
NORTHUMBERLAND County Council

The Federation of Longhorsley and Whalton Church of England Aided Schools

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5th September 2024

Dear Parents,

Welcome back!

A big warm welcome back to the Autumn term; we all hope that you have had a wonderful summer. Although a bit of a mizzly morning, the children looked so smart in their new uniforms and school shoes this morning, so thank you!

The staff have been working hard to get the school spic and span and ready for learning again too. Huge thanks especially to Marlene, Miss Johnson and Mrs McEwan and all the staff who came in during the holidays to get things sorted for the new term. The classrooms look great!

Our Church School Vision

Staff and Governors have also been working hard on the Training Days to review our School Vision in light of our revised Motto which was voted for last term. We welcome any comments via our admin email - thank you!

Love your Neighbour as yourself so we can all aspire, believe and achieve to be the very best that we can be...

Our School Vision embodies the Christian tradition to love your neighbour as yourself, a message of encouragement through one of God's greatest commandments.

To love your neighbour as yourself means valuing the needs of others, fostering a culture of generosity through which children, staff and visitors to the school create a space of kindness, inclusivity and acceptance.

With Love at the centre of our core Christian values of Hope, Honesty, Forgiveness, Friendship and Trust, we aim to build a community ethos of lovingly serving one another, where everyone can aspire, believe and achieve to be the very best that they can be...

Together with our children, families, the Church and the wider community, we will help each child to flourish in a happy, safe and nurturing environment to create education of the highest quality for all. We aim for excellence in intellectual, moral and spiritual development.

Start and Finishing times of the School Day

We continue to start the school day at 8.55am, with the school doors opening at 8.45am for all children to be dropped off earlier if that helps. By coming directly into school, we have had really settled starts to the day, especially supporting our children who find transition from home to school tricky at times. At home time, the children are led out in their classes and dismissed by their teachers at 3.15pm.

Please can you let the office know if someone other than parents/carers are picking up your child for safeguarding reasons. We will not let children go home with anyone that has not been authorised to, so please do not be offended if we need to contact parents first, if school has not been formally informed. Many thanks!

Before the holidays, we sent out information about the consultation on start and finish times for school, in line with government expectations. The proposed changes of school beginning at 8.50am and finishing at 3.20pm. If anyone would like to make any comments, please do so to admin whaltonadmin@fedlongwhaltonschools.uk by Friday 13th September.

Diary Dates for the Year

We have reattached our Diary dates that were sent out before the holidays. Any changes or additions are always highlighted. Our Open Evening/Meet the Staff is next Thursday 12th September 5 - 6pm and will consist of an introduction to what we are about as a school in the hall and then a chance to meet your child's class teacher, see your child's classroom and opportunities to ask any questions - *adults only please*. We are very conscious that this involves childcare for many of you so we will aim to finish the presentation part at 5.30pm if this helps (PAWS is open until then) and happy for you to pop in and see classrooms at any point - please just arrange with us.

Please complete this [Google form](#) to let us know if you are able to join us or not. All parents ('old and new') are invited from Reception to Year 6!

Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

Our PTA is in desperate need of members, Hayley and Kate (of previous Y4 children who have now left) are happy to continue to be Trustees for us, but we need a new committee. If anyone is interested in helping to form a new committee, please catch one of us - we are a friendly bunch and all PTA fundraising is spent on your children, so we would like to keep this going if possible.

Class Newsletters

Class teachers will be sending out the information about your children's learning this term and the weekly class organisation, by the end of the week. Please remember that you can email or ring school to make an appointment with your child's class teacher at any point of the year if you have any concerns or queries.

Children's Wellbeing and Additional Support

We will also be inviting some children to additional sessions to support either their Literacy skills or to help socially and emotionally, so please do let us know if you would like to take up these offers.

E-Safety

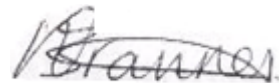
E-safety is a huge part of keeping your children safe. Mr Morris is our E-safety Lead across the Federation and will be sending out helpful advice and updates each half term. I am also updating all of our Safeguarding documents as Designated Safeguarding Lead, including guidance on the use of social media for parents too.

Whalton Show - Saturday 21st September

The widely celebrated Whalton Show is just around the corner. School will be having a child and adults Tombola on the field and a wheelbarrow full of goodies - which will be up for grabs! On that note, we would really appreciate donations of new practical gifts and goodies that can be on either tombola or added to the wheelbarrow. We would also appreciate volunteers who could help man the School tombola stand for a short 30 minute slot - so the more, the merrier - [please sign up here for your available time](#) - thank you so much!

Here's to a fabulous Autumn term!

Kind regards,



Mrs Brannen

Executive Headteacher