
NORTHUMBERLAND County Council

The Federation of Longhorsley and Whalton Church of England Aided Schools

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9th May 2025

Dear Parents,

Unbelievably, this is only a four week half term so as we are already halfway through it, here are some updates for you:

Rumours!

We have been made aware that there is a rumour going around that Whalton C of E Primary is closing. Please can I take this opportunity to reassure you that this is absolutely not the case and we are very much planning towards our next academic year (and future years). We are looking forward to welcoming our new Reception children for their transition visits next half term (ready for their September start) and continuing to 'be the very best that we can be' in providing a high quality teaching and learning experience for all of our children.

Shepherd's Hut - Wellbeing space

We are very excited that plans are fully underway for our new Shepherd's hut - which was advertised in February's PTA newsletter:

"This cosy, quiet space could be:

- A reading den, where children can curl up with a book
- A place for quiet chats, giving children space to talk in a calming environment
- A peaceful escape from the hustle and bustle of the playground



We envisage it decorated with fairy lights, comfy cushions, and a warm, inviting atmosphere - a perfect retreat for boosting wellbeing and fostering creativity."

So, since then, we have had the space cleared and a fence built around the old climbing frame area, had the electricians visit school to work out how to get electrics to it and have even marked out where we would like it to go!



Watch this space for more updates! In the meantime, we are really pleased to let you know that our Easter disco raised £100 towards it and the PTA Easter bunting raised another £60 - just brilliant. Please look out for future fundraising events from our PTA and a huge thank you from all of us for supporting our fundraising efforts! We have also received a very kind donation of £50 from Roger, the local Beekeeper, for which we are very grateful.

New Perimeter Fence:

We are absolutely delighted in letting you know that we have been successful in bidding for funding to replace our perimeter fence. This will take place in the summer holidays - ready for our safe return in September.

VE Day:

A huge thank you to Reverend Elaine and the Church Wardens: Lucy and Wendy for allowing us to not only lead the community VE day Service in Church but to also ring the Church bell - what a memory - hopefully your child/ren have told you all about it as they all got a turn too, and for those of you able to join us, we hope you enjoyed both the service (and if you got the chance, the bell ringing too!).



The Maypole and Bale Fire:

Preparations are underway for the return of the annual Maypole dancing - a Whalton tradition enjoyed by all - showcased before our Sports day coming up next half term. Make sure you have the date in your diaries! Also, on Friday 4th July, we will be joining our Village Community for the annual Bale fire - more details to follow.

Next Year:

We are currently looking at school organisation for next year and will let you know when arrangements have been confirmed, early next half term.

Here's to a great two weeks. Have a fabulous time at Robinwood Year 4!

Have a wonderful weekend.

Kindest regards,

Mrs N Brannen
Executive Headteacher