



Hello and welcome to my first newsletter with you all. Can I from the outset thank you all, without exception, for making me feel so very welcome. I am absolutely delighted to be our school's new Principal and look forward to working with you and your children. Can I ask you to read through the newsletter and keep up to date on our calendar of events by visiting our school website. Most importantly can I ask you all to keep our school in your regular thoughts as we venture together into a wonderful new school year.

K. Wysner

PTA P1 Welcome BBQ: Tonight our PTA will be holding their annual P1 BBQ in school from 5pm to 7pm. Can I encourage all our P1 children and their families to come along and get to know each other. My thanks to our PTA for organising this yet again. It really does make a difference.

Social Media & Our Website: Over the summer our school website was refreshed and various forms of Social Media were introduced. Social Media is not intended for the use of our children as the guidelines state that users should be 13 years and over. Our social media is a form of communication for the school to reach out to our parents, local residents and wider community to learn about our school and to keep them informed in a positive way as to what makes our little learning community so special. Can I encourage all our parents to use it wisely and not to misuse the opportunity we are giving them to have their voice heard. Complaints can be directed in private messages or through the normal channels directly with the school.

Creating a Safe & Secure Place For All Our Children:

Following a few minor incidents last school year our Board of Governors decided to place secure doors on either side of the main foyer in the hope of creating a secure learning environment for our children and staff. The doors now lock during the teaching day from first thing in the morning and parents of young children are encouraged to drop our children off at the right hand entrance door. Pupils attending morning club only should come in through the left hand door up until 8.30am and then go straight to Ms McGrady's room. In the vast majority of cases this is working as hoped. Can I make it clear that parents are always welcome in our school and the central main door is the most appropriate route into the public areas of our school so that you can communicate with our staff through the girls in our main office. Apologies to those who are here long enough to know the flexibility of the last system. However, this was unfortunately misused on a few occasions leaving our governors no other option but to protect our learning areas in a more secure way.

New Clothing Bank: A clothing and fabric bank has been added to our school grounds just outside the right hand front door. This will help our children to understand the value in reusing and recycling and also help our school earn a little extra income.



WPS - A Global Learning School:

Congratulations go to our staff, led by Miss Wylie, who have achieved the introductory level of the Global Learning Programme. This is a quality mark programme designed to upskill our staff and children in making our school a Global Learning Environment. We can now proudly display the organisation's logo on our school letterhead and website. We hope this to be the first of many as I know our school is already working its way to becoming a Green Flag Eco School, this is again led by Miss Wylie.

ParentMail and +Pay: ParentMail has been a welcome addition to our Social Media and has allowed a great many of you to make online purchases of dinners, milk, trips and lots more. Please stick with us as we 'iron out' the little 'gremlins' in the system as I can assure you all it will make all our lives a lot more easier.

Uniform, Coats & Shoes: Parents are to be congratulated on how well our boys and girls all look in their uniform. They are all looking so well and I hope this continues. Just a reminder that school shoes are to be worn to school and home again and trainers can be changed into for break and lunchtime outdoor play. Black PE gutties are to be worn for PE, not the children's outdoor trainers. Children are also now encouraged (if parents wish) to send in an inexpensive plain white t-shirt and plain black shorts for PE in a PE bag. This will give our children something more comfortable to change into before they participate in PE. Black school shoes are a requirement of our school uniform all year and not just until your child grows out of these lovely new ones. Coats are also necessary as we proceed towards autumn as the weather can be very unpredictable and yet our children will be outdoors at break and lunch even in the lightest of rain.

Pastoral Care & Safe ICT:

Parents will have been sent information on Pastoral Care and ICT earlier this week via ParentMail. This information is also available all year round on our website. I encourage parents to read over these and ensure your child understands the spirit behind each of the documents. Our children are all precious and as a school we endeavor to protect them and nurture them in a safe and caring environment for as long as we possibly can.

Year 5 Trip: Parents will have received a ParentMail consent form for our Year 5 children to go on a coastal safari next week, weather dependent, along the lough shore. Please do not overlook this as we want everyone to be able to go.

**Our School Website: <http://www.whiteabbeyps.co.uk>
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