



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

2nd September 2025

Dear Parents,

A big warm welcome back to the Autumn term; we all hope that you have had a wonderful summer. We especially welcome all of our new families; we hope you enjoy your first term with us! School will reopen on Wednesday 3rd September for all children. The staff have been working hard to get the school spic and span and ready for learning again. Huge thanks especially to Mrs Young for the endless cleaning - the school looks great, and to all of the staff who came in during the holidays to get things sorted for the new term. The children will love their classrooms!

School Improvements

Lots of work is always carried out in the holidays to make sure all of the school and kitchen equipment is checked, and the grounds maintained. In terms of repairs, the roof has been repointed where needed and new glazing to class 1 and we are still hopeful of having our school fence replaced too, with the addition of a separate safe entrance for PAWS too.

Wellness space update!

The Shepherd's hut is nearing completion to enable the children to have a special wellbeing space, a spiritual haven, somewhere to read quietly at break times, play social and emotional games or just have some reset quiet time; putting the wellbeing of our children first in line with our Christian school ethos and zones of regulation. Huge thanks to the PTA whose additional funding has allowed for this to happen far quicker than we imagined. We are extremely grateful for the generous donation of £400 from Morpeth Lions too, which has enabled us to get the electricity sorted and we have also received free fairy lights and a star projector too from Vision supply company to get us started on the interior furnishings from the children's wish list (which we will now pass onto the PTA to hopefully make their wishes come true!). Our lovely pod has also received some well needed TLC over the holidays too!



PTA

Just a reminder that the AGM meeting for the PTA, and anyone who is interested in supporting school in any way, is on Monday 15th September at 9.15am in the school hall. Anyone interested in any of the roles (chair, secretary, treasurer and general members /helpers) can just come along then or catch a member of the PTA/or myself beforehand and have a chat. New families, do please come along as it is a great way to meet other parents and it is all aimed at enhancing the children's experiences and memories during their time at Whalton. Everyone is very lovely!

Start and Finishing times of the School Day

School opens at 8.40am for 8.50am in all year groups. If children could come straight into school please, rather than lining up on the grid so we get a really prompt start, that would help support the staff to get the children settled and ready to learn straight away. Any problems, please let us know. On entering their classroom, children 'check in' using the zones of regulation (coloured emotion monsters in class 1!) supported by staff, to ensure that all children have the very best start, ready to learn and have fun! At home time, children are led out in their classes and dismissed by their teachers in the playground at 3.20pm to a known adult. If children are in Year 5 or 6, they can walk home by themselves, as long as school receives an email to let us know that this is what you would like your child to do.

Please remember to let the office know if someone other than parents are picking up your child for safeguarding reasons and to share this information with them please, on the 'who can my child go home with' list, thank you. We will always check if they aren't on the list, so please do not be offended if we then ring you as parents to check. Safety of all of our children is paramount.

Diary Dates for the Year

For our returning children, these were sent out at the end of last term to give you as much notice as possible. For our new parents, please find the list attached which gives all dates for the academic year in advance, for both children and parent events. We do amend these with any changes or new events, but we will always let you know to help with planning.

Class Newsletters

Class teachers will be sending all of the information you need about your children's learning this week, including the weekly organisation, when your children need to wear their PE kits, bring in their homework etc. 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. There will be no swimming this week. All children to come in their PE kits on Thursday for PE - starting with 'First Footy NE', as part of our exciting in-school PE curriculum. Year 5 and 6 have Bikeability to look forward to as well in the coming weeks!

Whalton Show - Saturday 20th September

Our school grounds form part of the widely celebrated Whalton Show and we would love to see you there too; further details attached again for our new families; it really is a great day

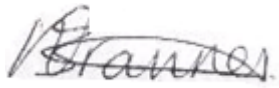
out and a great fundraiser for school too - so please do come and pop and say hello as we will be having a tombola stall and a very full wheelbarrow of goodies (including the wheelbarrow) to be won! Any donations for the wheelbarrow raffle and tombola at Whalton show would be gratefully received into school.

Looking forward...

We are really looking forward to welcoming your children back to school and look forward to working with you all again this term so that your children can continue, or start, their educational journey with us to be 'the very best that they can be' through 'loving themselves and their neighbours'; our school vision as a Church of England school.

Here's to a fantastic Autumn term!

Kindest regards

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

Mrs Brannen
Executive Headteacher