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

Autumn 2 2026 Newsletter - Years 1 and 2

Message from class teacher

Welcome back, everyone! Thank you all for the warm welcome you have given me so far. It has been lovely getting to know the children.

I hope you all had a restful break and are ready for another busy and exciting half term at Whalton. This newsletter gives an overview of the children's learning over the coming weeks.

PE will be on a Thursday, with Forest School every other Friday, so please make sure your child has their PE kit in school on those days. Homework will continue to be given out weekly on a Thursday (to be completed and handed in by Wednesday) and spelling tests will now take place on a Wednesday.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.

Best wishes, Mr Morris and Miss Bowen

~Commando Joes~

Through fun, practical activities and team challenges, the children will develop important life skills such as teamwork, communication, resilience and problem-solving. We will be encouraging everyone to have a go, think creatively, support one another and keep trying even when things get tricky! Along the way, we'll celebrate our individual strengths and build confidence.

~English~

Our English lessons will be full of reading, writing and storytelling as we continue our **Read Write Inc.** journey! The children will practise recognising sounds, blending them together to read words and building their confidence and fluency as readers. Through engaging stories, we'll develop our understanding of what we read, explore new vocabulary and practise writing sentences using our growing knowledge of spelling and punctuation.

In our daily handwriting sessions, the children will focus on writing letters of the correct size and orientation, with our Year 2 children beginning to join some letters.

~Mathematics~

We begin this half term by developing our understanding of taking away and the difference between numbers. We will use number lines and numicon to help us with our understanding. Following this, we will continue to develop our understanding of increasingly large numbers by partitioning, estimating, ordering and comparing numbers.



~Geography~

This half term in Geography, our topic is **'Our School, Our Village'**. We will be exploring our local area and learning more about what makes Whalton such a special place! The children will learn about the four countries of the UK and their capital cities, as well as finding out where we live on a map. We will be heading outdoors to explore our school grounds and village, spotting natural and man-made features along the way. The children will also have a go at drawing their own maps, using simple compass directions and developing their geographical skills through lots of hands-on exploring!

~Computing~

In Computing, we will be getting creative with **digital painting!** The children will explore different painting tools on the computer, experimenting with colours, shapes, lines and brushes to create their own artwork. We will take inspiration from famous artists and have fun making our own digital masterpieces! We will also compare painting on a computer with painting on paper and share which we prefer.

~PSHE~

This half-term we are focusing on healthy relationships. We will be looking at families and friendships: who is in our family and the different sorts of families you can have and what makes a good friend and should we keep secrets.

~P.E~

In PE, children will develop their gymnastics skills by exploring different ways to travel, balance, rock, roll and jump. They will use apparatus safely, practise moving at different levels and combine actions into short sequences, building confidence, coordination and control.

~DT~

We are getting creative and festive in DT as we explore **sliders and levers!** The children will investigate how simple mechanisms can make pictures move, experimenting with different ways to slide and turn objects. We will then put our new skills to the test by designing and making our very own moving Christmas cards! Along the way, the children will practise cutting, joining and assembling materials, before testing their creations.

~Science~

This half-term, children will investigate everyday materials and their properties through hands-on activities. We will identify, describe and sort materials, while Year 2 will explore their suitability for different purposes, test waterproofing and investigate how materials change shape.

~Music~

In the second half-term, leading up to Christmas, we focus on singing, as we spend time learning our songs for the Christmas performance.

As well as learning the words, the children will be using their skills that we have been developing since September; finding the pulse and singing in time, recognising the rhythms, singing at the correct pitch as we (hopefully) sing in tune!

~R.E~

This half term in RE, we'll be exploring the question **'Why does Christmas matter to Christians?'** The children will learn about the Christmas story, including the birth of Jesus, the shepherds and the wise men. We will discover why Christians believe Jesus is so special and explore some of the ways they prepare for and celebrate Christmas. We will also think about how the Christmas story inspires kindness, generosity and caring for others.