



Dates for the Diary

February

Mon 6 – Thurs 9	Y7 Transfer Interviews (with Y7 teacher & Mr Loughins)
Mon 6 – Thurs 9	P/T Consultations (2.00 – 4.00pm)
Fri 10	School will finish for Y1 – Y4 @ 1.45 & Y5 – Y7 @ 1.50
Mon 20	School starts again at the normal time
Tues 21	CASE – Mr Baird (Planetarium)
Thurs 23	7.00 BoG
Mon 27 – Wed 1	Y6 Residential @ Delamont

March

Wed 1	CASE – Mrs Murphy (W5 Trip)
Thurs 2	World Book Day
Tues 7	CASE – Mrs Graham (Zoo Trip)
Thurs 9	CASE – Mrs Hill/Miss Bloomfield (Breckenhill Trip)
Thurs 9	7.00pm PTA
Tues 14	CASE – Miss Dunlop (Carnfunnock Trip)
Thurs 16	7.00pm Transfer Meeting for Y6 Parents
Thurs 16	7.45pm Manchester Residential Meeting for Y7s
Fri 31	End of Term (Y1 – Y4 12.00noon, Y5 – Y7 12.05pm)

Y6 Delamont Information Evening

I would encourage all the parents **and the children** who will be going to Delamont to come along to the information evening on **Thursday 26 January at 7.00pm**. Mrs Knipe who is leading the residential will provide information on the activities that the children will be taking part in and also the clothing they will require for the trip. Delamont is a wonderful centre that I have used with school groups on several occasions down through the years. The children are in for a great trip.

Y7 Transfer Information

The Y7 children will be completing their online applications for their Post Primary schools over the next month. It is vital that you complete the application form correctly and accurately ensuring that you include all relevant information, particularly in relation to each school's specific admissions criteria. On **Thursday 26 January at 7.45pm** Y7 parents are invited to an information evening when I will discuss how to complete the application form and outline the transfer process over the next few months, highlighting key dates.

Nursery & Y1 Applications for September 2023

The online portal for applications closes at **12.00 noon on Friday 27 January**. Further information regarding this process can be found at www.eani.org.uk. If I can be of any help with your application don't hesitate to contact me.

Parent/Teacher Consultations

Parent/Teacher consultations will take place from Monday 6 February to Thursday 9 February. **In order to facilitate the consultations, school will finish for all children at the following times:**

1.45pm Y1 – Y4

1.50pm Y5 – Y7

PTA Half Term Fundraiser

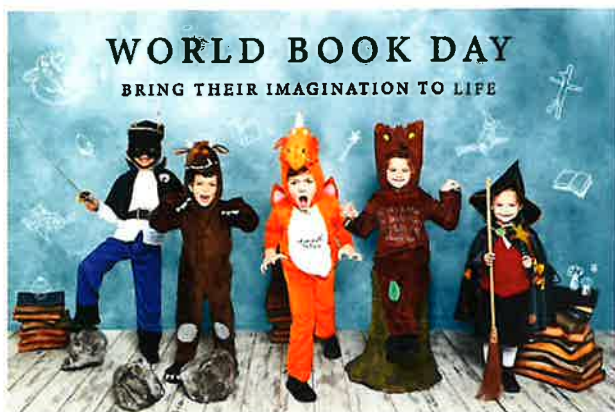
As I am sure you are aware school budgets are set to be cut, so I would really value your support as PTA endeavour to fund raise over the next few weeks. PTA have organised a 'Guess the Number of Sweets in the Jar' and a Build-a-Bear Raffle. From **Monday 30 January** children will be able to guess the number of sweets (50p a guess) or buy a strip of raffle tickets (£1). PTA are also going to have a **bake sale for the children** and a **coffee morning for the parents, grandparents etc** on **Friday 10 February**. Please see the information sheets below.

In order that the bake sale is a success we need everyone to bake some buns and send them into school on Thursday 9 February. If baking isn't 'your thing' then you could maybe buy some buns to send into school. **PLEASE DO NOT SEND ANYTHING INTO SCHOOL WHICH CONTAINS NUTS AS WE HAVE SEVERAL CHILDREN FOR WHOM THIS COULD BE LIFE THREATENING**

School Milk

School milk for Years 1-7 will start again on Monday 20 February 2023. If you would like your child to receive milk everyday, from Monday 20 February to Friday 30 June the cost will be £16.38.

Payment will go live on the School Money system on Monday 30 January 2023 and should be made by Friday 3 February to enable the order to be sent through to Dale Farm. If you have any queries, please contact the school office.



World Book Day

World Book Day is Thursday 2nd March and the theme this year is 'You Are A Reader'. As part of this day, we will encourage children to select a word, which will become their costume. They could dress up as their favourite book character, and wear a label to describe that character (e.g. Matilda could wear a 'Resourceful' label, or The Gruffalo could hold a sign saying, 'prickly'). They could also choose an interesting word (e.g. celestial, extravagant) and design a costume around that. We can't wait to see their creativity and imagination on the day!

Operation Encompass

On Monday 27 February Whitehead Primary School and Nursery Unit (along with all of the schools in the Northern Region) will become part of the Operation Encompass scheme. Operation Encompass is an early intervention partnership between Police and Schools. It is aimed at supporting children who are victims of domestic violence. Please see the information below.

King Charles' Coronation

King Charles' coronation will take place on Saturday 6 May and there will be a bank holiday on Monday 8 May. **School will be closed on this day.**

We plan to celebrate the Coronation in school on Friday 28 April which seems a bit early but our Y7s are on their residential trip the following week and we would like them to be part of the celebration.

Election Day

There is due to be an election on Thursday 18 May. **School is used as a polling station and will be closed on this day** in order to facilitate the election.

School Holidays 2023/24

Several parents have enquired about the School Holiday List for 2023/24. I am currently waiting for EA to publish the holiday list from which we can then set our holidays. I have been in contact with EA to request the list as I really appreciate that many of our parents will endeavour to book holidays on holiday dates as opposed to during term time. As soon as EA publish the list and staff agree the holidays, I will inform all parents.



PTA Half Term Fundraiser



Guess the number of sweets in the jar!



50p a guess!

Build-a-Bear Raffle



£1 per strip of raffle tickets

**Bear raffle drawn & sweet winner announced on
Friday 10th February during Coffee Morning**



PTA FUNDRAISER

Half term Bake Sale

Friday 10th February

PLEASE SEND IN BUN & TRAY BAKE
DONATIONS ON THURSDAY 9TH FEBRUARY

All pupils will visit the Bake Sale on Friday
and be able to purchase a bun. All buns will
be priced between 20p and 50p.



Coffee Morning

**WHITEHEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL
PTA FUNDRAISER**

**FRIDAY 10TH FEBRUARY
9:30AM - 11:00AM**

Come along to the Assembly Hall in Whitehead Primary School for our Coffee Morning!

£2 - tea/coffee and a bun of your choice



Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to update you about our school's participation in Operation Encompass. Operation Encompass is an early intervention partnership between Police and Schools. It is aimed at supporting children who are victims of domestic violence.

Operation Encompass is already established across all of England and Wales and is now coming to Northern Ireland. It is a very simple idea, but one that will help us to support and protect vulnerable children. When the Police attend an incident of domestic violence where one of our pupils is present, they will inform the school's Designated Teacher for Child Protection at the start of the next school day. This information is shared in strict confidence and school staff are only told on a need-to-know basis.

Following any notification from the PSNI, our staff will provide immediate support to any child who has been the victim of domestic abuse. We know that when children do witness domestic abuse at home, this is a highly traumatic experience for them. By taking part in Operation Encompass, we can provide tailored and compassionate support to our pupils, in line with our school ethos. This builds on our existing commitment to child safeguarding.

The Safeguarding Team, Mr Loughins (Designated Teacher), Mr Baird, Mrs Kidd, Mrs McConnell (Deputy Designated Teachers) & Mrs Crooks (Safeguarding Governor) are currently completing their training as Key Adults. Operation Encompass will launch in our local area on Monday 27 February.

Should you wish to find out more information, please contact the school's Designated Teacher for Child Protection, Mr Loughins or alternatively you can read more about Operation Encompass at www.operationencompass.org.

Signed



Mr J. Loughins (Principal)

