

# P7 Paddle Boarding

**As part of a resilience programme, our P7 class travelled to Bangor Marina to take part in a paddle boarding session.**

Working alongside Ards Suicide Awareness Group, HIP psychology and SUP Hub NI, our pupils had a fantastic day out on the water, testing out their newly developed resilience skills when coping with fear and new challenges. Every single pupil on the water did an amazing job when faced with such a challenging experience. Thank you to all who were involved - our pupils had an incredible time!



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# Sharing Stories

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## Bus Arrival

**As part of our 50 Years celebrations, we're undertaking a major project to provide a library and learning space for the school and community to use. We've bought a Double Decker bus to convert.**

We're very grateful to the **West Winds Development Association** who have provided the initial funding through **SPOD** to purchase the bus and to allow us to get started on the refurbishment. We're hoping to fundraise in the coming months and to apply for additional grants to complete the work, redevelop our library and launch it after the summer holidays. We're looking forward to having an exciting, engaging space for children to read in and to enthuse children and families to get involved with reading. We hope to use the library to run additional classes and workshops and are talking to the SERC about delivering some adult classes in the bus also.





# Pupil Spotlight

**Our Pupil Spotlight for this issue shines on Freya from P4. Not only does Freya work hard in the classroom, she works extremely hard on her extra-curricular activities.**

Freya has been dancing for 6 years and has been competing in dance competitions across the country. She has already achieved greatness, taking multiple gold, silver and bronze medals for her modern dance, lyrical and ballet. We actively support and nurture all aspects of our pupils here at West Winds and we are so proud of how well Freya is doing.



## New Faces

We are delighted to introduce you to Sarah McDonnell, our current P6 teacher.

**Name:** Sarah McDonnell

**Hometown:** Belfast

**Hobbies:** Running, reading, hiking

**Favourite Food:** Dark chocolate

**Pets:** Albus (a 14 week old schnauzer x yorkie)

**Interesting fact:** I once had a scarily close encounter with an angry hippo!





# 50th Celebrations

**This year, West Winds Primary School will be celebrating its 50th birthday. For the last 50 years, our school has been the beating heart of our local community and as part of the celebrations, we've several special projects that will continue to provide our children with exciting and engaging learning opportunities**

We launched our 50th anniversary celebrations with a massive **50th themed birthday party!** We welcomed former pupil Roberta Lee and some of our community friends of the school to our party, where we sang happy birthday to the school, enjoyed a massive '50' cake and found out about what the school was like in the past. The children came to school in their party clothes, had a visit from Aldo the Magician and enjoyed party food and games in their classroom. It was the perfect way to kick off our celebrations!

We're partnering with **Scrabo Presbyterian Church** and **West Winds Development Association** to put together an **exhibition** of the history of the estate, supported by staff in North Down Museum. We're gathering photos, stories, and artefacts in order to scan them and create a historical display and timeline of the last five decades. You'll be able to see this as part of our Open Day and the exhibition will move around the venues and North Down Museum, before being installed in school. ***Please contact Mrs Evans (some of you might remember her as Mrs Love!) in the office if you've any photos, documents, or anything interesting that we could include.***



## Way Back at West Winds

As part of our 50th birthday celebrations we came together as a school to put on a magnificent showcase featuring all our pupils, celebrating the best parts of the last 50 years through acting, singing, and dancing. Everyone at West Winds PS worked so hard to make this an incredible show and we were so excited to finally welcome back a live audience into our school to experience the showcase first-hand! A big well done to everyone involved - a superb way to celebrate our 50th birthday!

