



Whitehead

Primary School
& Nursery Unit

DECEMBER 2021

'LEARNING AND GROWING TOGETHER'

Dates for the Diary

December

Fri 3	Recording of Christmas Concert (Nursery – Y3)
Sat 4	AQE – Test 3
Thurs 9	Board of Governors
Fri 10	Recording of Video for Open Day
Thurs 16	Recording of Carol Service (Y4 – Y7)
Fri 17	Christmas Dinner Day
Tues 21	End of Term: Y1 – Y4 finish at 12.00 Y5 – Y7 finish at 12.05

January

Wed 5	School resumes at the usual time
Wed 5	3.00 – 5.00pm Open Afternoon

Christmas Plans & Open Afternoon

Please see the information below.

Creative Therapy & Counselling

DE have providing funding for a pilot creative therapy & counselling service (Healthy Happy Minds) for primary schools. Post Primary schools have had this resource for many years and many primary schools in socially deprived areas have been able to provide creative therapies & counselling using additional funding which they can access. Based on the level of funding we will be employing 'Insight' based @ Larne Well-Being Hub. A creative therapist/counsellor will be in school each Monday from Monday 29 November until Monday 28 March and will be available to support the children. The creative therapist/counsellor is very experienced and has worked in several primary schools, supporting children.

Initially the teachers will consider which children would benefit, however no child will be able to attend without parental consent. Following the initial teacher referrals, parents will also be able to refer their children for support.

If you feel your child would benefit from the emotional support that the creative therapist/counsellor could offer, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Positive PCR Test?

Please text our school Covid-19 number 07359015420 with your child's name and class.

Temporary Catering Assistant

Canteen require a temporary catering assistant. Please contact Mrs Campbell for more details 02893372932.

Dogs

I would like to remind everyone that dogs should not be brought into the grounds of the school, even if they are being carried.

Kindness Counts

Thank you so much for your support, we raised £1593 for the NI Hospice through 'Kindness Counts'.



Community Hampers

Off the back of 'Kindness Counts' and as this has been another difficult year for so many, we thought it would be a good idea to run our 'Adopt a Hamper' scheme again. Last year this was very well received in the local community. A list has been drawn up of around 80 residents who would really appreciate a small, simple hamper. This is not about people who need food, it is about simple acts of kindness which can brighten someone's day. If you would like to be involved, **please email Mrs Lowry at elowry738@c2kni.net**. Mrs Lowry will then give you very basic details of the recipient such as age and how many are living in their household (no names). You would then:

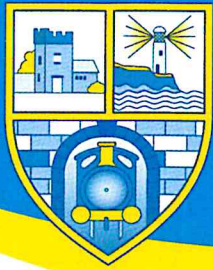
- Make a simple hamper with approximately 15 items (sweets, biscuits, jam, bottle of juice) in it.
- Include a hand drawn Christmas card with a message inside.
- Send your hamper into school by Tuesday 14 December.

School Deferral Age

DE have launched a consultation regarding the deferral of school starting age. Please see the attached information.

Healthy Breaks & Lunches

Please see the attached information from the PHA regarding healthy breaks and lunch boxes.

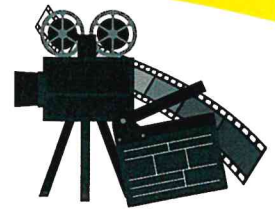


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Virtual Christmas Concert and Carol Service coming soon, to a screen near you!



Nursery – Year 3 Christmas Concert:



The children have been rehearsing for weeks to take part in their virtual Christmas concert. The concert will be recorded on **Friday 3rd December**. All children should come to school on this day wearing their normal school uniform but **switch their navy jumper/cardigan for a Christmas jumper** which they can wear over their polo shirt.

Year 4 – 7 Carol Service:

Rehearsals have been taking place for a virtual Carol Service in which all children will be taking part. The Carol Service will take place on **Thursday 16th December**. All children should come to school on this day wearing their normal school uniform but **switch their navy jumper/cardigan for a Christmas jumper** which they can wear over their polo shirt.



Christmas Dinner Day



Despite Covid, Christmas Dinner Day is a big day in WPS. The children will get the opportunity to make Christmas party hats and will enjoy Christmas Dinner with all of their classmates on Friday 17th December. If your child would like to have a Christmas dinner, don't forget to book and pay on School Money by **FRIDAY 3 DECEMBER**.

Open Afternoon

If you have a child due to begin Nursery or Y1 in September 2022 the school will be open on **Wednesday 5 January 3.00 – 5.00pm**. Please come and have a look around Nursery and Y1/Y2. If you know of a child due to start, please invite their parents to view the school/nursery unit. In order to ensure the safety of everyone I would ask you to contact Mrs Lowry on 02893353280 and she will book you in for an allocated time slot. In WPSNU we encourage all children to SHINE – **Share, Help, Include, Nurture & Excel**. Come along on Wednesday 5 January to meet some of the staff and to see how we encourage the children to SHINE.

