



May 2023

Dear Parents & Carers,

I wanted to write to you to about plans for our school uniform for next year, September 2023. We undertook a survey with parents last year and asked about our school uniform and PE kit. In that survey, over 60% responded to say that they thought it would be a good idea to update our PE uniform in school. Since then, I have discussed this with the Friends of West Winds PTA, the Board of Governors and some of our pupils in school.

We have worked with several local suppliers to source a school PE kit, that is reasonably priced and fit for purpose. As a result of this process, we have decided to work with a clothing firm based in Bangor, 'Signature Schools' to produce a West Winds Primary PE Kit.

Our 'regular' school uniform remains unchanged for next year and can still be purchased through our traditional outlets in Newtownards, D Crawfords Schoolwear and School Days as well as through Signature Schools.

Our new PE kit will only be for children in P3-P7 (children in P1/2 will continue to simply change their shoes for PE) and will be voluntary for the academic year 2023. The new PE kit will consist of:

- Embroidered West Winds navy blue tracksuit bottoms
- Embroidered West Winds ¼ zip training top
- Plain white t shirt (either from Signature Schools or elsewhere)
- Trainers

Children not wearing the new PE kit should come to school on PE days in plain navy bottoms, a plain white t-shirt and school jumper.

I am very aware of the increased financial pressures that we are all living with currently. So, we are taking the following steps to make this as affordable as possible:

- New PE kit for children in P3-P7 only
- PE Kit introduced on a voluntary basis for 2023-24
- PE kit should be worn as school uniform on PE/ Outdoor learning days. We expect that this will typically be 2 days per week, therefore families will not have to buy as many pieces of the regular uniform – as the PE kit will be worn all day on those days





- We have agreed a reduced price for the PE kits with Signature Schools for West Winds pupils
- A cash payment scheme is available through the Signature Works shop in Bangor allowing for deposits to be paid and payments staggered
- PE kit available to order from 1 June onwards to allow time to space payments
- Online ordering comes with free delivery – with sizing samples available in school
- We will be commencing a school uniform swap service through the PTA in coming years to allow good quality uniform to be passed on
- Signature Works selling school uniform as well as PE kit to allow you to purchase everything in the same place, should you wish.

The new PE kit will be worn from the start of the new term in September 2023. **Sample sizes will be available in West Winds PS office from 1st June**, when the online shop will also open. Sizes can be tried on and ordered through the Signature Works shop in Bangor from this point also.

Order online: www.signatureschools.co.uk (from 1 st June 2023)	
Order in Shop: Signature Works 11 – 14 Dunlop Industrial Units 8 Balloo Drive Bangor Tel: 028 9127 1131	Open Monday to Thursday: 9am to 5pm Friday: 9am to 1.30pm

We are excited to be adding this PE kit to our uniform. There was a real buzz from the children who were involved in trying it on and looking at the design. We are very proud of our school here in West Winds and hope that the new PE kit will allow children to feel proud of their school and for West Winds Primary to show the best of itself in the community.

If you'd like to discuss anything to do with this, please contact me through the school office.

Yours,

Mr Manogue

Principal

