

Celebrating 50 years of West Winds Primary School

The year 2022 marks 50 years since West Winds Primary School first opened its doors to welcome its first pupils.

Over the year we are going to be celebrating our incredible school and the community that has supported through several special events. If you have any pictures, video footage or information on the school please get in touch, we would be grateful of any information you can provide.

Thank you!



Get in touch:

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WestWindsPrimarySchool westwindps



Sharing Stories

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Kimberly's Big Climb

Here at West Winds we always have so many reasons to be proud of our pupils and this month was certainly no exception.

One of our P6 pupils, Kimberly Ewen, came to her parents with the idea that she wanted to raise money for a cause close to her heart after her grandmother passed away from dementia a year and a half ago.

Kimberly set herself a rather daunting challenge - no less than 8 laps of Slieve Donard! - one for each year she spent with her Granny.

After a very early start one Saturday morning, Kimberley completed her challenge - raising almost £2000 for Dementia NI. We are so proud of Kimberly here at West Winds and the effort that she put in to make a difference.

#nurturingpotential





Outdoor Gardening

Last term we celebrated the opening of our incredible outdoor gardening space and throughout May and June, our pupils were growing and harvesting their very own fruits and vegetables.

This term we are pleased to welcome back Baruk Sahle, to our school. Baruk is a professional market gardener who runs HaHu Organics and he was involved in the design and development of our garden space.

Baruk will be delivering our school gardening programme over the upcoming term. The lessons will be for all pupils focusing on growing vegetables and garden wildlife.



New Faces

We are delighted to introduce you to Emily Ferris, our new permanent Nursery Teacher.

Name: Miss Ferris

Hometown: Bangor

Hobbies: Hockey & Running

Favourite Food: My mum's Spaghetti Bolognese

Pets: Freddie, the Cockapoo

Proudest Moment: Winning the League and the Cup in Hockey at University



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Forest Schools

In January Mrs Seeds and Mrs Gibson began a journey to become trained as Forest School Leaders. We have amazing spaces around our school, which have been really developed this year, and we wanted support with how to use them to support and extend our curriculum.

The Northern Ireland Forest School Association has put together a training package which we were able to apply for with support from Extended Schools funding. Mrs Seeds and Mrs Gibson attended 6 sessions, on Zoom, with their instructors which introduced the programme and helped them explore the benefits. They also had to complete a number of assignments and projects to be assessed for them to gain their qualification.

When school recommenced at Easter time, they were then able to put all the theory into practice. Our children in Primary 1 and Primary 6 were willing volunteers and have been outside every week building, exploring, creating and just having fun! Maybe you have seen some of the photographs on our website?

At the beginning of June both Mrs Gibson and Mrs Seeds had to teach a lesson in front of their tutor. Their lessons both got the big thumbs up and helped them complete their qualifications. Primary 6 were also awarded their Nature Ranger qualifications due to their hard work each week.

Learning outdoors has been a key part of our curriculum this term and our plan is for all classes



to be able to experience Forest Schools next year. Perhaps your family would like to be outdoors a bit more. The Northern Ireland Forest School Association has a family aspect too, posting ideas on social media and on their website. Please take a look!

www.forestschoolawards.org

Becoming scientists with QUB

This coming year sees an exciting project taking place in West Winds Primary School. In partnership with the Royal Society, pupils in West Winds will be exploring the biodiversity of our school alongside scientists and academics from Queen's University, Belfast.

The two-year project, which aims to survey all of the plant and animal life in our school grounds will allow the children explore ways of supporting the biodiversity and how biodiversity can help us solve problems caused by climate change. The children will also work alongside artists to capture what they are learning before exhibiting their work in the Ulster Museum.

Principal, Niall Manogue commented 'This exciting, ground-breaking project allows us to fully utilise the amazing outdoor spaces we have and will help us

broaden the horizons and experiences of our pupils as we engage with how protecting biodiversity allows us all to protect against the damage caused by climate change. Our staff team are looking forward to building on the knowledge they already have and we can't wait for our children to experience what it's like to be a real-life scientist!

You can follow our progress on social media using the hashtag [#wwscientists](https://twitter.com/wwscientists)

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