing to do is choose your pebble/rock. Those with a smooth surface work well. Wash and dry the pebbles/rocks to remove any dirt. When it comes to what you want to paint on it, use your imagination and be as creative as you can. Next draw out your design idea on a piece of scrap paper. Use pencil to sketch this design on the pebble/rock. The best paints to use are a waterproof craft-paint or acrylic. Ideally you should use two layers to make sure the colour is thick enough and then varnish with either clear varnish, sealant or PVA glue. This will protect the painting on the pebble/rock from any weather elements.

We want to encourage as many pupils as possible to take part and invite all staff members, parents, grandparents and extended family members to join in too.

We would love to fill our pathways with beautiful artwork and messages of hope from our school and wider community.

Let our pathways become a visual reminder to SHINE!

Yours faithfully

**J LOUGHINS**  
Principal