
NORTHUMBERLAND County Council

The Federation of Longhorsley and Whalton Church of England Aided Schools

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3rd September 2026

Dear Parents,

Welcome back!

A big warm welcome back to the Autumn term; we all hope that you have had a wonderful summer.

The staff have been working hard to get the school spic and span and ready for learning again too. Huge thanks especially to Marlene, Miss Johnson and Mrs McEwan and all the staff who came in during the holidays to get things sorted for the new term. The classrooms and kitchen look great!

I have just had a phonecall to let me know that all of our new Reception children and children in other year groups have all settled this morning - so just to give you all some reassurance that they are having a lovely time!

Nut Free School and new Allergy Statutory Framework

Following my email yesterday evening, please find an attached letter which outlines the new statutory guidance for schools in England re: allergy awareness, training and systems which schools need to have in place. Please can you all read and complete the google form to let us know if your child has any allergies (or not) and are happy to give your consent in case of an emergency anaphylaxis. We may already have this information but it would be really helpful to have this reviewed too. Intolerances should be noted on this form too.

Staffing/Timetable Update

Just so that you and your children know who is teaching them and when, it is Mrs Campbell (Monday - Wednesday) and Miss Bowen (Thursday-Friday) teaching in Class 1 every morning and Mr Chambers in Class 2. In the afternoons, the children will have all three teachers across the week, subject depending, utilising all of our staff's talents! Miss Bowen will be in school from Wednesday afternoons until Friday as she works across both schools

in our Federation. Miss McAlindon continues to support in Class 2 and we have Miss Paisley, our newly appointed teaching assistant working with Class 1. Depending on funding, we also have additional TAs employed through agencies when we can. Miss Quince and Ms Chilton are with us this half term to support teaching and learning.

Forest School

Every Friday, starting next week, we are so excited to have Anna, from Great Oak Adventures working in our school leading Forest School sessions for us. Anna used to do our after school club at Longhorsley and is a very experienced and amazing Forest School leader. This means that both classes will get Forest School sessions to complement our Commando Joe sessions to develop resilience, team work, communication etc. Forest School will be weekly, alternating the classes, starting next Friday with Class 2. Please read Anna's accompanying letter for what the children will need.

Toucan

We continue to be a learning hub for Toucan with 6 of our own children working with the dyslexia specialist teacher every Wednesday afternoon. It is also open to children from other schools, including Longhorsley, so we currently have 3 children who attend the sessions as well. The safeguarding of all children is paramount and these children are only ever in the one classroom with 2 to 3 members of staff and use separate toilets while they are in our school. Toucan sessions will start this afternoon but will be every Wednesday from next week.

PE kits

PE kit days are Tuesday and Thursday where children are asked to come in their school PE kits for curriculum PE. Due to cost, we will now only be swimming as a whole school in the summer term so that the children still get this essential life skill by the end of the academic year.

Diary Dates for the Year

We have reattached our Diary dates that were sent out before the holidays. Any changes or additions are always highlighted.

Whalton School Association

Our very lovely PTA is hosting a coffee and catch up session on Tuesday 22nd September at 9.15am in the school hall. They will also be having their AGM later in the half term. Please do come and have a coffee with us.

Class Newsletters

Class teachers will be sending out the information about your children's learning this term and the weekly class organisation, by the end of the week. 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.

Children's Wellbeing and Additional Support

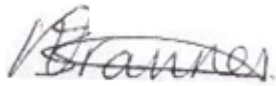
We will also be inviting some children to games sessions at playtimes in our wonderful Cosy Cabin to support either their Literacy skills or to help socially and emotionally.

Whalton Show - Saturday 19th September

The widely celebrated Whalton Show is just around the corner. School will be having a child and adults Tombola on the field and a wheelbarrow full of goodies - which will be up for grabs! On that note, we would really appreciate donations of new practical gifts and goodies that can be on either tombola or added to the wheelbarrow. We would also appreciate volunteers who could help man the School tombola stand for a short 30 minute slot - so the more, the merrier. Please email school if you can - we would appreciate any help!

Here's to a fabulous Autumn term!

Kind regards,

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

Mrs Brannen

Executive Headteacher