



Whitehead

Primary School
& Nursery Unit

September 2024

'LEARNING AND GROWING TOGETHER'

Oh wow, maybe I am just getting older but that felt like a super quick summer. I hope that you have enjoyed some time off work and the opportunity to spend time with family and friends. The staff have been in school this week getting everything ready for the return of the children on Monday. Below I have outlined the starting back information for next week and then key information for September.

As you are aware Mrs Shaw will return to school following her maternity leave. She will be working Monday-Thursday in Y5 and Mrs Kelly (an ex-member of staff) will teach on a Friday. At the very end of term Miss Barnes was offered a longer maternity cover in Islandmagee PS and understandably opted to take it. Miss McReynolds, who the Y3 children know (as she was their student teacher last year), will cover for Mrs Clarke until she returns in November.

Key Dates in August

Nursery & Y1

Children will follow their own induction programmes as outlined in their Induction Booklet and as guided by the Nursery & Y1 teachers.

Monday 26 August

First day of the new school year. Children should arrive at school between 8.45 & 8.55am and proceed to their classrooms. The classroom assistants and I will be in the playground and at doors to direct the children. Teachers will be in their classrooms in order to receive the children. **School will finish at 12.00 Y1 – Y4 & 12.05 Y5 – Y7. No dinners will be served.**

Tuesday 27 August

Children should arrive at school between 8.45 & 8.55am and proceed to their classrooms. **School will finish at 12.00 Y1 – Y4 & 12.05 Y5 – Y7. No dinners will be served.**

Wednesday 28 August

Normal start and finish time 8.45/8.55 – 1.45 (Y2-Y4) & 1.50 (Y5 – Y7)

Thursday 29 August

Normal start and finish time 8.45/8.55 – 1.45 (Y2-Y3), 2.45 Y4 & 2.50 (Y5 – Y7)

Friday 30 August

Normal start and finish time 8.45/8.55 – 1.45 (Y2-Y3), 2.45 Y4 & 2.50 (Y5 – Y7)

Unfortunately, canteen will not commence until Monday 2 September. Therefore, on Wednesday 28, Thursday 29 & Friday 30 August ALL CHILDREN SHOULD BRING A PACKED LUNCH.

Key Dates for September

Thursday 29 August

Child Protection Training & PTA AGM @ 7.30pm

Thursday 12 Sept

Y1 Induction Evening @ 7.30pm

Nursery Induction Evening @ 8.00pm

Thursday 19 Sept

Y6 & Y7 Curriculum Evening @ 7.30pm

Y4 & Y5 Curriculum Evening @ 8.00pm

Y2 & Y3 Curriculum Evening @ 8.30pm

Tuesday 24 Sept

Child Protection Training @ 1.00pm

Induction & Curriculum Evenings

These evenings will provide you with an opportunity to meet your child's teacher, to receive an outline of the curriculum for the year and to gain an understanding of what homework will entail. **I would really encourage you to attend.**

Safeguarding & Child Protection Training

A key aspect of life in WPSNU is our partnership with parents. We would be very keen for you to be involved in school; going on trips, taking children to sporting events, etc. **In order for this to happen you are required to complete the Child Protection Training & also be Police Checked.** The training will take place on Thursday 29 August @ 7.30pm and again on Tuesday 24 September @ 1.00pm.

PTA AGM

Our PTA AGM will take place on Thursday 29 August at 8.15pm following Child Protection Training. We would love you to become involved in the PTA who organise events, which the children really enjoy and which raise additional funds for the school. Funds which will become ever more important given the ongoing cuts in education.

Start Times for 2024/25

Punctuality

All children should plan to arrive to school between 8.45 and 8.55am. It is absolutely vital that all children are in school and in the classroom by 8.55am. **CHILDREN WHO ARRIVE AFTER 8.55AM WILL BE MARKED AS LATE.**

- The parents of those children who are regularly late in September will be contacted by their child's teacher.
- Should lateness persist teachers will discuss this with parents at Parent/Teacher Consultations in October.
- Should the issue not be resolved I will be in contact with parents.
- Continued, persistent lateness throughout the school year will be recorded on a child's report.

I fully understand that everyone can be late on occasions however persistent lateness really does impact on how your child performs and achieves on a daily basis, affecting their overall progress.

Finish Times 2024/25

The finish times are unchanged from last year.

Y1 & Y2	1.45 pm (Mon – Fri)
Y3	2.45 pm (Mon & Tues), 1.45 pm (Wed – Fri)
Y4	2.45 pm (Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri), 1.45 pm (Wed)
Y5 – Y7	2.50 pm (Mon, Tues, Thurs & Fri), 1.50 pm (Wed)

School Milk

School milk will start again on Monday 16 September 2024, will run up to Friday 7 February 2025 and will cost £18.90. Payment will go live on the School Money system on Tuesday 27 August and should be made before Monday 2 September. If you have any queries please contact the school office.

Attendance & Illness

Over the last few years, due to Covid 19, pupil attendance levels had dropped significantly, however, over the last couple of years it has been great to see an improvement and I am very hopeful that we will see further improvement this year. With this in mind, I would really encourage you to avoid taking holidays during term time. Please see below the leaflet produced by DE entitled 'Miss School, Miss Out'. Regular, sporadic absence, or a holiday during term time can have a huge impact on your child's progress.

As part of DE policy to improve pupil attendance I am required to provide a report to the Board of Governors at each meeting. At Parent/Teacher consultations in October and February your child's class teacher will update you on your child's attendance and if it has fallen below 90% you will also receive a letter from myself highlighting the drop in their attendance.

While I really encourage good attendance, it is also important that if your child is ill, that they remain at home. Please inform your child's teacher via Seesaw on the first day of your child's absence outlining why they are absent. **YOU NO LONGER NEED TO PHONE THE SCHOOL OFFICE AS LONG AS YOU INFORM YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER.**



MISS SCHOOL = MISS OUT

WHY ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL IS SO IMPORTANT

If a child of compulsory school age is registered at a school it is essential that they attend their school regularly and maintain a pattern of good attendance throughout their school career.

Excellent attendance at school is important to allow a child or young person to fulfil their potential.

Key Point

Young people who regularly miss school without good reason are more likely to become isolated from their friends, to underachieve in examinations and/or become involved in anti-social behaviour.

Below are just some of the key reasons why it is so important children attend school:

- To learn.
- To make new friends.
- To experience new things in life.
- To gain qualifications.
- To develop new skills.
- To build confidence and self-esteem.
- To have the best possible start in life.

CAN ATTENDANCE MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO EXAM RESULTS?

Greater than
95% Attendance



87% of pupils achieved at least 5 GCSEs including English and Maths when they attended more than 95%

87%

Less than
90% Attendance



63% of pupils achieved at least 5 GCSEs including English and Maths when they attended less than 90%

63%

Less than
80% Attendance



49% of pupils achieved at least 5 GCSEs including English and Maths when they attended less than 80%

49%

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

- Establish a good routine in the mornings and evenings so your child is prepared for the school day ahead.
- Make sure your child goes to school regularly and follows the school rules.
- Ensure your child arrives at school on time – not late.
- Arrange dental and medical appointments outside school hours when possible.
- Always inform the school if your child is absent due to illness - this should be followed up with a written note when your child returns to school.
- If your child is not attending school as you expect they may be putting themselves at risk - Who are they with? What are they doing?
- Do not take family holidays during term time.
- Talk to your child about school and take an interest in their school work (including homeworks).
- Attend parents evenings and school events.
- Praise and reward your child's achievements at school.
- Always support school staff in their efforts to control difficult or challenging behaviour.

Key Point

Parents of children aged 4-16 who are enrolled in school are legally required to make sure they attend.

EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

Every single day a child is absent from school equates to a day of lost learning.

100% Attendance	0 Days Missed
95% Attendance	9 Days of Absence 1 Week and 4 Days of Learning Missed
90% Attendance	19 Days of Absence 3 Weeks and 4 Days of Learning Missed
85% Attendance	28 Days of Absence 5 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed

nidirect.gov.uk/miss-school-miss-out

After School Activities – Tuesday & Thursday

After school activities (taken by our teachers & CAs) will take place on a Tuesday & Thursday, on the dates outlined below:

Tuesday 17 & Thursday 19 September

Tuesday 24 & Thursday 26 September

Tuesday 1 & Thursday 3 October

Tuesday 8 & Thursday 10 October

Tuesday 15 & Thursday 17 October

Tuesday 5 & Thursday 7 November

Tuesday 12 & Thursday 14 November

Tuesday 19 & Thursday 21 November

There will be a small charge of 50p per session for our own after school activities which will allow us to purchase and replenish the equipment necessary for the activities. Each activity will run for 8 sessions this term costing £4 per activity. Parents will be able to sign up on School Money for our own afternoon school activities from Tuesday 27 August – Tuesday 10 September.

After School Activities – Tuesday & Thursday

As outlined above WPS Staff will offer after school activities on Tuesday & Thursday.

Tuesday – Football Y5, Y6 & Y7, Netball Y5, Y6 & Y7, Art Y4, Y5, Y6 & Y7 & Cross Country Y5, Y6 & Y7

Thursday – Badminton Y5, Y6 & Y7, Hockey Y5, Y6 & Y7, Drama & Song Y5, Y6 & Y7

After School Activities – Private Companies

Private companies will offer after school activities on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday.

Monday – Burns Soccer (Y1-Y4) & Burns Hockey (Y1- Y4).

Tuesday – Junglenastix (Y1-Y3)

Wednesday – Jujitsu (Y2 – Y7), Irish Dancing (Y1 – Y7) & Coding Club (Y1 – Y7)

Friday – Burns Basketball (Y1 – Y7) & Burns Lego (Y1 – Y7)

Please see the details below for signing up.

Confirmed Holiday List 2024/25

Please see below the confirmed holiday list for 2024/25. **THERE WERE NO CHANGES** from the draft holiday list published earlier in the year. **As always, I would encourage you to avoid booking holidays during term time.**

Priorities for Development 2024/25 and a Synopsis of the Key Policies

Please find below a synopsis of our developmental priorities, in the Nursery Unit & in the Primary School for the academic year 2023/24. There follows a synopsis of some of our key policies, the full version of which can be found on our school website, www.whiteheadps.com



Whitehead
Primary School
& Nursery Unit

'LEARNING AND GROWING TOGETHER'

HOLIDAY CALENDAR 2024-25

FINAL

SCHOOL BEGINS	SCHOOL CLOSSES	HOLIDAY (dates are inclusive)
Monday, 26 August 2024	Friday, 25 October 2024	Halloween Half Term Monday, 28 October - Friday, 1 November 2024 (4 days + 1 staff training day)
Monday, 4 November 2024	Friday, 20 December 2024 No school dinners	Christmas Monday, 23 December 2024 – Friday, 3 January 2025 (10 days)
Monday, 6 January 2025	Friday, 7 February 2025	Winter Half Term Monday, 10 February – Friday, 14 February 2025 (4 days + 1 staff training day)
Monday, 17 February 2025	Friday, 11 April 2025 No school dinners	Easter Monday, 14 April – Friday 25 April 2025 (9 days + 1 staff training day)
Monday, 28 April 2025	Friday, 2 May 2025	May Day Monday, 5 May 2025 (1 day)
Tuesday, 6 May 2025	Friday, 23 May 2025	Spring Half Term Monday, 26 May – Friday, 30 May 2025 (2 days + 1 report writing day + 2 staff training days)
Monday, 2 June 2025	Monday, 30 June 2025 No school dinners	Summer Holiday 2025

Osmo Coding
Awbie

Osmo



MAX

CODING



To book a place visit
www.bookwhen.com/Maxcoding



August 2024

Junglenastix

Mini - Gymnastix
Exercise Programme
For Children
(Aged 2 - 8yrs)
Mobile : 0791 0262736

All children to please
be collected from the
Hall at 2.35pm

Dear Whitehead Primary School parents/guardians,
Welcome back to "Junglenastix" after the lovely Summer break !!
Children love nothing more than to move and explore, adding one small success to another, one new skill to another, grow in their ability to listen, follow cues and create challenges for themselves through basic body movements. At Junglenastix we help them to achieve those feelings of accomplishment by constantly challenging them on our mini-gymnastix movement programme. Our weekly lessons are every **Tuesday**, lasting 40 minutes, covering 6 lessons. After each lesson the children are rewarded with a sticker, receiving a certificate and a medal at the end of 3rd term. In order to register your child onto our programme, please kindly email me at junglenastixc23@gmail.com and I will send you our online registration form along with our method of payment details and please feel free to ask any questions regarding our programme. **As spaces are limited**, enrolments will be on a first come, first serve basis and rest assured that there will be loads of fun and exciting, challenging activities for the children. We look forward to sharing these experiences with them next term and all the challenges it brings!

***Please Note ***
A change of clothing is not necessary but girls to please wear leggings or cycling shorts under their skirts ☺.

Yours in Health 🍌
Candy Le Roux

First Lesson :
Tuesday, 10th September 2024
Times : 1.50pm - 2.30pm (P1-35)
Last Lesson :
Tuesday, 15th October 2024
Term Fees : £92.00 p/child
(Siblings £5 discount off final end total)

Junglenastix

Our Excting
Jungle Path ~
Come and Explore
with Us !!



If you're looking
for Fun and like to
be Challenged ...
you have come to
the right place !



And these are just
some of the things
that we do !



Traditional Japanese Jujitsu

Self-Defence Martial Art
and Close Combat.

Term 1
starts on
Wed 11th
September

WHITEHEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL

WEDNESDAY P2 – P7 1.45-3pm (Limited
spaces available)

INSTRUCTORS

Shihan Alison McNeilly

7th Dan Black Belt

CONTACT

Alison McNeilly on
07753267187
alisonmcneilly@aol.com

£5 per class for Juniors payable at start of each month Membership including insurance
£18/yr. To Book your child's place or for other class options please email

alisonmcneilly@aol.com





Whitehead Primary School



Football

P1 - P2 + P3 - P4

Mon 9th Sept
Mon 16th Sept
Mon 23rd Sept
Mon 30th Sept
Mon 7th Oct
Mon 14th Oct
Mon 4th Nov
Mon 11th Nov
Mon 18th Nov
Mon 25th Nov

Hockey

P1 - P2 + P3 - P4

Mon 9th Sept
Mon 16th Sept
Mon 23rd Sept
Mon 30th Sept
Mon 7th Oct
Mon 14th Oct
Mon 4th Nov
Mon 11th Nov
Mon 18th Nov
Mon 25th Nov

Lego

P1 - P3 + P4 - P7

Fri 13th Sept
Fri 20th Sept
Fri 27th Sept
Fri 4th Oct
Fri 11th Oct
Fri 18th Oct
Fri 8th Nov
Fri 15th Nov
Fri 22nd Nov
Fri 29th Nov

Gymnastics

P1 - P3 + P4 - P7

Fri 13th Sept
Fri 20th Sept
Fri 27th Sept
Fri 4th Oct
Fri 11th Oct
Fri 18th Oct
Fri 8th Nov
Fri 15th Nov
Fri 22nd Nov
Fri 29th Nov

Monday

Primary 1 – Primary 2 (1.45pm-2.45pm each week) **Primary 3 – Primary 4** (2.50pm-3.50pm each week)

Friday

Primary 1 – Primary 3 (1.45pm-2.45pm each week) **Primary 4 – Primary 4** (2.50pm-3.50pm each week)

To secure a place for your child you must enrol online via www.burnsskillsschool.co.uk This is very easy and straightforward. Click 'secure your place' at the top of the website. Then scroll down to find your child's school and the correct activity to enrol.

Deadline for payment is **Friday 6th September**. This is a great opportunity for your child and certainly one not to be missed. When in attendance we would advise that all children wear appropriate clothing with a pair of trainers suitable for indoor and outdoor.

Numbers will be limited for each session!

Note: The total cost of the term will be split into two payments. Once signed up you must pay both installments. The first payment of £25.00 is due on registration and the second payment of £25.00 will be due in October. Please note this is not two blocks of 5 weeks. This is one block of 10 weeks split into two payments to help make it more affordable for parents with more than one child. All spaces are non refundable.

Payment options: *Online*

Thanks

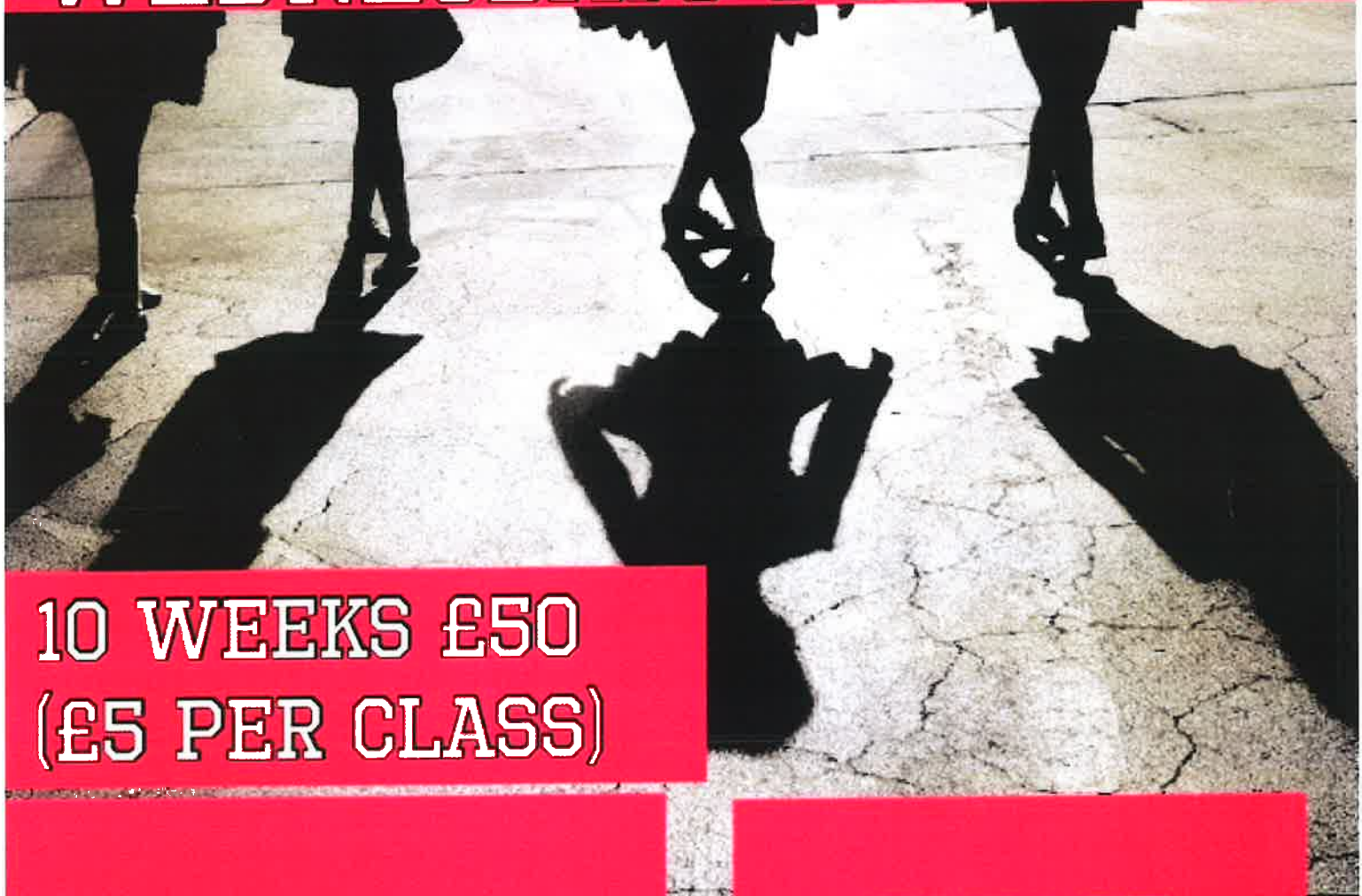
*Aaron & Andrew
Burns Skills School*



**JORDAN
ACADEMY**



WEDNESDAYS 1:45-2:45PM



**10 WEEKS £50
(£5 PER CLASS)**

WEDNESDAY 11TH SEPTEMBER 2024
WEDNESDAY, 18TH SEPTEMBER 2024
WEDNESDAY, 25TH SEPTEMBER 2024
WEDNESDAY, 2ND OCTOBER 2024
WEDNESDAY, 9TH OCTOBER 2024
WEDNESDAY, 16TH OCTOBER 2024
WEDNESDAY, 6TH NOVEMBER 2024
WEDNESDAY, 13TH NOVEMBER 2024

**PLEASE
MESSAGE
07999859139
TO BOOK**

School Development Plan 2024/25

Nursery

- Development of speech, language and communication skills.
- Promoting enjoyment of books and early reading.

Primary

Literacy

- To receive training in the teaching of reading.
- To develop this training within classroom practice.
- To update long and medium/short term planning for reading.

Personal Development & Mutual Understanding (PDMU)

- To review our existing provision for PDMU.
- To develop this provision within the classroom, based on new resources that have been implemented over the last few years in school.

Whole School

- To review our Ethos, Vision & Aims working with the Controlled Schools Support Council (CSSC)
- To complete trauma training in order to further develop our support children who have experienced trauma or Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

Pastoral Care Policy

As a school we aim to provide, in partnership with parents, a safe, secure and stimulating learning environment where children can achieve their full potential and pursue excellence. We aim to achieve this through:

CHILD CENTRED PROVISION

- We promote equality of opportunity, high quality learning, a concern for individual pupils and a respect for diversity.
- We seek to meet the educational needs of all pupils, helping them to overcome any barriers to learning.
- We believe in and support pupil participation and involvement in decisions about school life.

HIGH QUALITY OF LEARNING AND TEACHING

- We provide a broad and relevant curriculum.
- We promote positive relationships in all areas of school life.
- Teachers use a range of teaching strategies that respond to the diversity within the classroom.
- Teachers reflect on both their own work and the outcomes of individual pupils.

EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP

- Governors understand their responsibility for the pastoral care of pupils.
- In relation to pastoral care we support the professional development of all staff.
- We provide the resources necessary for pastoral care.
- We monitor and evaluate our pastoral care practices.

A SCHOOL CONNECTED TO ITS LOCAL COMMUNITY

- Good relationships and communication between the school, the parents and the wider community are crucial to our pupils' wellbeing and achievement.
- We have good relationships and communication between the school and the education agencies that support us.
- We have good links with other relevant statutory and voluntary agencies that support children's health, wellbeing and education.

Child Protection Policy

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child 1991 sets out the rights that all children have the right to be protected from all forms of violence. **They must be kept safe from harm and they must be given proper care by those looking after them.** The Children (NI) Order 1995 also promotes children's rights and its underlying principle is **the child's welfare must be of paramount consideration.**

The policy outlines the signs and symptoms of 5 main kinds of child abuse: Neglect, Physical, Emotional, Sexual & Exploitation.

It also outlines the 6Rs of how you should respond (receive, reassure, respond, report, record & respect) if a child makes a disclosure to you. If you have any concerns of a Child Protection nature you should speak to:

Mr Loughins (Principal)	Designated Teacher
Mr Baird (Vice Principal)	Deputy Designated Teacher
Mrs McConnell (Nursery)	Deputy Designated Teacher
Mrs Kidd (Y1)	Deputy Designated Teacher

Addressing Bullying Policy

Whitehead Primary School is committed to creating and maintaining a safe and secure environment for all our pupils. Bullying is an unacceptable form of behaviour which can cause profound emotional and physical harm. Whitehead Primary School actively promotes positive interpersonal relationships between all members of the school community.

Bullying includes (but is not limited to) the repeated and intentional use of physical, verbal, electronic, written or psychological acts or omissions, or any combination thereof, by one or more pupils against another pupil or group of pupils with the intention of causing hurt, harm, fear, distress or adversely affecting the rights or needs of that pupil or group of pupils.

The policy outlines:

- Methods of bullying
- Preventative strategies which are taught in school through the curriculum
- The entitlement and responsibility of pupils, parents, staff & governors
- How we will investigate an alleged bullying incident
- How we will plan for a resolution

Positive Behaviour Management Policy

In Whitehead Primary School we believe the foundation for our children's educational success is excellent behaviour. It is our belief that excellent behaviour will leave the space for innovative teaching, enabling all of our children to become successful learners. Everyone is expected to maintain the highest standards of personal conduct, to accept responsibility for their behaviour and encourage others to do the same. At Whitehead Primary School our core values demonstrate our aim of ensuring that **ALL OF OUR CHILDREN ACHIEVE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL AND PURSUE EXCELLENCE.** Our behaviour policy echoes our core values (based on the acronym S.H.I.N.E. In Whitehead Primary School we: **Share, Help, Include, Nurture & Excel**), emphasising a partnership approach to managing poor conduct and dynamic interventions that support staff and learners.

The policy outlines:

- What good behaviour is and how we recognize and reward good behaviour
- The entitlement and responsibility of our pupils, parents, staff & governors
- The steps that we will take to modify behaviour that doesn't sit alongside our ethos and core values.

Acceptable Use of Internet Policy

At Whitehead Primary School we believe that the internet and other digital technologies are very powerful resources which can enhance and potentially transform learning and teaching when used effectively and appropriately. We provide pupils with opportunities to use the excellent resources on the internet and endeavour to develop the skills necessary to access, analyse and evaluate them. DENI circular 2007/1 & 2011/22 states that: "Used well, digital technologies are powerful, worthwhile educational tools; technical safeguards can partly protect users, but education in safe, effective practices is a key goal for schools."

The policy outlines a code of safe practice for pupils and staff. It also highlights the importance of our preventative curriculum with regards to internet safety.