



Dear Parent/Guardian

I'm sure that you are aware of the 5 step plan that the NI Executive have produced. It is easy to see how things might progress in education however we are unaware of when they might happen. We are unsure when schools will re-open. We are also unsure exactly what schools will look like when they do re-open, however we will be able to watch and learn as schools in England begin to re-open in June.

AQE – Parents of Y6 children have already been informed that the AQE tests have been delayed by two weeks with the new assessments taking place on Saturday 21 November, Saturday 28 November & Saturday 12 December. Registration opened on Thursday 14 May. You will be aware that there is an ongoing debate regarding AQE, I will keep you as up to date as I can.

Post Primary Placements – Y7 Parents have already been informed that, given the uncertainty of the current situation and in a change to the original date (Saturday 30 May), the Education Authority has taken the decision to prepare and issue notification of post primary placement letters on behalf of Post Primary Schools to parents/guardians for receipt on **Thursday 4 June**. The letter will provide: the application outcome, information on the appeals process and link to the EA website for more information. **In the event that you do not receive a letter or you have any concerns, please don't hesitate to contact me at school (02893353280) after 12pm on Thursday 4 June or on Friday 5 June.**

DENI Safer Schools App – Given how much time that children are spending online at the moment it is obviously more important than ever that they are safe. Please see the DENI information sheet below.

Virtual Sports Day – Sports Day was due to take place on Wednesday 27 May. Teachers will send out information relating to our virtual sports day, or more accurately sports week. The children will be encouraged to undertake a few simple and fun sports activities during the week of Tuesday 26 – Friday 29 May. There will be a slightly competitive element too!! Thank you very much Miss McLeod for co-ordinating our 'Virtual Sports Day'!

My Right Now Jar & My Looking Forward to Jar – I have really enjoyed reading stories and getting some of our local ministers to take assemblies for us since we have been off. These are posted every Monday morning on our Facebook page. I want to say a big thank you to Mr Brown who records & produces the story/assembly every week and to Mr Baird who posts it on Facebook!! Apologies to anyone who doesn't use Facebook!! I don't use it and the only Facebook page that I look at is our own!! Maybe you could use it to look at our page alone, as I do? We have tried to avoid using Seesaw for this purpose so that it is separate from the work that the teachers are posting!! (don't want to over load Seesaw)!! As part of this week's assembly I encouraged the children to design a 'Right Now Jar' to put in little statements about what they are really thankful for 'right now' (despite our awful circumstances). They could also design a 'Looking Forward to Jar' in which they could write statements about what they are really looking forward to after lockdown. I took this idea from the Education Authority's Primary Behaviour Support & Provisions Newsletter: High Five! Please see the information sheet below.



If there is anything that we as a school community can do to support or help you in any way, please contact me. I am in school each Monday, Wednesday & Friday. I work from home on a Tuesday & Thursday. Please don't hesitate to contact me by phone or by email:

02893353280 or info@whiteheadps.whitehead.ni.sch.uk

Stay Safe & SHINE

Mr Loughins



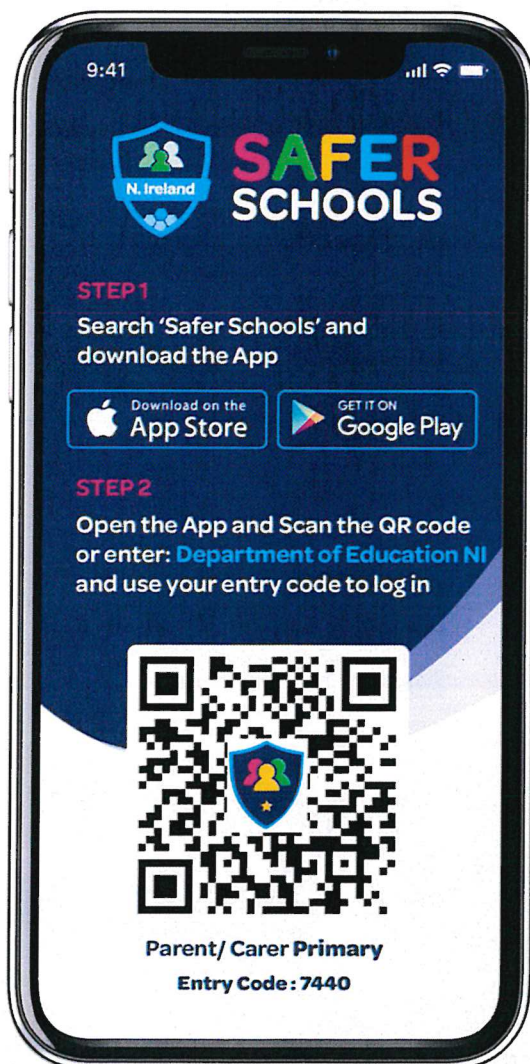
Educate, empower & protect the entire school community.

Dear Parents and Carers,

In these unprecedented times, we know everyone is spending more time online at home, including our children and young people. The Internet provides many benefits in keeping us all connected; however, for our children and young people especially, this can present more significant risks.

The online world can be a bit overwhelming at times, but it is important we understand what our children are doing online so we can help make them safer. The Department of Education Northern Ireland (DENI) Safer Schools App aims to help with this.

We are delighted to invite you download the DENI Safer Schools App using the instructions on the following page.



About the App

The App is designed to support you, as you keep the children and young people in your care safer online. The App will provide you with information on how you can make your home and devices safer. It gives you an in-depth understanding Social Media and the benefits and risks of apps such as Snapchat, Instagram and Houseparty to name but a few.

The App will also provide you with more information on inspiring healthy media habits and screen time, as well as making you aware of scams and keeping personal information safer online. The in-app Safety Centre also provides you with up-to-date information on how to block, mute and report anything you or the child in your care may find worrying or upsetting online, from images to comments from online bullies.

Don't forget to check out our **free**
Home Learning Hub for more online
resources to support you further at
www.oursaferschools.co.uk/home-learning-hub



Make sure to enable push notifications to keep up to date with our tips, advice and guidance on how to make your pupils safer.



SAFER SCHOOLS

Educate, empower & protect the entire school community.

Download and Login Instructions

STEP 1

Search 'Safer Schools' and download the App.



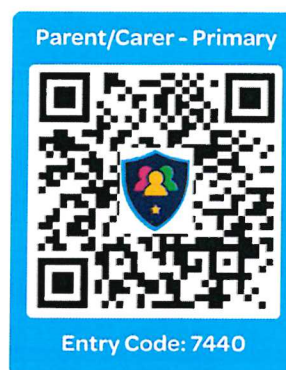
STEP 2

When you open the Safer Schools App, you will be presented with the login screen. Here you will see your two options for accessing the App - numeric or QR.

1) Scan the QR Code

First, tap the "Scan QR Code" button (...or just Scan QR on Android...).

Hold your device so the QR code appears in your camera view (you may need to give permission for the App to use the camera). When it scans the code, you will be logged in!



2) Using the Numeric Code

First, start to type the name 'Department of Education NI' in the "Select your school" section. Then, Select Department of Education NI from the dropdown list and click 'continue'.

Next, simply enter the 4-digit access entry code for your role within the school (parent/carers, staff or pupil).



Connect!

Looking forward to...

Every time your family wishes that they could go somewhere, do something, see some friends and invite them round, go to visit people or a new place, write it down on a piece of paper and put it in a jar. Then when lockdown is over and life begins to go back to normal your family will have a jar full to the brim of wonderful wishes. You can then work through the activities and be thankful for all the wonderful things we have in our lives.



Make a Right Now jar with your family to remember all the great things we can still do in lockdown! This is Mrs Mallon's jar - don't you just love the idea of a living room picnic?