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# NORTHUMBERLAND County Council

The Federation of Longhorsley St Helen's and Whalton Church of England Aided First Schools

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



Whalton C of E Aided First  
School

Whalton  
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17<sup>th</sup> September 2021

Dear Parents,

A couple of updates for you:

## Our Reviewed School Risk Assessments:

At the end of the Summer term, at step 4, the Government shifted its approach around COVID-19 from one of legal requirements and restrictions towards one focused around personal responsibility and voluntarily following safer behaviours.

The Federation's Governors, as employers of all the staff across both schools, have a shared responsibility to have a risk assessment in place to reduce the risks in their workplace and to ensure all the control measures are being addressed appropriately taking each school's individual context into account. Following the [Schools COVID-19 operational guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#), the general government guidance outlined pictorially below, and that provided by the Local Authority and Diocese, we have reviewed our risk assessments, to ensure that both the staff and children across our schools are as safe as possible from the risk of transmission or catching COVID-19 - as unfortunately the risks from COVID-19 have not yet disappeared. We will continue to follow and update our risk assessments in line with all guidance on the behaviours and actions that reduce transmission and manage the risks and will keep you updated of any changes:

Figure 2: Safer Behaviours and Actions



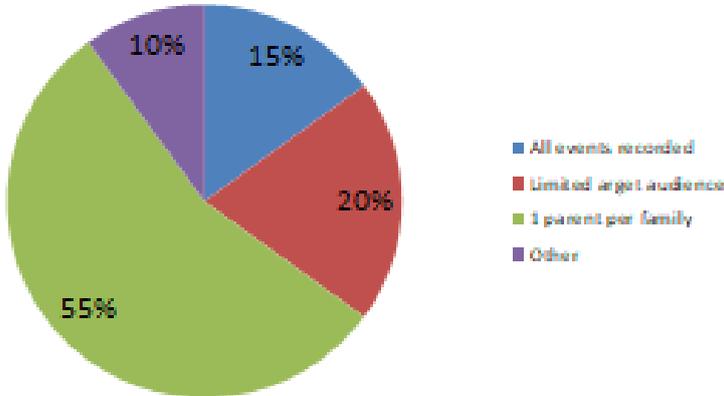
The health and wellbeing of your children is our utmost priority and to this end, I have summarised the key points for you which will be in place for your children from Monday:

- Staggered start and finish times remain the same
- Sanitising stations will still be available for sanitising hands before entry to school and for all visitors to ensure the greatest hygiene, with regular hand washing throughout the school day
- Playtimes will now be at the same time for all children so that they can meet and socialise with their friends and siblings from other year groups
- Lunchtimes will continue to have two sittings to allow for space and ventilation but this will be shared by a couple of classes at a time so again the children can meet and socialise with children from other year groups both in the halls and outside
- Daily Collective Worship will be in the halls with all children but with good ventilation and spacing
- From October half term, after school clubs will be offered to more than one class
- Visitors must still wear face coverings on entry to our schools, have an appointment and sign in, preferably before and after the school day
- Pupil progress meetings will continue to be via a telephone call from your child’s class teacher this term – dates and times to sign up to will follow

In terms of parents being invited back into school for key events, thank you so much for completing the Google questionnaire asking for your opinions and favoured models to approaching our school events over the coming academic year. Everyone is completely entitled to their own opinion, especially depending on personal experiences/ circumstances, and the responses below do show this, although there is a definite general consensus overall for live events with one parent attending which will allow us to join together again as safely as possible. Below are the responses to the different options:

Longhorsley:

### Responses to additional school events



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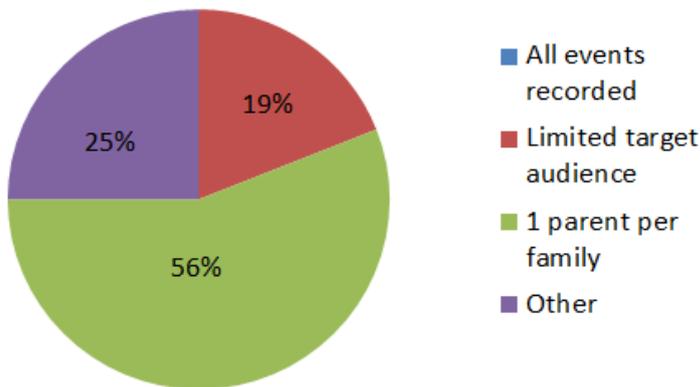
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Whalton:

## Responses to additional school events



However, we also had some really helpful comments about Christmas in particular so, being mindful of capacity, ventilation of spaces available and the vast majority of you, the following will take place at both schools:

Harvest	Live	Invite one parent from all year groups/family
Christmas	Live	Three repeats of Christmas Performance – one for each class's parents (Class 1, Class 2, Class 3) so both parents have the opportunity to see their child perform at Whalton



		Two repeats of Christmas performance – Class 2 and Class 3 at Longhorsley plus separate EYFS performance for their class parents
Easter	Live	Invite one parent (subject to change depending on where we are with COVID by then)

Dates will be confirmed next week to give you plenty of time to make arrangements.

### **Children’s learning**

The classrooms have been brimming with teaching and learning every day in all classrooms and I have been delighted with how well the children have settled back into their learning. I carried out a writing scrutiny of all children’s writing at Longhorsley this week; so much to be proud of and a really good baseline for moving forward too. Whalton is next week and what’s so great about having both of the schools is that it allows us to really compare and see where each individual child is with other children in the same year group. For our Year 5 and Y6 children at Whalton, we are hoping to resume moderation across schools at some point soon but they are working extremely well and we have some very talented writers especially. Our subject leaders will be looking at standards in all of the subjects over the coming weeks across both schools too.

Have a wonderful weekend everyone; as we look forward to lots more fun, socialising and learning next week across The Federation. Please do talk to your children about the changes... and what they have learning about! Class Teachers’ newsletters will be winging their way to you too.

Best wishes,

Kind regards,

Mrs Brannen  
Executive Headteacher

