
NORTHUMBERLAND County Council

The Federation of Longhorsley and Whalton Church of England Aided Schools

**Longhorsley St Helen's
C of E Aided First School**
Drummonds Close
Longhorsley
Morpeth
Northumberland
NE65 8UT



Tel 01670 788316

email: longhorsleyadmin@fedlongwhaltschools.uk
www.longhorsley-st-helens.northumberland.sch.uk



**Whalton C of E Aided
Primary School**
Whalton
Morpeth
Northumberland
NE61 3XH

Tel 01670 775216

email: whaltonadmin@fedlongwhaltschools.uk
www.whalton.northumberland.sch.uk

Mrs Nichola Brannen
Executive Headteacher

6th June 2025

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome back to the final summer half term! We hope you enjoyed last week's break.

Before half term, we sent out the general newsletter to keep you updated with all of the activities we have planned in the weeks ahead, including Sports day, Parent lunches (for our parents of Reception, Y1 and Y2 children) and the Bale Fire. We can't wait to see as many of you as possible at these events! Please click on this link to view the letter again: [Summer 1 & 2 Newsletter](#)

Year 1 Phonics Check

It is national phonics screening for Year 1 children next week. We don't make a fuss about this with the children. However, any additional reading at home over the next few days will just ensure that they are as confident as possible with their reading next week. Your children know all of the sounds and all it does is test their knowledge of segmenting and blending words to read both real and nonsense words. We have attached a link: [Phonics screening check: information for parents - GOV.UK](#), so that you know what the test looks like for them and here is a [link to previous years tests](#), should you want any further understanding. Please do not hesitate to talk to your class teacher if you require any further information.

Class Organisation and Staffing

At this time of year, we are not only planning for this term but also for the next academic year. To this end, please see below our organisation of classes and class teachers. From September, we will be having two classes as we lend Miss Bowen to Longhorsley to cover a maternity leave there. We are very excited to have another Federation baby on the way, so huge congratulations to Mrs Hall and family, and welcome back to Longhorsley, Miss Bowen! Class teachers and children will continue to be well supported with our team of teaching assistants too. We will be trialling this model of two classes every morning from Week 3 of this half term. Miss Bowen will remain with us, although she will be occasionally visiting Longhorsley too.

Class 1 Reception - Year 2	Mrs Campbell
Class 2 Years 3 - Year 6	Mr Chambers

In addition, from September, we will also be having Miss Mattison, who teaches at Longhorsley, coming to Whalton one day every week to set up and lead our new outdoor learning sessions, which will complement our Commando Joe missions around teamwork, risk taking and building resilience. Initially, it will be a focus on outdoor learning and then in January, we will be officially offering Forest School as part of our curriculum during the school day, for our youngest children to start with.

Transition Days

In line with Chantry Middle and Ponteland High School, we will be having our transition days- where the children get to visit their new class/class teacher (if it isn't the same one!) on Thursday 3rd and Friday 4th July. This is when our new Reception children will be coming to visit us too from PAWS. Year 4 and Year 6 children should have already been told by their next school what their arrangements are for these transition visits - please let us know if this is not the case, so we can help.

New to Reception Parent Meeting

On Monday 30th June, we are inviting our new to Reception parents into school to have a meeting about what to expect at Whalton in readiness for their children starting, as well as a look around the classroom and outdoor area for the new Class 1. For current parents of a new Reception child, you have already received an electronic and hard copy of all of the information and forms so it would be great if these could be returned on that day too.

PTA and our Shepherd's Hut

Huge thanks to our PTA as we were able to order the Shepherd's Hut before the holidays. It arrived flat packed after school on Monday and we are looking forward to it being assembled over the next couple of weeks so the children can see it grow!

We also had the electrics put in during the holidays - watch this space for updates.

Teacher Training Day

Just a reminder that we have our last Teacher Training Day on Monday 23rd June, where school will be closed. A great opportunity for a long weekend somewhere maybe!

Finally, here's to a busy but productive and fun Summer 2 with plenty of learning!

As always, please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any queries or concerns.



Kind regards,

Mrs N Brannen
Executive Headteacher