



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

5th October 2026

Dear Parents,

A quick update as the Autumn term hurtles on!

Whalton School Association

Thank you to everyone who came along to the PTA coffee and catch up; it was so lovely to see you all. Please look out for the date of their next AGM.

Whalton Show

We would also like to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported us at the Whalton Show this year, either through donations, through buying a ticket for the wheelbarrow, playing the tombola and/or coming along. The children have already sent a thank you to Robson and Cowan for the donation of their very lovely pink wheelbarrow this year, and to Mrs Stafford from the Village for the knitted 'matching' pink pig. Amazingly, all 200 numbers were sold for the wheelbarrow full of treats and it was won by a couple from Dudley who come every year and love the Show and Whalton.

Special thanks also go to our Governor, Lucy Bird, for all of her support in setting the stall up, and all of her time on the day and weeks before (with the help and support of Mrs Karen Fenwick, Mrs Linda Watson and the Village Whist players for all of the Tombola goodies too). Also to Austin's daddy, who helped out on the day, Mr Chambers and my husband and daughter too; a real team effort. It really does take a Village!

Wansbeck Food Donations

You should hopefully have received your harvest printed wrapping sheet by now to cover your child's harvest box. Please remember that donations are usually gifted in a small box that your child can carry to Church (shoeboxes/small Amazon boxes are an ideal size). Donations from our families will be gratefully received at the Harvest Festival Service in Church, on Thursday 22nd October 2026 at 9:15am. Any of the following food items will be greatly appreciated:

Urgently needed Food Items:

- Jars of jam and marmalade
- Breakfast cereal – all sizes including those suitable for children
- Packets of Biscuits
- Tuna
- Tinned ham (Pek)
- Boxes of cup-a-soup – not tinned thank you in order to reduce weight in bags
- Tinned Fruit
- Tinned Rice Pudding



Parent Governor Vacancy

We are currently looking for a new parent governor at Longhorsley and at Whalton to support all of the underpinnings of the Federation as a whole. School governors are volunteers who work together as a governing body to oversee the strategic direction, accountability, and financial performance of the school (or schools in our case). Governors do not manage the school day-to-day but support and challenge the school leadership team. The parent governor represents the parental viewpoint but does not handle any individual parent complaints or make decisions on behalf of all parents. Being a parent governor is a rewarding role where your insights can make a

real difference. We have a fantastic board of experienced Federation governors already and you would be joining these to help shape the future of your child's school (and Longhorsley) in ensuring it serves all pupils effectively. If you are interested in finding out any more about this role, please do get in touch. The accompanying letter explains more about the role and process, which involves being nominated/being put forward for the role and then all parents are invited to be part of the voting system so we have a democratically voted parent governor (if there is more than one person interested!).

Safeguarding

As the safety of all of the children is paramount at our school, we wanted you to know that we have updated our Safeguarding policies in line with the 2026 Keeping Children Safe in Education document and talked to the children about our child friendly Safeguarding Policy, which includes a worry form for any child to use if they ever feel that they would prefer to share a worry by writing it down. Please click on this [link](#) for further information on our website. Last year, we also officially signed up to be part of the Smartphone Free Childhood campaign, which you can also read about here too.

Diary Dates for the Year and Attendance

You should have all received the diary dates for this academic year to help with your planning. Please remember to use teacher training days for longer weekends and cheaper travel so your child does not lose out on their learning. Our teachers spend a lot of time carefully planning sequences of learning that build daily and weekly so it is very difficult for children to catch up as the other children move on in their learning. Please note that teachers will not provide resources/homework when the child should be in school. Termly attendance sheets are sent out at the end of every term as part of our attendance policy so you can see your child's overall attendance rated against the local authority's coding system. Although we generally have very good attendance overall, individual children's attendance can hit much lower levels so we really do need your support to get your children into school as much as possible, except when they are poorly.

Harvest Lunch - Thursday 8th October

We are looking forward to our first parental lunch for Harvest for our Class 2 parents this Thursday. Please remember to sign up on the google form (which was sent out) if you haven't already - 1 parent per family - thank you!

Class Newsletters and Pupil Progress Meetings

Class newsletters, with all of the information you need about your children's learning this half term, including the weekly organisation, when your children need to wear their PE kits, bring in their homework etc are on our [website too](#). 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.

We have pupil progress meetings with class teachers on Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th October - please use the links below. These are 10 minute slots and if you feel that you need longer than this, then a further meeting can always be arranged as there is nothing worse than having to wait for your appointments, so please again, do not be offended if the class teacher has to finish your appointment. Many thanks for your support with this.

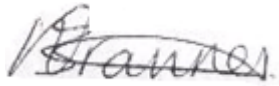
Appointments Booking Links:

[Class 1 - Miss Bowen](#)

[Class 2 - Mr Chambers](#)

Here's to a great term of fun learning!

Kindest regards

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mrs Brannen', with a stylized, cursive script.

Mrs Brannen
Executive Headteacher