
NORTHUMBERLAND County Council

The Federation of Longhorsley St Helen's and Whalton C of E Aided Schools



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Dear Parents,

We hope that you have all had a good summer and are looking forward to getting back to a new normal this term. We are very much looking forward to welcoming all of the children back next week across The Federation, especially our youngest children joining us for the first time: Nursery children at Longhorsley and Reception children at Whalton. A warm welcome to all of our new families joining us too across all year groups and we look forward to getting to know you; even if it is at a safe distance! I would also like to add a very warm welcome to our new members of staff. Ms White was appointed right at the end of last term as our new Office Manager at Whalton and we are delighted that she is joining us alongside Mrs Belisle, our new catering Manager there. At Longhorsley, we have Ms Dalton joining Mrs Lamb, who will share the Catering Manager's post across the week, as well as working alongside Mrs Lamb and finally, Mrs Middleton, who has worked with us on a volunteer basis during her studies, is now part of our excellent team of teaching assistants at Longhorsley...good luck to everyone in their new posts!

Before the holidays, an update was sent out on how both schools would continue to follow all of the Department of Education guidelines to keeping both the children and staff as safe as possible. Our risk assessments are being reviewed again following updates released this week. There is also updated guidance for parents and carers on returning to school which I have included for your information:

[What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges in the autumn term](#)

I have again included a summary of how we are putting the government advice into practice; minimising contact between groups, encouraging maintaining distance as far as possible as well as increased hygiene:

- Sanitising hands on the way into school using the foot pedal operated hand sanitisers



- By grouping children via classes - this will be their 'bubble' which they will stay in all day - no whole school gatherings
- Arranging classrooms with forward facing desks
- Continuing to have staggered arrival and leaving times (see end of letter) for each class of children (older siblings will arrive and leave at the youngest siblings' times)
- A rota for breaks so that only one class are at play at any one time or spaced out in their own section of the playground/field
- Lunches either in classrooms or in separate groups in hall
- Identified walkways for classes into school and in school
- Specific toilet slot times for different classes (and additional toilets in playground)
- Handwashing facilities in all classes (or priority use of the toilet sinks if not) and regular handwashing
- Additional cleaning at break time and lunchtimes in classrooms, in addition to caretaker cleaning every morning and evening
- Staff maintaining a distance from other classes and staff as much as possible

Year 1 children and above are asked to bring in their own named pencil cases, which will be left at school. All children to have their own named water bottle please (washed and refilled daily at home) and a named pair of wellies (to be kept in school). Any packed lunches to be brought in in named disposable bags please.

Please remember that we will be providing a durable and waterproof drawstring bag for your child to use instead of our normal book bags or any large rucksack; this will be the only bag that your child will be allowed in school as these will be stored on the back of your child's seat. Children are to come into school wearing their normal school uniform and in their school PE kits every Thursday.

At this moment in time, we are not asking that children wear face coverings in school in accordance with government guidelines and health advice for primary school children.

To help us implement all of these actions and advice to keep everyone safe, we kindly ask the following of you:

- That just one parent brings and collects your child/ren, keeping to the times for their year group only (especially important as we now have the whole school returning)
- That social distancing is adhered to outside of school to keep the children, staff and community as safe as possible
- That you contact school via telephone or email for daily messages for teachers. The offices will be manned from 8.45am. There will be no visitors allowed onto the school site (except for exceptional circumstances) at this current time
- That you do not send your child to school if they are showing [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) symptoms](#) or someone in their household is showing symptoms and that you collect your child from school immediately if they are displaying any signs of symptoms
- [Arrange a test](#) if you or your child develops symptoms and inform us immediately of the results. If the test is positive, follow [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#), and engage with the NHS Test and Trace process.

As mentioned in previous letters, the wellbeing of your children is our priority on their return. If you have any concerns at all, please do not hesitate to ring or leave a message for the relevant member of staff.

Longhorsley start and finish times: All children to use the main entrance gate please.

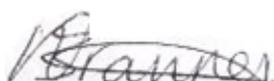
Nursery am	08:45 – 11:45
Reception	09:05 – 15:20
Nursery pm	12:30 – 15:30
Year 1	08:45 – 15:00
Years 2 & 3	08:55 – 15:10
Year 4	09:05 – 15:20

Whalton start and finish times: All children to enter the playground through the main gates please.

Class 1 (Reception & Year 1)	9:05am – 3:15pm
Class 2 (Years 2, 3 & 4)	8:55am – 3:10pm
Class 3 (Years 5 & 6)	8:45am – 3:00pm

I would like once again to take this opportunity to thank you for your support, understanding and cooperation over these last few months. I look forward to welcoming your child/ren back on Wednesday 2nd September (Longhorsley children) and Thursday 3rd September (Whalton children).

Kind regards,



Mrs Brannen
Executive Headteacher