The Federation of Longhorsley and Whalton Church of England Aided Schools

Longhorsley St Helen's C of E Aided First School Drummonds Close Longhorsley MORPETH Northumberland NE65 8UT





Whalton C of E Aided Primary School Whalton MORPETH Northumberland NE61 3XH

Tel 01670 788316

Mrs Nichola Brannen
Executive Headteacher

Tel 01670 775216

email: longhorsleyadmin@fedlongwhaltschools.uk www.longhorsley-st-helens.northumberland.sch.uk email: whaltonadmin@fedlongwhaltschools.uk

Friday 10th June 2022

Dear Parents,

Hope you all enjoyed the half term holidays and Jubilee celebrations!

As we enter our last half term of this academic year, a quick round up of last half term's successes, updates and what we still have to come this half term.

### End of School term date change

As part of the Jubilee celebrations, schools have been given an additional day to take in term time, due to the bank holidays being in the school holidays. The governors of The Federation, in line with the Morpeth Partnership have decided that the school term will end a day earlier on Thursday 21st July to take this day. Please note that **both** schools will now be closed on Friday 22nd July and the summer holidays will begin after the end of the school day on Thursday 21st July.

#### Holidays within school term time

For safeguarding purposes and In line with our core values of honesty, please can you let us know if you are taking your children on holiday during term time. Unless there are exceptional circumstances, agreed by the headteacher in advance, these will be unauthorised in line with government guidance; however, we have a duty of care to every one of our children and need to know where they are every day or else we will have to follow our Missing Children in Education Policy. We have extremely good relationships with you, so we would really appreciate being given advance warning and openness; so, office staff do not have to ring up to find out where your child is (your children always tell us where they have been anyway but this is too late). Many thanks for your understanding of needing to keep your children safe. It is when you haven't had our permission that you can be fined.











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### **Class Assemblies**

We had 49 parents through the doors at Whalton for the Class assemblies and 77 at Longhorsley - quite an achievement over the three weeks - thank you so much for coming! From your verbal feedback to myself and to teachers themselves; you felt that they really showcased what our schools are about - our broad and balanced curriculum; our 'ambitious curriculum' as stated by Ofsted at Longhorsley in February this year.

Thank you for the comments on Tapestry at Longhorsley for the Early Years' Team especially, you all told us that you really enjoyed coming back into school and seeing what your child, and your child's class, are working on and have achieved. The class assemblies all looked different, all had such a feel-good factor and were a true celebration of the high-quality teaching and learning across both schools; showing how happy your children are here at The Federation. A huge thank you to all of the staff involved for making them happen and to our wonderful children themselves.

#### PTA

Great thanks also to our PTA members who generously gave of their time at both schools to support all assemblies for refreshments and for all of their fundraising efforts again this term from our Jubilee breakfast at Longhorsley to our doughnuts and new Friday ices at Whalton. Just to share with you again that all monies raised support your children's learning and experiences in school. We are currently fundraising to update our EYFS kitchen at Longhorsley so that all children can have access to cookery equipment and a kitchen with a proper oven and the right sized benches and at Whalton, we continue to support the learning environments with additional equipment and resources too. Thank you for all of your continued support - it really means a lot.

#### Coming up:

## **Sports Day**

Weather permitting, these will be going ahead next week for both schools on Thursday 16th June. This will take place in the morning at Whalton on the school field and in the afternoon at













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Longhorsley. There will be a separate message outlining timings coming to you soon. We will make a judgement call on the afternoon of Wednesday 15th June so big fingers crossed for dry weather. Apologies in advance, if we do need to postpone this event; the health and safety of our children must come first. We are having a separate sports event for our Nursery children at Longhorsley, which will be on Thursday 16th June from 11am.

### Year 5 and 6 Residential

We still have Whalton's Year 5 and 6 residential at Ford Castle later in July this term, with Miss Anderson and Mr Morris joining our children along with the children and staff at Belsay. A great way to end the year.

# **End of Year Reports**

We are currently writing your child's end of year reports. These will be sent out in the last week of term and we very much hope that you are looking forward to reading them. In the meantime, if you have any queries or worries about your child's learning in any way, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher in the first instance.

# **Staffing Update**

We say goodbye to Mrs Fox today in the office at Longhorsley - Mrs Fox has been amazing in the office and we would like to thank her for all of her hard work and commitment to school and to the senior leadership team in this role over the last year, as well as her role as Chair of the PTA. We wish her the very best of luck in her new adventures!

We have appointed Mrs Gillies to the Office Administrator's role, who will be joining us from Monday, and we look forward to welcoming her and getting to know her at Longhorsley. You will also be seeing a very familiar face as Mrs McEwan is also coming out of retirement to help us in this period of transition.











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### **Curriculum Enrichment**

We have lots of educational visits planned for this term and even more sporting activities, so please do keep an eye on the diary dates sent out in our monthly newsletters and separate letters giving details too.

For our Year 4 children at Longhorsley (and for some of those at Whalton) and for our Year 6 children at Whalton, this is their last few weeks with us and we want them to be the very best; creating great memories and enjoying being with their friends and teachers who know them so well. We hope that their transition days into their new schools go well and wish them the very best of success in their new schools when the time comes. If we can help in any way; please just let us know. The Leavers' Services are always full of joy and memories but also please remember to bring your tissues; as it is the end of one journey and the beginning of another!



We hope you all have the very best summer term with us.

Kind wishes.

Mrs Brannen

**Executive Head Teacher** 











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