



Ho, Ho, Ho! It's the Christmas Holidays

School will finish for all children on **Friday 20 December @ 12.00noon (Y1 – Y4) & 12.05pm (Y5 – Y7)**
I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support so far this year and I hope that you have a lovely Christmas with family and friends.

Board of Governors Annual Report 2023/24

The Annual Report from the Board of Governors for the academic year 2023/24 will follow. There will also be a copy on the school website www.whiteheadps.com

Dates for the Diary

January

Mon 6	School resumes at the normal time
Thurs 16	7.30pm PTA
Fri 17	Diversity Day with a Focus on Brazil
Wed 22	P/T Consultation times sent out to parents
Thurs 23	7.00pm Y6 Parents – Delamont Information Evening
Thurs 23	7.45pm Y7 Parents – Completing the Transfer Forms
Mon 27 – Thurs 30	Y7 Transfer Interviews (with Y7 teacher & Mr Loughins)
Fri 31	Pupil Books sent home for a 'wee' look at, prior to P/T Consultations

February

Mon 3 - Thurs 6	Money Week – In Numeracy our focus will be on money
Mon 3 – Thurs 6	P/T Consultations (2.00 – 4.00pm)
Fri 7	PTA Coffee Morning & Bun Sale
Fri 7	School will finish for Y1 – Y4 @ 1.45 & Y5 – Y7 @ 1.50
Mon 17	School resumes at the normal time
Mon 17-Wed 19	Y6 Residential @ Delamont
Thurs 20	7.00 BoG

Nursery & Y1 Applications for September 2025

Once again the application process is online. **The online portal for applications goes live at 12.00 noon on Friday 10 January and closes at 12.00 noon on Friday 24 January.** Further information regarding this process can be found at www.eani.org.uk. If I can be of any help with your application or if you would like to chat to me, don't hesitate to contact me.

Pre-School Standardisation

You may be aware that the Education Minister has commenced the Pre-School Standardisation Programme, whereby over the next number of years all pre-school children will be offered a full-time place.

Our Board of Governors considered the move to full-time this year, however, for us to do so we would have had to reduce our Nursery numbers from 52 to 26.

The governors opted to defer for a year to allow us to consider other options. If you have any queries about this, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Lost Property

The lost property boxes are full and overflowing. We will return any named lost property to the children over the next few days. **Any unnamed lost property will be placed on the stage in the Assembly Hall from Wednesday 18 – Friday 20 December. Please pop in and claim any lost property which might belong to your child.**

Diversity Day

Diversity Day is Friday 13 January when we will focus on Brazil.



PTA Cosy Christmas

We are really looking forward to welcoming a couple of special guests to school on Thursday 19 December to help us celebrate a **COSY CHRISTMAS** with the PTA.

Thursday is a non-uniform day when all of the children and staff can wear something cosy!! A Christmas jumper, PJs, Onesie, Oodie or just something Christmassy.

ESSENTIALLY, THE CHILDREN SHOULD WEAR SOMETHING COMFORTABLE AND COSY!!

The suggested donation is £3 and is payable on school money.

PTA – Easy Fundraising

Whitehead PS PTA is registered with easyfundraising, which means you can raise FREE donations for us every time you shop online. Over 7,000 brands will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself!

These donations really mount up and make a BIG difference to us, so we'd really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us. It's completely FREE and only takes a moment.

You can find our easyfundraising page at:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/whiteheadpspta/?searchSessionId=9567e57b-71f9-4389-b627-31dccc3ea3bc>

or

Go to <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk>, Sign up and get started, then search for Whitehead PS PTA in 'Search a cause'.

Thank you so much!

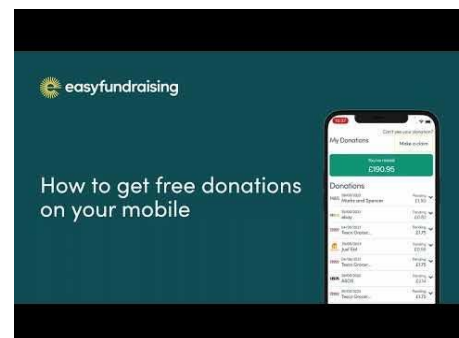
Lorraine Dunn (Whitehead PTA Treasurer)

Below are a couple of youtube videos which also be helpful. This is a really easy way to raise additional funds for PTA.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ehfZ4_yAJxU



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7qg0VCvjEH0>



Bring Your Own Grown-Up (Y7 Parents)

Larne Grammar, Whitehead PS & Ulster University are teaming up to run a Bring Your Own Grown-Up maths programme, which will take place in Larne Grammar School on 4 evenings in January & February. Each evening will last for 1.5 hours. Y7 parents have already received the information relating to the programme. The evenings will be relaxed, with a fun-filled focus on active maths. It is a wonderful opportunity for parents who want to help with their children's learning at home and I would really encourage our Y7 parents to sign up for the programme.

Term 2 After School Activities

Our staff led after school activities (Tuesday & Thursday) will re-commence the week beginning Monday 20 January. The 8 sessions will run on the following dates. **You can sign up (on school money) for our staff led after school activities from Tuesday 17 December until Thursday 16 January.**

Tues 21 & Thurs 23 Jan Tues 28 & Thurs 30 Jan Tues 18 & Thurs 20 Feb Tues 25 & Thurs 27 Feb

Tues 4 & Thurs 6 Mar Tues 11 & Thurs 13 Mar Tues 18 & Thurs 20 Mar Tues 25 & Thurs 27 Mar

The activities will follow a same pattern as Term 1

- **Tuesday - Football Y5 - Y7, Netball Y5 – Y7, Cross Country Y5 - Y7 & Art Y4 – Y7**
- **Thursday – Badminton Y5 - Y7, Drama & Song Y5 - Y7 & Hockey Y5 - Y7**

Term 2 After School Activities (Privately Run)

If you haven't had the opportunity yet don't forget to sign up for the after-school activities run by private companies. The information for signing up was sent out with the December Newsletter. The activities take place on a weekly basis as follows:

- Monday – Burns Football & Gymnastics
- Tuesday - Junglenastix
- Wednesday - Irish Dancing & Jujitsu
- Friday – Burns Basketball & Lego

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 23 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 which we have used for a couple of years now.

Y7 Transfer Information Evening & Interviews

The Y7 children will be completing their online applications for their Post Primary schools over the next couple of months. 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 23 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.

As part of the application process you will also be invited to a short parent/teacher consultation with Mr Addis/Mr Baird and myself (**Monday 27 – Thursday 30 January**). The teachers will update you on your child's progress in class (as they would do every February in parent/teacher consultations) and I will be there to support and advise you regarding the application process.

The online application process (for applying to Post Primary School) will open on Tuesday 28 January @ 12 noon and closes on Thursday 20 February at 12 noon.

Parent/Teacher Consultations

Parent/Teacher consultations will take place from Monday 3 February to Thursday 6 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

Half Term February

On Friday 7 February school will finish for all children for half-term at the following times:

1.45pm Y1 – Y4

1.50pm Y5 – Y7