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# NORTHUMBERLAND County Council

The Federation of Longhorsley and Whalton Church of England Aided Schools

**Longhorsley St Helen's**  
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12<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Dear All

Welcome back to the Summer term and hopefully, the term when we can see more and more of the things happening that COVID has prevented us from doing. I hope you all had a wonderful Easter and enjoyed the sunshine and ability to host in your garden (as well as our four seasons in one on many days too!).

Just a couple of updates:

## **Health and Safety**

COVID-19 As the government continues to ease restrictions, in school it is business as usual in terms of following all of the control measures in place to protect and prevent the transmission of COVID-19. Please continue the great work of wearing masks to drop off and pick up your children and ensuring your children have their belongings in their bags on their backs to keep their hands free on entry to school ready to sanitise and then hang on the backs of chairs in classrooms. Both schools have been cleaned and sanitised ready for the return and all classes will continue to remain in their bubbles as per our risk assessments. We will continue to update you of any changes.

## **School Environments**

We continually monitor our grounds and buildings and have had a number of works carried out to keep them as safe and updated as possible.

Both Longhorsley and Whalton have had all of their trees inspected over this last year with any follow up works carried out; some again during the Easter holidays. This included the bushes and trees at St Mary Magdalene, Whalton and at Longhorsley, the car park and the Vicarage are now visible, safe and accessible following works carried out there too.

The school kitchen at Longhorsley was updated with a new, improved exterior wall, windows and ventilation with a very large and space age convection cooker hood during February half term; Mrs Lamb and Miss Dalton are very happy with their new improved facilities.

Many thanks to Mrs McEwan, Ms White and Mrs Elliott for the constant phone calls, form filling and persistence in these matters!



## **Future Works**

### Toilet Block

Following the agreement of the Governors, we are in the process of tendering for a new additional toilet block at Whalton. Following the success of the outdoor portaloos and due to the lack of space internally, we are very excited to be purchasing a twin toilet cabin which will be placed in the Early Years/Year 1 outdoor area. With Whalton being a very old and listed building, lots of negotiating is needed to ensure the toilet block can be connected to all of the necessary utilities, including heating, so lots of fingers crossed. Photos and dates to follow!

### Trim Trail

At Longhorsley, the children will be involved in designing a new trim trail for the field over the next couple of weeks to give them additional equipment and opportunity for further physical challenges at break and lunch times to develop balance, core stability, co-ordination and gross motor skills. We will be using our government funded Sports Premium budget for this.



An example of a typical trim trail.

For those of you who can remember the amazing £10,000 fundraising by the Gilmartin family, we would like to name the trail after the 'Gilmartin' twins, Jessica and Amelia, in recognition of their efforts for our school and will hopefully be able to have some form of official opening to thank them again when it is all completed.

## **Annual Reports**

All reports will be sent out by Friday 23rd April. We hope that these will be helpful in giving an overview of your child's achievements to date and their next steps. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Class Teacher if you have any concerns or questions. If we can please ask that you contact all staff through the admin email addresses, thank you:

[longhorsleyadmin@fedlongwhaltschools.uk](mailto:longhorsleyadmin@fedlongwhaltschools.uk)

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Continue to keep safe everyone and here's to an enjoyable Summer term.

Best wishes

Mrs Brannen  
Executive Headteacher