



# Whitehead

Primary School  
& Nursery Unit

## NOVEMBER 2021

'LEARNING AND GROWING TOGETHER'

We have several children with a variety of food allergies, some of which could be life threatening. I would like to remind you that **no food containing nuts should be brought to school**. Thank you for your support in this very important matter.



### Positive PCR Test?

Please text our school Covid-19 number - 07359015420 with your child's name and class.

### Dates for the Diary

#### November

<b>Mon 1</b>	<b>School resumes at the usual time</b>
Fri 12	Kindness Counts Fundraiser for NI Hospice. More details to follow.
Sat 20	AQE – Test 1
Sat 27	AQE – Test 2

#### December

Fri 3	Recording of Christmas Concert (Nursery – Y3)
Sat 4	AQE – Test 3
Thurs 9	Board of Governors
Fri 10	Recording of Video for Open Day Video
Thurs 16	Recording of Carol Service (Y4 – Y7)
Fri 17	Christmas Dinner Day
<b>Tues 21</b>	<b>End of Term:</b> <b>Y1 – Y4 finish at 12.00</b> <b>Y5 – Y7 finish at 12.05</b>

#### January

<b>Wed 5</b>	<b>School resumes at the usual time</b>
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### Synopsis of Policies

Below is a synopsis of the Child Protection Policy, Pastoral Care Policy, Positive Behaviour Management Policy, Anti Bullying Policy & Acceptable Use of Internet Policy. In addition, I have outlined some of the key areas upon which the Nursery Unit & the Primary School will focus this year.

### Christmas Concert & Carol Service

Once again this year our Christmas Concert for Nursery – Y3 and our Carol Service for Y4 – Y7 will be recorded and sent out via Seesaw.



### Open Day

If you have a child due to begin Nursery or Y1 in September 2022 the school will be open on Wednesday 5 January 3.00 – 5.00pm. Please come and have a look around Nursery and Y1/Y2. If you know of a child due to start, please invite his/her parents to view the school/nursery unit. In order to ensure the safety of everyone I would ask you to contact Mrs Lowry on 02893353280 and she will book you in for an allocated time slot.

### Keeping Everyone Safe and the Way Forward

As we begin to emerge from the shadow of Covid-19 and as we begin to move forward, it would be my intention to move gradually and slowly, fully acknowledging that Covid-19 hasn't gone away. Over the course of this academic year it is my hope that we will make small but steady steps that will ensure we are keeping everyone as safe as we can while we move towards normal school life. In preparation for the beginning of each half-term (November, January, February, April & June) the Board of Governors will review school life within the context of Covid-19 and any changes that are implemented will be based on a risk assessment. When we return to school in November:

- Class bubbles will be maintained inside but year group bubbles will be introduced outside, allowing the children to play in year groups at break time and lunch time.
- The Eco Committee (with representatives from each Y4 – Y7 class) will begin to meet in the Assembly Hall (due to the smaller number of children, classes will be able to maintain social distance and the hall will be well ventilated)

As you will see below, a key element of our journey will be the role that we all have to play and I would really value your continued support as we endeavour to keep everyone as safe as they can be.



### Mrs Burgess

After 20 years as a playground supervisor in WPSNU, Mrs Burgess retired yesterday. This year Mrs Burgess has been supervising the children in Mrs Graham's class and Mr Addis' class. On behalf of all the children, staff, governors and parents I would like to express our gratitude to Mrs Burgess and wish her every happiness in her retirement.





### Synopsis of Child Protection Policy

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 1991 sets out the rights that all children have the right to be protected from all forms of violence. **They must be kept safe from harm and they must be given proper care by those looking after them.** The Children (NI) Order 1995 also promotes children's rights and its underlying principle is **the child's welfare must be of paramount consideration.** There are 5 main kinds of child abuse: Neglect, Physical, Emotional, Sexual & Exploitation. If you have any concerns of a Child Protection nature you should speak to:

Mr Loughins (Principal)	Designated Teacher
Mr Baird (Vice Principal)	Deputy Designated Teacher
Mrs McConnell (Nursery)	Deputy Designated Teacher
Mrs Kidd (Y1)	Deputy Designated Teacher

### Synopsis of Pastoral Care Policy

As a school we aim to provide, in partnership with parents, a safe, secure and stimulating learning environment where children can achieve their full potential and pursue excellence. We aim to achieve this through:

#### CHILD CENTRED PROVISION

- We promote equality of opportunity, high quality learning, a concern for individual pupils and a respect for diversity.
- We seek to meet the educational needs of all pupils, helping them to overcome any barriers to learning.
- We believe in and support pupil participation and involvement in decisions about school life.

#### HIGH QUALITY OF LEARNING AND TEACHING

- We provide a broad and relevant curriculum.
- We promote positive relationships in all areas of school life.
- Teachers use a range of teaching strategies that respond to the diversity within the classroom.
- Teachers reflect on both their own work and the outcomes of individual pupils.

#### EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP

- Governors understand their responsibility for the pastoral care of pupils.
- In relation to pastoral care we support the professional development of all staff.
- We provide the resources necessary for pastoral care.
- We monitor and evaluate our pastoral care practices.

#### A SCHOOL CONNECTED TO ITS LOCAL COMMUNITY

- Good relationships and communication between the school, the parents and the wider community are crucial to our pupils' wellbeing and achievement.
- We have good relationships and communication between the school and the education agencies that support us.
- We have good links with other relevant statutory and voluntary agencies that support children's health, wellbeing and education.

### School Development Plan 2021/22

#### Nursery

1. Developing Outdoor Mark-Making / Early Writing Skills
2. Promoting Fine Motor Skills

#### Primary

1. **Literacy**
  - To introduce a new spelling scheme and an updated handwriting scheme.
  - To update and replenish books for guided reading.
  - To review the development of writing throughout the school.
2. **Numeracy**
  - To receive training in the use of Numicon and further develop its use in Y1 – Y3.
  - As based on last year's numeracy related data, to review and develop specific year group related aspects within Y4 – Y7.
3. **Special Educational Needs**
  - To update staff regarding changes to the new Code of Practice
  - Staff training – Developing the use of additional adult assistance in the classroom & Dyslexia.
4. **Assessment & Self-evaluation**
  - To review how we can most effectively use data relating to literacy & numeracy.

### Anti-Bullying Policy

Whitehead Primary School is committed to creating and maintaining a safe and secure environment for all our pupils. Bullying is an unacceptable form of behaviour which can cause profound emotional and physical harm. Whitehead Primary School actively promotes positive interpersonal relationships between all members of the school community. We are currently reviewing our Anti-Bullying Policy in light of new legislation and over the next few months both the children and parents will be consulted on the policy.

### Synopsis of Positive Behaviour Management Policy

Our Core Values are based on the acronym S.H.I.N.E. In Whitehead Primary School we: **Share, Help, Include, Nurture & Excel**

After half term through class councils the children will be discussing the draft policy which will then be forwarded to you via Seesaw. Prior to the policy being discussed at the Board of Governors on Thursday 9 December I would value any input from you as parents. Please don't hesitate to contact me at 02893353280

### Synopsis of Acceptable Use of Internet Policy

DENI circular 2007/1 & 2011/22 states that:

"Used well, digital technologies are powerful, worthwhile educational tools; technical safeguards can partly protect users, but education in safe, effective practices is a key goal for schools."

A copy of the full policy can be found on the school website.



# WPSNU - Keeping Everyone Safe - Everyone has a Role to Play

## As a pupil I can play my role by:

- Always bringing my own equipment (eg pencils) to school every day.
- Using the one-way system in the playground as I enter and leave school.
- Hand sanitising and washing my hands regularly.
- Bringing my own personal hand sanitiser and tissues to school every day.
- Using tissues or the crook of my arm (if no tissues are at hand) to catch a sneeze or a cough.
- Ensuring that my used tissue is placed in the bin.

## As a member of staff I can play my role by:

- Ensuring that all children hand sanitise and wash their hands as they enter school and regularly throughout the school day.
- Encouraging & modelling good hand and respiratory hygiene.
- Wearing a mask as and when appropriate.
- Ensuring good ventilation in the classroom by having the windows and/or the classroom door open.
- Caring for and responding to the needs of all children while they are in school. When undertaking first aid I will don PPE.
- Providing work for children who test positive and have to isolate. I will prepare work and arrange (through Seesaw) for it to be collected/sent home on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the child's absence from school.

## As principal, I can play my role by:

- Preparing and reviewing risk assessments as appropriate in order to ensure that all pupils and staff are as safe as they can be.
- Preparing and reviewing a 'roadmap' which, over the course of this school year will allow us a gradual and safe return to normal school life.
- Informing all members of staff via WhatsApp and all parents via Seesaw when there has been a confirmed positive case.
- Endeavouring to make contact with each positive case from a pastoral perspective. I will also clarify the isolation period and arrange when work will be sent home.

## As Building Supervisor I can play my role by:

- Operating an enhanced cleaning schedule.
- Deep cleaning (based on EA recommendations) a classroom where there has been a positive case.
- Replenishing pump/desk sanitisers and anti-bacterial sprays.

## As a governor I can play my role by:

- Advising and supporting the principal in the development and review of risk assessments regarding the gradual return to normal school life.

## As a parent I can play my role by:

- Dropping off and collecting my children promptly including using the one-way system.
- Wearing a mask and social distancing while on school property.
- Erring on the side of caution if my child is unwell.
- Arranging a PCR test for my child if they are displaying any COVID-19 symptoms.
- Informing Mr Loughins if my child tests positive by texting **COVID NUMBER - 07359 015420**.
- Keeping my child's teacher informed through Seesaw, updating them if my child is identified as a close contact. Out of courtesy to my child's teacher and the staff in school, I will let them know if my child tests negative.