



The Federation of Longhorsley and Whalton C of E Schools

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

Hope - Honesty - Forgiveness - Friendship - Trust - Love

12th November 2024

Dear Parents,

Autumn 2 has well and truly started, and dare I say, there are only six weeks to go until we break up for Christmas!

Remembrance

The sun shone on Monday for our Remembrance Day Service and thank you to those of you who were able to come along. Some of you may have felt that it was (and always has been) a very different Service to our other school events as it is an actual service, one of respect and remembrance - poignant rather than celebratory, and the first time where parents have been invited to come along to share in this. I have been told that the children sang beautifully and were fantastic at reading aloud their respectful poems and readings, as did the children at Longhorsley. Huge thanks to our church community who made an amazing job of decorating the Church.

Start and Finishing times of the School Day

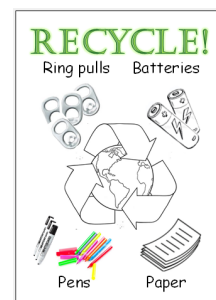
Thank you to you all for adjusting to the new starting time of 8.50am and finishing time of 3.20pm introduced at the end of September. Doors continue to open at 8.40am for all children to be dropped off earlier if that helps, however, you and your children are more than welcome to come, play and chat in the yard until 8.50 when school starts officially. Once the school doors are shut, learning begins with lovely check in systems across the whole school to ensure that everyone is happy and ready to learn. Please ensure that your children are in school on time so they don't miss out on this (it is also disruptive to the rest of their class and Class Teachers who are starting their fully planned day). Many thanks for your support in this.

Christmas Diary Dates

As we rapidly move towards December, please refer to our Diary Dates as we have lots to look forward to coming in the run up to Christmas.

Love your neighbour as yourself means valuing the needs of others...

Following our school's motto, our RE Ambassadors and Eco Warriors are leading the way to help us to be 'good neighbours' by looking at what we can do to support those in the world who need an extra bit of help and of course, looking after our own world. The Wansbeck Food Bank were so grateful for our Harvest contributions, that the RE Ambassadors have chosen to support them as their chosen local charity throughout the year and are asking for one item (off the list) from each child so that we can send our Reverse Advent Calendar into the Wansbeck Food Bank before 1st December - details were sent out in their latest Newsletter 25th October and there is a box for contributions located in the hall.



The Eco team have been focusing on looking after the Earth - God's creation, and are doing such great work promoting the recycling of batteries, ring pulls, plastic pens and paper - more details to follow.

Your Views

Your views are very important to us and we shared our parent questionnaire at both our Pupil Progress Meetings and online via a google form just before half term. Thank you so much for taking the time to share your thoughts, which are summarised below. We received 23 replies out of 26 families (89%). We are delighted that the vast majority of answers are in the 'strongly agree' or 'agree' category. For anyone who answered 'don't know', or 'disagree', myself or any member of staff would be happy to have follow up conversations - or maybe the pupil progress meetings answered some of them hopefully. The 'no answers' were due to the questionnaire going onto two sides and some were missed purely as they were done waiting for the progress meetings.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Strongly Agree %	Agree %	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know %	No Answer
My Child likes being at this school.	14	7	1		1	61%	30%	4%		4%	
I would recommend the school to other parents.	14	7		1		61%	30%		4%		1 4%
I feel that my child is safe at school.	16	7				70%	30%				
I feel that staff really know my child as an individual.	16	6			1	70%	26%			4%	

I feel that my child benefits from attending a Church School.	8	11	1		3	35%	48%	4%		13%		
My child receives the help they need to do well.	11	10	1		1	48%	43%	4%		4%		
The school supports my child's emotional wellbeing.	11	8			2	48%	35%			9%	2	9%
My child is making good progress at school.	11	6			4	48%	26%			17%	2	9%
I feel comfortable approaching the school with questions, suggestions and/or a problem.	12	7			2	52%	30%			9%	2	9%

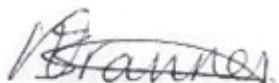
A summary of comments too - all anonymised:

- *"All my children have loved their time at Whalton and feel it gives them the best start. "*
- *"I love the fact the kids are all swimming every week again."*
- *"Lovely school and enjoy how the teachers engage with *."*
- *"..... spellings at the end of the week would be really helpful and results on the same day. We try to give them a break at weekends after a busy structured week of school/clubs."*
- *"Love the nativity play, cannot wait for this years."*
- *"Happy overall but still need to understand more about *'s learning journey."*
- *"A friendly school. Thanks for your hard work :)"*
- *"Its a shame the children don't meet in the school yard and line up on the grid in the morning. By changing this we've lost that community feel. I can't really see or understand why it's been stopped."*
- *"We could not be happier with your lovely school. It's everything a primary school should be ... welcoming, fun and creative. We cannot thank you enough for all you do."*
- *"I'm absolutely blown away by the care, determination and patience the staff have shown at Whalton."*
- *"* loves going to school and he always lets us know that he loves his teachers."*
- *"I feel that the staff have gone above and beyond their duty"*
- *"Thank you so much for your continued effort and you should be really proud of the lovely school you've created."*

I have already spoken to a couple of parents, but am very happy to speak with anyone if they have any concerns at all to follow up on some of the comments above, or contact class teachers, if more appropriate.

Thank you so much for your continued support.

Kindest regards

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mrs Brannen', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mrs Brannen
Executive Headteacher