



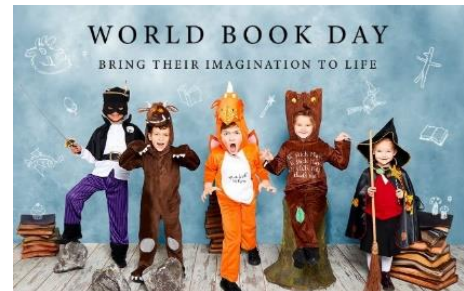
Dates for the Diary

March

Tues 4	ASPIRE Y3CC & Y7JA
Tues 4	Netball Tournament @ Carrick Academy
Tues 4 – Fri 7	Book Fair
Thurs 6	World Book Day
Tues 11	ASPIRE Y7GB
Thurs 13	7.30pm PTA
Mon 17	School open as normal – NO CANTEEN
Wed 19	Netball Tournament @ Larne Grammar
Thurs 20	6.45-7.45 Parent Focus Group – Ethos & Vision
Thurs 20	7.00pm Manchester Residential Meeting for Y7s
Thurs 20	7.45pm Transfer Meeting for Y6 Parents

April

Friday 4	PTA Sponsored Event
Tues 8	ASPIRE – Y3CC & Y7GB
Thurs 10	ASPIRE – Y7JA
Thurs 10	7.30pm BoG
Fri 11	End of Term (Y1 – Y4 12.00noon, Y5 – Y7 12.05pm)



World Book Day

We will celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 7 March. **Please see below.**

Progress Tests in Mathematics (PTM) & English (PTE)

Each year the children in Y3 – Y7 complete progress tests in Mathematics & English. The tests will be completed over a 2-week period (Monday 10 – Friday 21 March) and we would encourage all children (as far as possible) to be in school during this period.

No School Dinners on St Patrick's Day

Canteen will be closed on St Patrick's Day, **ALL CHILDREN SHOULD BRING A PACKED LUNCH ON THIS DAY.**

Ethos, Vision, Mission & Core Values

As you are aware we have been reviewing our Ethos, Vision & Mission statements. Based on parental & pupil questionnaire responses in the 1st term the staff and governors have drafted possible statements which can be seen below. Pupils will discuss the statements through Pupil Voice and a Parent Focus Group is planned for 6.45-7.45 on Thursday 20 March. **Details are below.**

Y7 Manchester Information Evening

I would encourage all the parents **and the children** who will be going to Manchester to come along to the information evening on **Thursday 20 March at 7.00pm**. We will provide information on the activities that the children will be taking part in and also the clothing they will require for the trip.

Y6 Transfer Information

As the Y6 children begin the process to transfer from Primary School to Post Primary School Y6 parents are invited to an information evening on **Thursday 20 March at 7.45pm**. At the meeting I will provide you with an overview of the process highlighting key dates and Y6/Y7 teachers will give you an insight into how we will prepare the children for this transition.

After School Activities in the 3rd Term

- Monday – Burns Dodge Ball & Gymnastics
- Tuesday – FineTuning Girls' Football & Multi Sports
- Wednesday – Irish Dancing & Jujitsu
- Thursday – FineTuning Football & Junglenastix
- Friday – Burns Lego & Basketball

Further information will be sent out in March allowing you to book a place for your child.

World Book

As usual, the children will be involved in lots of book-related activities in class, such as... **DROP EVERYTHING AND READ, STORYTELLING & SHARING A STORY**

DRESSING UP – ‘Rhyme Without Reason’ - As an addition to dressing up as a character from a book this year, the children can also plan their costume and collaborate with friends / siblings so they make a rhyme – this can be with one other person, or multiple people, e.g. *Cat in the Hat & Postman Pat*, *Gangsta Granny & Annie*, *Little Bo Peep & a sheep*, *The Tiger Who Came to Tea & The BFG*, *Hairy McClary & a fairy*, *Winnie the Witch & Lilo and Stitch*. [Here are some LESS ‘book-related’ ideas: Forrest Gump & Donald Trump, Home Alone & Traffic Cone, Under Arrest & Wild, Wild West](#)

The Book Fair will also run in school from Tuesday 4th March until Friday 7th March. Your support is very much appreciated, as our school receives commission from Book Fair sales, helping us buy books for the children. Pupils will all have a £1 off book token to use at the fair.

Ethos, Vision, Mission & Core Values

Based on pupil and parent questionnaire responses in the 1st Term the staff and governors have formulated the following Ethos, Vision & Mission Statements. The pupils will discuss the statements through Pupil Voice and parents will have the opportunity to discuss the statements on Thursday 20 March 6.45-7.45. Pre-Covid we would have invited parents to participate in Focus Groups by random selection using the class registers. It is our intention to invite the parents of every 5th child on each class register. If you receive an invite in the next few days, we would really appreciate your support in coming along to the meeting. It goes without saying that different parents will then be invited to each subsequent Parent Focus Group meeting. If you aren’t invited on this occasion but you would like to chat to me about the statements, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

ETHOS

Whitehead Primary School & Nursery Unit is a safe, welcoming and nurturing environment in which children are supported to reach their full potential. With children at the heart of everything we do, we inspire, empower and equip every child with the skills and values they will need to contribute positively to the world around them. Whitehead Primary School & Nursery Unit is an environment of mutual understanding in which children continually connect with others in the school family and wider community. We foster a culture of respect, empathy and inclusivity, believing that everyone matters.

VISION

We empower our children to become confident, independent and resilient individuals, instilling in them our core values so that they can grow and SHINE in an ever-changing world.

MISSION STATEMENT

- *Providing a learning environment where children are happy, safe, secure and nurtured.*
- *Creating a learning environment which is supportive and encourages a ‘have a go’ attitude.*
- *Providing high quality and meaningful learning opportunities, responsive to the needs of each child, equipping them in becoming confident and independent learners.*
- *Promoting confidence and personal growth by providing a platform where every voice matters, an understanding that every child is unique, and that individuality is a strength.*
- *Modelling positive attitudes and fostering the acquisition of social skills, preparing pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of future life.*
- *Encouraging a supportive and collaborative partnership with parents while nurturing strong connections within the community*
- *Developing an awareness, respect and compassion within our school family for others in our community.*
- *Fostering an awareness within the children of their rights and responsibilities in order that they might contribute to a diverse and ever-changing world.*

CORE VALUES

The feeling was that our Core Values should continue to be based on the word **SHINE**. In WPSNU we **SHARE, HELP, INCLUDE, NURTURE, EXCEL**. The children are very aware of our core values and they are very much part of school life, however if there are different words that we can use as part of our core values we would be happy to consider them.