



Whitehead

Primary School
& Nursery Unit

'LEARNING AND GROWING TOGETHER'

Dear Parent

Thank you very much for your support so far in this very different start to the new school year. I think pupils, parents and staff would all agree that it is great to have the children back in school.

Our half class introductory period is now over and **ALL** children should return to school tomorrow, Thursday, 3 September 2020.

Our Year 7 pupils will continue with their current arrangement of three classes. This arrangement **WILL NOT** be in place for the full year but will continue at present, allowing the children to benefit from smaller class groups and focussed teaching. You may be aware that the AQE test dates have been changed to Saturday 9th, 16th & 23rd January.

As directed by DE, we will continue with staggered start and finish times. From tomorrow, Thursday, 3 September 2020, and until notified of any change, the start and finish times are as follows:

YEAR GROUP	START TIME	FINISH TIME
Nursery	Follow your Induction Programme	
Year 1	8.45 am	12.00 noon (1.15pm from Mon 21/9) (2.00 pm from Mon 28/9)
Year 2	8.55 am	2.10 pm
Year 3	8.45 am	2.00 pm
Year 4	8.55 am	2.10 pm
Year 5	9.05 am	2.20 pm
Year 6	9.10 am	2.25 pm
Year 7	9.15 am	2.30 pm

THE SCHOOL GATES WILL NOT OPEN EACH MORNING UNTIL JUST BEFORE 8.45 AM. DO NOT COME TO SCHOOL BEFORE THIS TIME. THE CROSSING PATROL LADY IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR LOOKING AFTER CHILDREN AND IS TOTALLY FOCUSED ON ENSURING THAT ALL CHILDREN CROSS THE ROAD SAFELY.

ALL TEACHERS WILL BE IN THEIR CLASSROOMS FROM 8.45AM IN ORDER TO FACILITATE OLDER SIBLINGS, WHO CAN PROCEED DIRECTLY TO CLASS.

DROPPING OFF & PICKING UP

When dropping your children off and collecting them, please do so promptly.

YEAR GROUP	DROPPING OFF	PICKING UP
Year 1 & 2	Children will be dropped off to their entrance doors.	Children will be collected from the Year 1/2 playground. No child will be allowed to go unless a parent/carer is there to collect them.
Year 3 & 4	Children should be dropped off at the Year 3/4 playground (at the top of the path) or at the front gate and they should then proceed across the Year 5-7 playground to their entrance doors. (We will obviously allow for a settling in period when parents can initially walk them across the Year 5-7 playground if the child is feeling anxious).	Children will be collected from the Year 3/4 playground. No child will be allowed to go unless a parent/carer is there to collect them.
Year 5, 6 & 7	Children should be dropped off at the gate (or the Year 3/4 playground) and proceed to their entrance door.	Children can be collected from the Year 3/4 playground, the front gate or at some pre-arranged place. PLEASE REMIND YOUR CHILD THAT IF A PARENT/CARER ISN'T THERE TO COLLECT THEM THEY SHOULD ALWAYS COME BACK INTO SCHOOL. IF THEY ARE UNSURE WHETHER THEY ARE BEING COLLECTED OR HAVE TO WALK HOME THEY SHOULD ALSO COME BACK INTO SCHOOL. A Y5/6/7 teacher will be at the gate to ensure that all children are collected.

WE ARE IN THIS TOGETHER (Below is a leaflet from the Education Minister & the Department of Education).

Four of our Core Values, SHARE, HELP, INCLUDE AND NURTURE, are all about what we can do for others. We are all in very different situations and, for some of our parents, it is a huge ask to do the school run as they are caring for very vulnerable children or parents at home and are rightly very anxious. I have always said that the easy part will be getting the children back to school, however, it will be so much more difficult to keep them in school. With this in mind I would ask for your continued support in keeping everyone safe.

- Follow our one-way system in the playground (see the map below). Some of our Nursery parents will have to break the one-way system as they will be unable to come through the playground at break or lunchtime. Mrs McConnell will be in contact to explain.
- **MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCE IN THE PLAYGROUND & AT THE SCHOOL GATE.** The purpose for using the playgrounds as drop off and pick up zones is because it is much easier and much safer to social distance. With this in mind, please don't stand on the path to the playground. Keep it free at all times. Please use the whole playground, particularly moving towards the top of the playground.
- Ensure your child washes their hands prior to leaving the house each morning and immediately upon returning to the house each afternoon.
- Wipe down their schoolbag each morning before leaving the house and also immediately upon returning to the house. **All of your child's belongings should be INSIDE his/her schoolbag – pencil case, lunchbox, hand sanitiser, tissues, etc. This prevents any other child touching your child's belongings.**

3 Islandmagee Road, Whitehead, BT38 9NE

Tel: 02893353280 Email:jloughins453@c2kni.net Website: www.whiteheadps.com

Principal: Mr J Loughins BEd Hons, Med, PQHNI

- Inform us if your child experiences any symptoms of COVID-19:
 - high temperature
 - new continuous cough
 - a loss or change to sense of smell or taste
- Inform us if your child has a COVID test and also the outcome of the test. Mrs Lowry will keep very close, but confidential records.
- Err on the side of caution if you are unsure whether to send your child to school or not.

COMMUNICATION

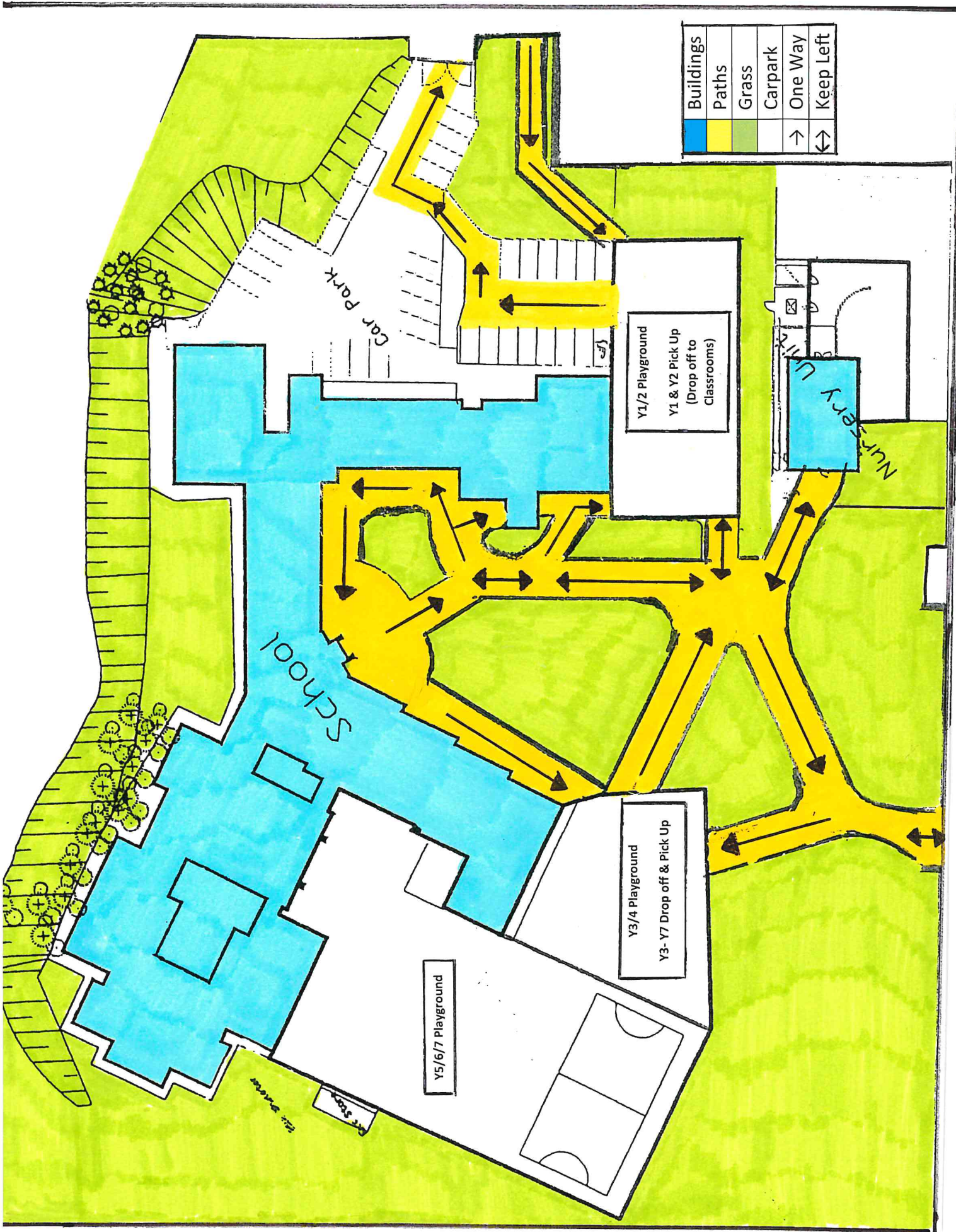
- All newsletters will be sent out via the SCHOOLSNI App which you can download from the school website www.whiteheadps.com
- All parents should sign up to Seesaw Family by Friday 11 September. It is very important to sign up as Seesaw Family will be the main method for you to communicate with your child's teacher. Please appreciate that teachers will be teaching all day and are very unlikely to access Seesaw until the children have gone home from school. It is also unlikely that teachers will be able to respond as quickly as they were able to do during lockdown. Teachers may respond to you directly through Seesaw or may choose to ring you. When ringing you it will present as NO CALLER ID (just in case you are frightened to answer it).
- Once a class have all parents signed up to Seesaw Family you will be invited to sign up to Seesaw Class. We are hoping that all children will be signed up to Seesaw Class by Friday 18 September. It is very important to sign up so that you can forward your child's homework via Seesaw. Spellings, Tables & Reading will be introduced the week of Monday 21 September. Mental Maths Activities for Y4-7 will begin the week of Monday 28 September and Written Homework activities will begin the week beginning Monday 5 October. Seesaw Class will also be very important should we be forced into another lockdown or a class bubble is forced to quarantine for 14 days. As a staff we will also be undertaking training in Microsoft Teams as an additional support to Seesaw.
- If your child is ill and will not be attending school, please contact the office on 02893353280 in order to explain their absence. **DURING COVID -19 THERE IS NO NEED TO SEND A NOTE INTO YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER but you must ring the office.**
- Recently all parents received a password to access School Money. Moving forward all school payments including school dinners will be made through School Money. **IF YOUR CHILD RECEIVES FREE SCHOOL MEALS PLEASE BOOK USING THE SCHOOL MONEY SYSTEM AND YOU WILL NOT BE CHARGED.** If your free school meals application is still being processed, EA have given permission for free meals to be provided to your child until Friday 11 September. However, **DO NOT** book this on School Money (as you will be charged). Instead, please email Mrs Lowry (elowry738@c2kni.net) at least the day before your child requires the meal. **IF YOU ARE ENTITLED TO FREE SCHOOL MEALS BUT HAVEN'T APPLIED YET PLEASE DO SO AS A MATTER OF URGENCY. PLEASE APPLY EVEN IF YOUR CHILD IS NOT GOING TO TAKE THE MEALS. OUR SCHOOL BUDGET BEENFITS FROM EVERY APPLICATION. LAST YEAR A SCHOOL WITH THE SAME NUMBER OF PUPILS AS WPS BUT WITH A HIGHER NUMBER OF FREE SCHOOL MEAL APPLICATIONS RECEIVED TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND POUNDS MORE THAN WE DID!**

CONTACT INFORMATION

At this time of the year we normally send out pink data collection sheets. For obvious reasons we would prefer not to do that this year. If your contact details have changed in any way or you wish to update them please email Mrs Lowry (elowry738@c2kni.net).

REFUNDS

Mrs Lowry will send home refunds for guitar, milk and Coding Club on Wednesday, 9 September 2020. All envelopes and money enclosed will have been quarantined for at least three days before sending home and all members of staff practise good hand hygiene.



EDUCATION RESTART



Everyone has a role to play in keeping our schools safe and helping to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Everyone should continue to:

- ☒ wash hands regularly
- ☒ cover coughs and sneezes
- ☒ practise social distancing
- ☒ follow the latest public health advice

What should I not do?

- ☒ **Don't** send your child to school if they have COVID-19 symptoms
- ☒ **Don't** allow your child to use public transport unless you have no alternative
- ☒ **Don't** gather at the school entrance/gate
- ☒ **Don't** allow your child to share food/drinks with friends

What should I do?

- ☒ **Do** let the school know if your child will be absent due to COVID-19 symptoms
- ☒ **Do** encourage your child to socially distance, if it is possible
- ☒ **Do** encourage good hand hygiene
- ☒ **Do** use alternative transport if you can
- ☒ **Do** walk or cycle if it's safe and appropriate to do so
- ☒ **Do** use park and ride or other car-parking facilities (if available) and walk the remainder of the journey to school
- ☒ **Do** avoid parking close to or at the school gates
- ☒ **Do** encourage the use of face coverings on school transport

Further information, including Frequently Asked Questions for parents and carers, can be found on the Department of Education's website at www.education-ni.gov.uk.



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Education
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