



Whalton School News

Autumn Term

1st October 2021



— WELCOME —
BACK TO SCHOOL

Great to be back!

From all the staff, we'd like to say a huge welcome back and well done to all of our children, who have settled back into school life with commendable attitudes, especially after such a long summer break! We'd also like to say a huge welcome to our new Reception starters and families who have joined our school. We have really been enjoying getting to know your children and look forward to an exciting year together.

Bee Transition Week

Before the holidays you may remember that our children in Class 3 took part in a Bee Transition Week. This took place together with Ponteland High and the surrounding schools in the area, in preparation for our Year 6 children starting Year 7 this academic year. Our Year 5 children also took part in this week and now, as Year 6 themselves, wanted to share their passion surrounding the bees with their new classmates, as we transition into Class 3 this Autumn term. Peter, Nick and Sue came in to see us, bringing with them an observation hive, honey to taste and lots of informative resources to further ignite and engage our class of Upper Key Stage 2 children. This session has also facilitated

further child-led learning in the future, as we look to achieve our Silver Award for Eco-Schools. We can't wait to update you!



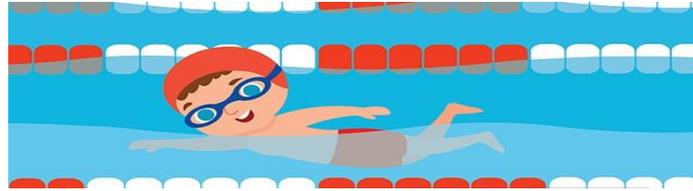
Raising Aspiration

Sending a big thank you to Sam from North East Raising Aspiration Partnership (NERAP), who delivered an in-school Careers Workshop to our Year 5 & 6 children, on Friday 24th September. The concept of University was introduced and the enthusiasm, demonstrated by the children surrounding education and further study, was wonderful to see! Did you know that there are over 52,000 courses to choose from and the age of the eldest person to start a Degree was 97 years old? It just goes to show that anyone can achieve their aspirations if they believe!



Building Works

We are so pleased to have completed two major pieces of work over the summer holidays. The first being our new toilet block in Early Years which has very quickly become an integral part of our school day. The second, being the bridge into the field which has been completely replaced over the summer holidays.



Swimming

We have been working closely with Active Northumberland to implement a swimming schedule and we are happy to confirm that we are able to offer swimming lessons on a rotational basis with groups split into Reception and Year 1 and Years 2,3,4,5 & 6, children will have 6-7 weeks of swimming each term based on their group schedule. We are having to offer swimming sessions on a rotational basis because of covid risk assessments and the enhanced cleaning that needs to be done. But are pleased to confirm that the children in Years 2,3,4, 5 and 6 have been enjoying resuming their swimming lessons at the newly opened Ponteland Leisure Centre.



Peripatetic Music Lessons

Northumberland County Music Service are ready to start individual musical instrument lessons in schools, with appropriate safety measures in place. Depending on interest, they can offer keyboard, violin or drum tuition to children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. There is a cost attached, which is dependent on the number who take up the offer and how we group the children. We have drums and keyboards at school already but if your child would like to learn to play the violin, they will need to hire an instrument. Please note that due to the nature of our small school, drums would take place after the end of the school day.

Year 7 Admissions

For parents of our Year 6 children, a reminder that the school Admissions Application Process for secondary (Year 7) school places start this September. Please make sure you apply online before the deadline. The portal opens on 12th September and closes on the 31st October. Late applications may result in pupils not securing a place in their preferred school. The School Admissions Team will contact schools during October with the names of those yet to apply so you can issue another reminder. For more information please click on the web page:

https://schadm.northumberland.gov.uk/CitizenPortal_LIVE/en

Or contact the team directly using the following email address:

schooladmissions@northumberland.gov.uk

Contact Information and Consent:

It's that time of year again where we need to update our data and consent information. Your child has already come home with the data collection sheet and our latest consent sheet will be sent home today. Please check the information and amend as needed. Remember to let us know if anything changes throughout the year.



Harvest Festival

Following the recent questionnaire sent out, the Harvest Festival will go ahead on Friday the 22nd October at 2.30pm in St Mary Magdalene Church for one parent per family as per our Covid-19 risk assessments.

Wansbeck Foodbank

As you know we are keen supporters of the Wansbeck Foodbank and will again be supporting it this year. Please could you send your child into school with an empty box before Monday 18th October, so it can be decorated and returned home to be filled and dropped off to a member of staff on Wednesday the 20th October at St Mary's church for the Harvest Festival. If you'd like to see more information on this please visit the link below;

<https://wansbeckvalleyfoodbank.org/how-you-can-help-2/>

Playground Safety

Just a gentle reminder to make sure there is a member of staff present in the playground before leaving your child in the morning; especially for safeguarding and keeping your child physically safe. We are next to a very busy road and both gates are open in the morning for our staggered entry. Year 5 and Year 6 children are the only children who can be unattended, however, if children who walk to school can aim to arrive at 8.45am ready for their start time of 8.50am, there will always be a member of staff present.

Earrings

We have a strict no earring policy in school. If your child has had their ears pierced and it is within the first 6 weeks of not being able to remove them, their ears must be taped over. After the six week period is over their earrings must be removed for school. Many thanks for your cooperation in this matter.

Dates for your calendar

Calendar dates for the next school year 2021-2022 are on our website under 'Office'.



Swimming for Years 2,3,4, 5 & 6 only: Tuesdays 14th September - 19th October
1:15-2:45pm

Shutterbugz Photography: 18th October

Bring a box to school
for Harvest Festival: Monday 4th October

PTA AGM:	Friday 8th October
'Let's raise some dough':	Friday 22nd October
Harvest Service:	Friday 22nd October 2.30pm
Break up for Half Term:	Friday 22nd October 3.30pm
Back to school:	Monday 1st November
Reception & Year 1 to begin swimming:	Tuesday 2nd November
Bag2School:	Tuesday 23rd November