



Dear Parent/Guardian

I have already spoken to many of you on the phone and will continue to do so. The response to the support that the teachers are providing has been overwhelmingly positive. Those of you who know me well know that I am always striving to ensure that your children get the very best deal that we can give them and I am always thinking, is there a way that we can do this even better. I appreciate that many of you are under huge pressure as you seek to balance your own work, home-schooling & daily family life however if you had a few minutes to complete a very simple questionnaire I would really appreciate it. The questionnaire will be forwarded to you through Seesaw at some point next week. Please use the questionnaire as an opportunity to thank the teachers for their dedication to your children and also as a means to suggest any ways in which we could make further improvements. The reality is that as things stand there will still be elements of remote learning (home-schooling) even when the children return in 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. Between now and the end of June I will keep you as informed as I can. As principals we do not receive any information prior to its release in the press.

Seesaw – **As Monday is a Bank Holiday there will be no Seesaw activities.** Enjoy the 'wee' break or you can use it as a day to catch up. The Seesaw activities are based on the actual topics and activities that children would be completing at this time of year, if they were in school. They are differentiated and progressive ensuring that the children are prepared to move into their next year group. **Seesaw activities will stop for all children on Friday 26 June.** Teachers and Classroom Assistants will be in school on Monday 29 & Tuesday 30 June beginning to prepare for school to re-open.

Virtual Sports Day – I know that some of the children are looking forward to our 'Virtual Sports Day'! Get sporty and have some fun!! Maybe the teachers and classroom assistants should be doing some of these activities too???? The principal would join in but he is WAY TOO OLD!!!

Classes for Next Year – We will let children know their teachers for next year in the weekly newsletter on Monday 22 June.

Reports – Teachers are currently writing end of year reports for the children. The reports will be sent out via Seesaw on the afternoon of Friday 26 June.

Website – I am hoping that our new website will be ready at the beginning of June. 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.

Cashless School – I had indicated at the beginning of last year that we were moving towards being cashless. This was due to be implemented after Easter 2020 but due to COVID-19 it has been postponed until September. I'm sure you will understand the added importance of both paperless communication & being cashless, given the current situation. More details will follow before the end of June.

Reading – In my 'wee' story this week I was encouraging the children to read and maybe share their favourite story or author with others. Maybe they could design an advertising poster or bookmark for their favourite book or draw a picture of their favourite character from their favourite book. They could share it with others, post it to a friend or grandparent? The story had people reading in some very strange places. If you are reading a book in a strange place, take a picture and send it to me at jloughins453@c2kni.net I would love to see them!!! I have also included the 'Reading at Home' page that was posted on our school facebook page last week.

Lockdown - The government have relaxed some of the rules, allowing groups of 4-6 people (not from the same household) to meet while maintaining social distance. This is a great opportunity for your children to begin to meet up with friends or family in a supervised manner, organised by yourselves. This will allow them to begin to develop an understanding of social distance and how they will navigate it, in order to play together. This will be vital for them over the summer months in their preparation for returning to school.

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

Reading at Home

As we are now a few weeks into learning at home, some children may have read a lot of their own books. Here are some websites where you can access free eBooks.

- Libraries NI- visit www.librariesni.org.uk for more step by step information.

The app for the eBook and audiobook service is called 'Libby' and can be downloaded from the App Store or Play Store on your device. If you are not already a member of Libraries NI, you will need to register. This can also be done online for 'virtual membership'.



- Oxford Owl
<http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk>

You need to 'Join Us' to create a free account. There are books for children aged 3-11.



- (Y6 & Y7) Accelerated Reader Articles

On your AR account, you should also find a section called 'Accelerated Reader Articles'. Here you can find a selection of non-fiction texts to read and take quizzes on.

- EPIC <http://www.getepic.com>

This site is offering a 30-day free trial for access to 40,000 books. You need to sign up for an account for this.

- myON <http://readon.myon.co.uk>

Renaissance myON are offering access to thousands of digital books through myON and myON News.