



Whalton Church of England Primary School News

Autumn 1 - October 2024 Newsletter

Another half term is flying by. Hope you all enjoy your week's break that is coming up in a couple of weeks time and we look forward to seeing you all back on Monday 4th November for Autumn Term 2!

School Photographs - Monday 14th October

Shutterbugz will be in school on Monday afternoon to take individual and sibling photographs. Please make sure that your children come in looking their best for a lovely memory for you (and maybe even Christmas presents for relatives!). Any siblings who are in PAWS on Monday can have their photographs taken with their brother or sister(s).

Robinwood Trip for Years 4 and 5 - May 2025:

Next year, our annual Year 4, 5 residential visit has been arranged again for Cambo, Longhorsley and Whalton children. It will take place from Monday 12th - Wednesday 14th May 2025 at Robinwood Activity Centre, Barhaugh Hall, Alston.

Robinwood holds 'Learning Outside the Classroom' accreditation and has "fantastic indoor provision for three challenging high activities; an impressive climbing wall, crate challenge with emphasis on teamwork and trapeze with platform options to leap from two different levels. Indoor provision means that these high activities can continue whatever the weather, but we will also be using the outdoor trapeze in the trees in the grounds at Barhaugh Hall as an option in good weather.



There are further indoor areas in the grounds for the Dungeon and Piranha Pool; wonderful themed problem solving areas developed by the Robinwood staff team. However, the best thing about it is the opportunity for the children to mix with and meet their Federation friends/neighbours and other children who will also be moving on to our local middle schools in Year 5, as well as challenging themselves physically and mentally - all mixed with a huge amount of fun!

School will be subsidising the costs of the residential by £50 per pupil from its Sports Premium funding so it remains at the same cost from previous years which is £200. There will be the opportunity to pay this in full or in instalments. All information needed will be shared nearer the time at the Parents' meeting.

Font Alliance Logo Competition

As you know, we have recently joined with other local schools to become the Font Alliance and as a group of schools think it would be a great idea to have a logo to show our commitment to this partnership. To this end, we invite all children to come up with creative ideas for the logo and we will share a poster with more information. The winning logo will be announced on Friday 8th November. Deadline for entries is Monday 4th November, after half term, and is a lovely activity for the half term holidays or before. There will be a box in the school entrance for children to post their ideas! Electronic versions are welcomed too via whaltonadmin@fedlongwhaltschools.uk

Swimming for next half term:

From Tuesday 5th November, all children will continue to swim at Ponteland Leisure Centre.

The children travel by coach and are dropped off and picked up at the Leisure Centre. Please can children avoid leggings as they are difficult to pull on after swimming, tracksuit bottoms are preferable - many thanks!



Class 3 Tag Rugby Festival - 7th November

Children in Years 4, 5 and 6 will be going to Ponteland to take part in a Places Leisure (formerly Active Northumberland) Outdoor Adventurous Activities themed festival, the aim of this festival is to develop young people's tag rugby skills through a range of activities and some fun small sided games.

They will be leaving school at 9.00am and returning in time for lunch. Please can they come to school dressed in PE Kit and bring their water bottle.



Football Tournament

We are having our very first football tournament as part of the Font Alliance at Ponteland Community Primary School on Monday 11th November at 4pm. We are still looking for a show of interest for this (thank you to those who have already signed up). It is aimed at Years 3, 4, 5 & 6. For more information or to sign up please follow this [link](#).

Pupil Progress Meetings

These are taking place in the school hall next Wednesday 16th and Thursday 17th October. Appointments for your ten minute slots are in the children's Reading Diaries. There will be a colouring table in the entrance for any children.

Teacher Training Day:

Just a reminder that school has a teacher training day on Friday 25th October, which is a great opportunity to get away for the half term break earlier and miss the rush, as well as saving some pennies!

School Dinners and Packed Lunches:

Whalton C of E Primary School has a Healthy School Policy for Packed Lunches using guidelines from School Food Trust and Department of Health. We are also a nut free school. We ask that parents follow these guidelines when sending in packed lunches and ensure that snacks for break time are fruit only too (no crisps or chocolate biscuits please). Many thanks for your support with this.

Packed lunches should include:

- at least one portion of fruit and/or one portion of vegetables every day;
- lean meat, fish, eggs or other source of non-dairy protein (eg lentils, kidney beans chickpeas, hummus, falafel) every day;
- oily fish;
- a starchy food such as wholemeal bread, wrap, pitta pocket, plain bread sticks, plain crackers, plain unsalted rice cakes, pasta, rice, couscous, noodles, potatoes or other type of cereals every day;
- dairy food such as milk, cheese, yoghurt, fromage frais or custard;
- a drink - only still water, unsweetened fruit juice, semi-skimmed or skimmed unflavoured milk, flavoured milk (occasionally as this has more added sugar than plain milk)

If you wish to move your child to packed lunches at any time, please let us know *a term in advance*, as produce is ordered in advance. Packed lunch children can also choose to have a school dinner on Fridays and for special occasions - please just email school.

Autumn 2 Diary Dates to Note:

November 2024	
Children return to school	Monday 4th November
Swimming continues for all children	Tuesday 5th November
Remembrance Day Service - St Mary Magdalene's Church ALL WELCOME	Monday 11th November 10:45am
Federation Day - Inter Faith Week - venues and details TBC	Monday 18th November
Flu Immunisation	Friday 22nd November

December 2024	
Christingle Service - St Mary Magdalene's Church ALL WELCOME	Thursday 5th December 9:15am
Christmas Experience - children only	Tuesday 10th December
Christmas Performance DRESS REHEARSAL - Whalton Village Hall PLEASE COLLECT YOUR CHILD FROM THE VILLAGE HALL	Monday 16 th December AT 3:20pm
Christmas Performance - Whalton Village Hall	Tuesday 17th December 2:00pm
Christmas Performance - Whalton Village Hall	Tuesday 17th December 6:00pm
Christmas Jumper Day for RE Ambassadors chosen charities	Thursday 19th December
Christmas Lunch for children	Thursday 19th December
Carols in the Village - by the Christmas Tree at the Village Hall (or in St Mary Magdalene's Church) weather dependent	Thursday 19th December 2;30pm
Christmas Party - non-uniform day for children Break up for Christmas	Friday 20th December