



Dear Parent/Guardian

**Borrowing Digital Devices** – It was reported in the media last week that the Department of Education will make available additional digital devices to facilitate continued remote learning. DE has stated that “priority will be given to children currently in year groups: 11, 13, 6 and 3 in this order; and categories: free school meals, special educational needs, Newcomer target groups (including: Asylum Seeker, Refugee and Roma children), Looked after Children and children who are considered vulnerable.” If you would like any further information regarding borrowing a digital device under the DE scheme and you believe your child falls in to the categories listed above, please contact me in school.

**PTA** – What a night we would have had for Games Night!! Our marathon runners would have had a beautiful day!! We would have raised lots of money!! PTA have paid for all of the new tables and chairs and with the money that we were going to raise through Games Night & the marathon we were going to buy more iPads in order for us to move towards the children completing standardised tests online as opposed to paper. The iPads are ordered and on the way!! Before school closed children were using their smartie tubes to collect 20p. I appreciate that there are very few coins around at the moment but any 20p that you get, pop it into the smartie tube and we will try to safely collect them in September.

**Nursery & Y1 Induction** – Within the next couple of weeks you will receive an email with the induction booklet for Nursery or Y1 attached. You will also receive an email link which will allow you to connect to Seesaw. When you get onto Seesaw your children will meet their new teacher and get the opportunity to enjoy a story with them. **IT IS REALLY IMPORTANT THAT YOU CONNECT TO SEESAW AS YOU WILL RECEIVE LOTS OF INFORMATION, GET THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE A VIRTUAL TOUR OF THE CLASSROOM AND MAYBE HEAR ANOTHER STORY FROM YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER.**

**Collecting Books & Personal Belongings** – Nursery – Y6 parents will be invited to collect children's books and personal belongings on Tuesday 23, Wednesday 24 & Thursday 25 June. Books and personal belongings will be clearly labelled and placed on tables outside your children's classrooms. **GIVEN THE CURRENT SITUATION, PLEASE DO NOT GO INTO THE CLASSROOMS.** Y2 parents can collect their children's books and belongings by going in the Y1 door and going up the steps to the play area beside the sinks. Y1 parents will collect their children's books & belongings just outside Mrs Kidd's room.

**Y7 Leavers** – On Friday 26 June Y7 leavers will be invited to school to collect their hoodies (if they ordered one), their Records of Achievement, their books and any other personal belongings. We are also going to arrange for a photographer to be there in order to take some socially distanced photographs of the boys and girls. It's not the way that we normally send our Y7s off but we thought that this would be a good opportunity to say a bit of a good-bye!! We would love as many of our Y7s to come along as possible.

**Returning School Books** – We are aware that lots of children will have reading books, library books, mental maths books etc that belong to school. **IT IS ABSOLUTELY VITAL THAT THESE BOOKS ARE RETURNED AS WE CANNOT AFFORD TO REPLACE THEM. I WOULD REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT IN THIS MATTER.** Please have a rummage in your



child's school bag & bedroom and return any books as you collect your child's belongings. There will be boxes/tubs for you to leave any books that belong to school.

**Secret Buddies** – I wonder can you be like the little mouse in my story this week. You might only be small and young but you can make a big difference to someone through an act of kindness. Have a look at the Secret Buddies sheet below.

**Child Care** – As you are aware school has been open for key worker child care since we officially closed in March. In order for school to be deep cleaned, for staff to prepare their classrooms and for all of our staff who haven't stopped working to enjoy a break, the last day of child care will be Friday 26 June. This will enable me to meet with all staff on Monday 29 & Tuesday 30 June. I have spoken to Deborah from Little Einsteins and they hope to open from Monday 29 June. They will have limited numbers and key worker children will have priority. She asked me to share her contact number – 07932567440. I am also aware that DE are seeking alternative venues (other than schools) as they appreciate the need for school buildings and school staff to be ready for September.

**School Re-opening** – You will be aware that Peter Weir has announced that schools will not re-open until August/September. As schools we have not received any details on how this will happen. I hope that I will be able to give you more information before the end of June.

**School Uniforms** – Mrs Lowry has been in contact with each of our uniform suppliers and we have encouraged each of them to produce a flyer which outlines their arrangements for buying uniforms this year. I hope to include the flyers in the weekly newsletter next week. Even if children only return to school on a part time basis in September they will all be expected to wear school uniform.

**Website** – I am hoping that our new website will be ready soon. Sadly, at the moment there will be very little on it however you will be able to download an app from the website. The app will enable you to receive notifications when information (newsletters etc) is posted on the website and will take you directly to it. **It will be very important for you to download the app as all communication over the summer will come through it (SEESAW WILL NOT BE USED)!** In the future all newsletters and notes etc will come through the app as we continue to strive towards paperless communication.

**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](mailto:info@whiteheadps.whitehead.ni.sch.uk)**

Stay Safe & SHINE

Mr Loughins



# Secret Buddies

Secret buddies is a great game! There is a mystery to solve and everyone feels better just by playing! Here's how to play-

1.

Everybody in your home writes their name on a note and puts it in a box (or use photos if it's easier)



2.

Take turns to pick out a name or a photo - don't tell anyone who you picked (unless you picked yourself). You are now this person's secret buddy.



3.

Do some acts of kindness for this person for the next two days.



4.

Come back together and see if you can guess who your secret buddy was!

