



Attendance

As I have stated before, I am 100% convinced that school is the best place for your children and it is my intention that school will remain open until Tuesday 21 December. However, as I write this newsletter we do have 9 members of staff absent, 2 teachers and 7 classroom assistants, (who also supervise the children in the playground). Not all of the members of staff are off due to Covid and some of this absence will hopefully be short term. However, ¼ of the staff team absent does begin to create operational difficulties. At the moment, I have been able to re-deploy the staff who are present, to ensure the safety of all children.

Also, as a parent myself, I do fully understand the concerns there are regarding children testing positive for Covid this close to Christmas. Several parents have contacted me to say that their child will not be returning to school until after Christmas and they were concerned that this would be frowned upon. While I would prefer that the children were in school, given the rising numbers of positive cases and the exceptional circumstances in which we find ourselves once again, I reassured them that I fully understood their decision and that it would certainly not be frowned upon.

As I have said many times over the last couple of years, thank you so much for your amazing support, patience and understanding.

Dates for the Diary

December

Tues 21	End of Term: Y1 – Y4 finish at 12.00 Y5 – Y7 finish at 12.05
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January

Wed 5	School resumes at the usual time
Wed 5	No afternoon Nursery, Y1 & Y2 will finish at 12.00
Wed 5	3.00 – 5.00pm Open Afternoon
Thurs 20	7.00 – 8.00pm Y7 Parents' Zoom Meeting – Transfer Process
Thurs 27	7.00pm PTA Zoom Meeting

Positive Test Results

Should your child test positive please text our Covid number **07359015420** with your child's name and their teacher's name.

From Tuesday 21 December, as it is the Christmas holidays, I won't be in direct contact when I receive a text message, however I will continue to keep our school community (parents & staff) informed until Thursday 23 December. (48 hours after the children finish school).

I will inform parents using Seesaw and staff using WhatsApp. From Christmas Eve onwards you will be delighted to know that Seesaw & WhatsApp will fall silent for the rest of the holidays.

I hope that you are able to celebrate a Covid free Christmas, however if that isn't the case and you find that your child won't return to school on Wednesday 5 January (due to isolation), simply text the Covid number and I will pick it up on my return to school.

Nursery & Y1 Applications

Due to Covid we have been unable to hold our usual Open Night, however, there will be an Open Afternoon on Wednesday 5 January 3.00-5.00pm. If you would like to visit Nursery or Y1/Y2 please contact Mrs Lowry by phone (02893353280) or by email (elowry738@c2kni.net) to arrange a time slot. **In order to facilitate the Open Afternoon on Wednesday 5 January, children in Y1 & Y2 will finish school at 12.00 noon and there will be no Afternoon Nursery.** Ricky Linton, one of our parents has also produced a video which gives you an insight to the Nursery Unit and the Primary School. Details on how to access the video will follow.

If you have any queries about the school or nursery unit, or you would like to chat to me about the application process don't hesitate to contact me on 02893353280 or by email at jloughins453@c2kni.net

Online applications (www.eani.org.uk) open on Monday 10 January 2022 at 12.00 noon. Please see the EA School Admissions information below.

Adverse Weather Conditions

As the weather gets colder with the possibility of frost, I would encourage everyone to tread carefully when entering school. Mr Brown will endeavour to salt the paths and should the weather be so inclement that school isn't safe to open I will inform you through Seesaw.

Remote Learning

It is my sincere hope that school will open as normal on Wednesday 5 January, however, I don't think any of us can be sure what will happen over the next few weeks.

All children should have brought home a 10-day learning pack which I would ask you to keep safe. If you don't have your child's pack, it can be collected in the foyer on **THURSDAY 16 & FRIDAY 17 DECEMBER**. This pack will be used should I have to ask particular classes to remain at home as I cannot get cover for them or if we have to move to remote learning. Should that be the case, the pack will be used initially and then we will revert to Seesaw. Please see below our Seesaw Pledge for remote learning.

Plans for January

As you are aware we endeavour to ensure adequate ventilation in the classrooms by keeping the windows open. As the weather gets colder **I am happy for children to wear a fleece over the top of their sweatshirt if they are feeling very cold.**

As part of our plans for January we had hoped to begin after school activities as organised by outside agencies. However, given the current circumstances the leadership team and the governors have decided to delay the commencement of after school activities until after Easter, when the weather will hopefully be better, allowing the clubs to meet outside.

We had also hoped that we would be able to move away from class bubbles to year group bubbles, both outside and inside, however, once again we are going to maintain our mitigations as they are at the moment.

Our leadership team and Board of Governors meet each half-term in order to review the mitigations that are in place. It is still my hope that as we edge towards the end of the academic year that school will be nearly back to normal.

PTA AGM

There will be a Zoom meeting on Thursday 27 January at 7.00pm. PTA hasn't functioned since the pandemic began and we would love to get up and running again. PTA organise lots of events for the children and their families and in so doing raise essential, additional funds for school.

Many of our parents who have been involved with PTA will now be moving on as their children have left or will be due to leave school. If you would you like to be involved in the life of school, make good friends, have a bit of a laugh, develop a sense of community and raise funds, then please plan to join us on Thursday 27 January.

If you would like to attend the meeting please email Mrs Lowry at elowry738@c2kni.net and she will provide you with the meeting ID and the passcode.

Parent/Teacher Consultations

Parent/Teacher Consultations will take place Monday 7 – Friday 11 February 2022. School will close at 1.45/1.50 for all children each day that week, in order to facilitate the consultations.

Transfer Process – Y7 Parents' Zoom Meeting

There will be a Zoom meeting for Y7 parents on Thursday 20 January, starting at 7.00pm. If you would like to attend the meeting please email Mrs Lowry at elowry738@c2kni.net and she will provide you with the meeting ID and the passcode.

We will provide an overview of the transfer process, with a particular focus on the completion of the online application form. Please see the EA School Admissions information below which outlines some key dates for Post Primary Admissions.

Despite Covid!!

Despite Covid, Christmas is still a very special time in a Nursery Unit or a Primary School. Over the last few weeks the children have enjoyed making decorations for our Christmas trees and taking part (being recorded) in our Christmas Concert and Carol Service. Once again, a big thank you to Ricky Linton for recording the children. The videos can be accessed via a link which will be sent out through Seesaw. Then today the children really enjoyed Christmas Dinner Day. They just love the WPS tradition of making their own Christmas hats!



School Admissions 2022/23



Information for parents/guardians

Please see below key dates in admissions for year 2022/23. For parents/guardians the first date of note is the publishing of admissions criteria of schools on the EA website.

	Pre-School	Primary	Post-Primary
STEP ONE Admissions Criteria Published on Website	17 Dec 2021	17 Dec 2021	12 Jan 2022
STEP TWO Online Applications Open	10 Jan 2022	10 Jan 2022	1 Feb 2022
STEP THREE Online Applications Close	28 Jan 2022	28 Jan 2022	23 Feb 2022
STEP FOUR Notifications of Applications Outcome	28 April 2022 Stage One 16 June 2022 Stage Two	28 April 2022	21 May 2022

For more information on the admissions process please visit www.eani.org.uk/admissions



Whitehead
Primary School
& Nursery Unit

Our **Seesaw**
Pledge

'LEARNING AND GROWING TOGETHER'

As a school, we currently use Seesaw as a means of communication with parents, to share and showcase pupils' schoolwork and for pupils to submit homework digitally. In the event of the whole school closing due to COVID-19, Seesaw will be used as our online learning platform.

As a staff, we agree to **Be Visible, Be Responsive, Be Available** when using Seesaw under these circumstances. In doing so, we will:

Greet our pupils each morning through a short video. This may include an outline of the day's activities, general feedback on a previous task, celebrating a particular child's work etc.

Provide tutorials where appropriate, enabling our pupils to see/hear us teaching through a digital medium such as Explain Everything, video clips or recordings on the Seesaw app itself.

Provide parents and pupils with a weekly timetable outlining which activities are to be completed and when. This will take the format similar to the one shown below. The timetable will be comprised of one literacy and numeracy lesson each day and two World Around Us lessons per week. Spellings, tables and mental maths (in KS1/KS2) will run alongside these activities.

Year 7 Remote Learning Timetable - Week beginning 20 th April 2020					
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Mental Maths	Section 3, Test 3, Part A	Section 3, Test 3, Part B	Section 3, Test 3, Part C 1-6	Section 3, Test 3, Part C 7-12	Brainteaser (Posted on Seesaw)
Numeracy	Weight Pyramids, Prisms & Cubes - Activity will be posted on Seesaw	Weight Find 6 food items in your house. Line them up in order of weight (without looking at the packet!) and estimate how much they weigh. Use household scales to weigh, reading the scale accurately. Please record your feedback on Seesaw.	Weight Pyramids, Prisms & Cubes - Activity will be posted on Seesaw	Weight Pyramids, Prisms & Cubes - Activity will be posted on Seesaw	Problem Solving Pyramids, Prisms & Cubes - Activity will be posted on Seesaw
Literacy	Comprehension Babysitters - Unit 11 from your comprehension book in your school bags: A Name for a Kitten Qu1-8 Demon Dentists will be posted on Seesaw Grannies Grannies will be posted on Seesaw	PDMU/ Writing 'Wing' activity will be posted on Seesaw. Reflect on the film clip and make a plan.	Writing Recognising and valuing differences between us and others 'Wing' activity will be posted on Seesaw. Retell the story in your own words.	Grammar Days 43 & 44 will be posted on Seesaw.	Book Snap activity Based on your current Accelerated Reader book. Respond to this activity on Seesaw please.
Spellings	Learn Monday's spellings using SACA WAC and find out the meanings of each.	Learn Tuesday's spellings using SACA WAC and find out the meanings of each.	Learn Wednesday's spellings using SACA WAC and find out the meanings of each.	Revise all your words from this week.	Friday test Ask an adult to test you in the words from this week.
World Around Us		Anne Frank Timeline task will be posted on Seesaw.		Anne Frank Diary Excerpts task will be posted on Seesaw.	

Create / set activities which vary in their nature in order to keep pupils motivated and stimulated.

Digitally mark the work submitted by pupils, provide written comments and voice recordings to praise pupils' efforts or guide them as to how they could progress. Virtual stickers and ticks on screen will also be used, when appropriate.

Provide answers to parents for activities which aren't being marked by the teacher eg. mental maths.

Be available to be contacted by pupils/parents during normal school hours.