
NORTHUMBERLAND County Council

The Federation of Longhorsley and Whalton Church of England Aided Schools

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16th January 2024

Dear Parents

Welcome back to the Spring term and 2024! A distant memory now, but I hope that you all had a great festive break and would still like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you on behalf of all of the staff for your kind and generous gifts at Christmas; the staffroom was at bursting point with chocolates, luxury coffee/teas and gifts - there really is no need as we all do it for your children, and love doing it, but it is greatly appreciated and never expected.

New Year Lunches

Thank you to Miss Johnston for the delicious New Year Lunches served to our Reception parents today, very much appreciated and enjoyed, and hopefully a memory to treasure. Thank you for coming!

Breaktime Snacks

We are in receipt of free daily fruit for our Reception to Year 2 children as part of the national scheme for schools. If we have spare fruit, we always offer it to our older children. If you would like your child (Years 3 - 6) to bring in their own fruit daily, you are more than welcome. No crisps or sweets please.

PE this half term

We are delighted to have Mrs Lee Turner returning weekly to teach our children gymnastics on a Tuesday. Children will also continue to have their Commando Joe Missions too so lots of active sports and team building going on throughout the week. Children will need their PE kits on a Tuesday and Thursday (and swimming continues for the older children this half term).

Online Safety

As mentioned in my newsletter before Christmas, we have invited our Safeguarding Consultant from Clennell to come in and lead workshops on 'online safety' for both children and yourselves. The Parents' session is on Wednesday 7th February at 2pm in the school hall - please email to let us know if you will be attending - many thanks.

Attendance

Many thanks for keeping us informed of absences related to illness or emergency appointments. We continue to follow our Attendance Policy and any unexplained absences will be followed up by the Office on the morning of the absence, so we know the whereabouts of your children to ensure that they are safe. There is still the 48 hour rule if your child has had a sickness bug.

With respect to leave of absence requests, unless exceptional, they are all deemed unauthorised. Again, we are so thankful for your honesty for those of you who have requested leave of absence forms but need to ensure that we are fulfilling our statutory duty of emphasising the need for your children to be in school- every day counts for their learning and every day is planned for carefully by staff. Work will not be provided for in term holidays and missing continuous days will unfortunately lead to gaps in your child's learning. Please continue to look out for and use training days to get cheaper deals or long weekends which don't impact on your child's education. Many thanks for your continued support with this.

We will be sending you an update of your child's current attendance as we review both attendance and the current attendance policy. We aim for 96% attendance (we currently have 11 children with 100% attendance but also 8 children who are below 90% which is deemed as persistent absence). Please see chart below:

Attendance	Description
100-99%	Excellent
96 - 98%	Good
90-95%	Requires Improvement
90%	Persistent Absence

The Education Welfare Officer visits us termly to monitor our attendance and if we feel that we need to support anyone to improve attendance, we will be in touch.

Teaching and Learning

Newsletters outlining the term's topic and curriculum for each class will be sent home this week.

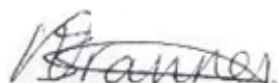
Although our next formal Pupil Progress Update Meetings for parents will be held next half term, please remember that you can make appointments to see your child's teacher at any point in the year to discuss your child's progress or if you have any questions.

Deaf Awareness Choir

Mrs Storey will be starting a deaf awareness choir, where children will be coming together, to build their confidence through British sign language and singing. The sessions will include fun pop songs to promote the children's emotional wellbeing and friendships. A performance will then take place in May as part of deaf awareness week. The choir practices will be held on Tuesday and Thursday lunchtimes at school commencing 23rd January - 2 groups with up to 10 children on each day. The sessions will be free to attend but a donation for T-shirts for the concert would be much appreciated. For anyone interested, please contact school by Monday 22nd January at the latest.

Finally, many thanks for your continued support in all areas of school life. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any queries or questions.

Kind regards



Mrs Brannen
Executive Headteacher