



**Whitehead**  
Primary School  
& Nursery Unit

'LEARNING AND GROWING TOGETHER'

Dear Parent

**SEVERAL SETS OF BOOKS AND BELONGINGS (COATS, SHOES, PE BAGS ETC) HAVE NOT BEEN COLLECTED FROM SCHOOL. THEY ARE IN THE ASSEMBLY HALL AND MUST BE COLLECTED BY FRIDAY 3 JULY, OTHERWISE WE WILL HAVE TO DISPOSE OF THEM. VERY LAST CHANCE!!**

What a year the year of 2020 has been so far. A year that we will remember for a very long time. I want to say a huge thank you, to all of you, for your support and understanding during a very difficult time. You have made it!! You have juggled home-schooling, getting your own job done, caring for your family and running your household. I am sure that you are exhausted and so glad that you will not have to look at Seesaw for the whole summer!! The staff of WPS have had very similar experiences, they are also exhausted and are so ready for their summer break. It is my privilege to work with such an amazing staff who are so committed to the school, dedicated to their job and just simply want the very best for your children. And boys and girls enjoy a great summer break, you thoroughly deserve it. It has been a very different summer term but you have stepped up to the mark, stuck at it and completed your work in very challenging circumstances.

Yesterday, through Seesaw, you should have received the 'Restart Arrangements' for August. Please read them carefully and keep them safe so that you can refer to them again in August. Should you have any queries I will be in school until Friday 3 July, please don't hesitate to contact me. I will return to work on Monday 10 August with the staff returning on Tuesday 18 August.

**AS I STATED IN THE RESTART ARRANGEMENTS WE WILL RESTART AS OUTLINED IN THE LETTER REGARDLESS OF ANY FURTHER GUIDANCE BEING ISSUED! I BELIEVE THAT THIS WILL ENSURE THAT CHILDREN CAN RESTART IN A CALM AND RELAXED MANNER ALLOWING THEM TO BUILD THEIR CONFIDENCE AND RE-ADJUST TO BEING IN SCHOOL AGAIN.**

Over the summer and then next year I will communicate through the Schools NI App which can be downloaded from our website [www.whiteheadps.com](http://www.whiteheadps.com). Don't forget to download it, as my next newsletter (the week of Monday 17 August) will only come via the Schools NI App.

Over the course of lock-down it was wonderful to get the opportunity to chat to you. I am so glad that you have kept well and trust that this will continue to be the case. When chatting to you the feedback on remote learning was overwhelmingly positive. Thank you to those parents who responded to the Remote Learning Survey. We had 193 responses. The purpose of the survey was to confirm 'what went well' and to ascertain how we could improve remote learning should we be forced into a situation of school closure again next year. Below is some feedback on the survey.

- 53% of pupils have access to their own internet device.
- 13% share with a sibling.
- 34% had to use a parent's device.
  
- 100% of pupils had access to Wi-Fi broadband.
  
- 69% of families have a printer at home.
- 31% did not have a printer at home.
  
- 28% of families coped really well with remote learning.
- 52% coped quite well.
- 16% coped with difficulty.
- 4% coped with lots of difficulty.

- 50% of pupils completed all of the Seesaw activities.
- 35% completed most of them.
- 15% completed some of them.
  
- 86% of parents felt that the amount of work children received was just right.
- 9% felt it was too much.
- 5% felt it was too little.
  
- 92% of parents felt that the level of difficulty of work set for the children was just right
- 4% felt that it was too hard
- 4% felt that it was too easy
  
- On a scale of 1-4 (1 – strongly agree, 2 – agree, 3 – disagree, 4 – strongly disagree) the average score for responses was 1.3 in terms of feeling that the teacher was very supportive during remote learning. The vast majority of parents strongly agreed.
  
- 46% of parents felt that Seesaw was straightforward to use.
- 33% felt that it was difficult initially and then straightforward.
- 18% felt that it was difficult sometimes.
- 3% felt that it was very challenging.
  
- 28% of parents felt that their experience of using Seesaw for remote learning was excellent.
- 39% felt their experience was very good.
- 21% felt their experience was good.
- 9% felt their experience was fair.
- 3% felt their experience was poor.

Should school have to close again due to COVID-19, and based on feedback from the survey, some of the areas that we will consider to improve remote learning are:

- To ensure that we use PDFs of worksheets as opposed to photographs.
- To consider whether it is possible, or not, to have face to face sessions with pupils via, for example, Microsoft Teams.
- To further develop the use of recorded lessons or tutorials.
- To consider how we will ensure continuity and progression in reading.

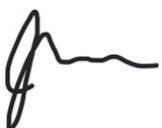
Thank you to all of those parents who took the time to express their appreciation for all the hard work that the teachers have undertaken over the last few months. Below are some of those comments.

**“Fantastic work to all who made a tough situation a lot easier and helped keep all our children learning and growing.”**

**“Can’t speak highly enough of the teachers, they really did SHINE during this dark time and helped my child to do the same.”**

**“Overall it was such a success – we got there. Considering the amount of time to get everything up and running, the teachers all deserve a medal. Parents deserve a week on a remote island to get their sanity back.”**

**I’m not sure that you will make it to that remote island but I do hope that you get your sanity back!! Well done boys and girls, well done mums and dads and well done staff of WPS!! I hope that all you all enjoy a very well deserved break over the summer!! Stay Safe & SHINE!!**



Mr J. Loughins