
NORTHUMBERLAND County Council

The Federation of Longhorsley and Whalton Church of England Aided Schools

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Dear Parents

My final Headteacher's newsletter of this academic year!

We really hope that you have enjoyed reading your child's end of year report and that they did too, finding out how well they are doing and their next steps to continue 'to be the very best that they can be'. They have all worked so hard!

End of Year Assessments/Tests

We are especially proud of our Year 6 children at Whalton as they all passed the government Key Stage 2 SATs with flying colours! Very well done! Equally at Key Stage 1, for the Y1 phonics, and Y4 times table check across both schools, we are very proud of all of the children's achievements. Well done to everyone and to all staff too. This was the very last year that our Year 2 children will have to sit these standardised tests, unless we choose for them to do so. Teacher assessment will continue to be used to inform the children, and yourselves, of their progress instead.

Attendance

You will also have had an end of year attendance figure on your child's report. All children should have a percentage of 96% or above to have the very best chance in their learning. Although we completely understand if children become ill, please can you be mindful when booking holidays to use the school holidays and the teacher training days too; your children are missing out on their education when they are not in school. Our staff work extremely hard planning sequences of learning and if your child misses part of the sequence, they will never have that lesson again, which we know leads to gaps in their learning. Many thanks for your continued support in this.

Diary Dates

To help you look ahead to this next academic year, we will be sending out the diary dates of events before the end of term so you know when the holidays and teaching training days are, when there are events to which you are invited to (if you need to book time off work) and any other planned events for the children.

Reflections

Whilst looking ahead to September, just like the start of any new year, it is always a fantastic opportunity to reflect on the year before...

At Longhorsley, the children have:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Taken part in our Harvest, Easter and Christmas Services at our Church, as well as the Remembrance Service, Christingle and Christmas Performances!
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Spent a Federation day with their Whalton friends at our Federated school as well as Celebrating World Book Day and British Science Week
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Attended sports events with other schools, such as the Y1 festival at Whalton, the Y4 Health and Well-Being Festival, Skip4fit day and taster cricket sessions, as well as their half termly turns of swimming, for that essential life skill and dance - purely for fun and fitness!
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Been to Alnwick Playhouse to see The Christmas Play - the Remarkable Robin, enjoyed the Easter Disco in school and Alnwick garden's Lilidorei in the summer term
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Enjoyed the marble treats of Professor Brainstorm, the E-Safety Gameshow, and the French Play - all funded by the PTA!
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Enjoyed browsing and buying books to take home from Usbourne books
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Had a very successful Year 4 residential to Robinwood with Cambo and Whalton children (we have booked again for next year!)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Had the opportunity to work with a play therapist (Holding Hearts) for a term to help with social and emotional wellbeing (as a result of a successful grant application)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Been able to participate in a variety of After school Clubs- such as Cricket, Cookery, Gardening Club, The Mysterious Forest Club, Bible Club, Craft Club and Gymnastics
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Raised money for their chosen charity NSPCC
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Worked with external agencies, linked with their individual and specific learning needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Had the opportunity to learn and perform the ukulele in Year 4 with Mr Reay, the music teacher, and individual music lessons with the violin teacher with Emily Stephenson

We have offered you as parents:

<p>Invites to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Our Harvest, Easter and Christmas Services at St Helen's, as well as the very special Christingle Service, Remembrance at the Village Green and our Family Services each term● Our PTA Coronation Breakfast and Coronation Service at the Village Green● Your children's Sports Day, with especially ordered sunshine!● Family lunches, to experience and enjoy a lunchtime with your child● Open evening at the beginning of the year and two pupil progress meetings, one in the Autumn and Spring terms● The Christmas Performances● Read to the children as part of our Father Day celebrations● Open evening at the beginning of the year and two pupil progress meetings, one in the Autumn and Spring terms and termly reviews for children with EHCPs

At Whalton, the children have:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Taken part in our Harvest, Easter and Christmas Services at our Church, as well as the Remembrance Service, Christingle and Christmas Performance
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Spent a Federation day with their Longhorsley friends at our Federated school, celebrated World Book Day, British Science week and explored the stars and planets inside the huge planetarium, from Kielder observatory, in their very own school hall
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Attended sports events with other schools, such as the Y1 festival at Whalton, Multi skills for Year 2 and 3, Wellbeing Festival, Outdoor Archery/team building for Years 4/5/6 and Sports Leaders for Year 5 and 6, as well as all children's half termly swimming sessions, for that essential life skill
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Travelled to Newcastle as part of the Class 3's Lego competition at the Sage
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Had a very successful Year 4/5 very residential to Robinwood with Cambo and Longhorsley children (we have booked again for next year!)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Had the opportunity to work with a play therapist (Holding Hearts) for a term to help with social and emotional wellbeing (as a result of a successful grant application)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Worked with external agencies, linked with their individual and specific learning needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Attended after school clubs, such as multi skills with Mr Morris and Mrs Hall's Science Club, where the children achieved the Crest Award and the lunchtime craft clubs by Jane and Miss Ramm
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Visited Santa at the whole school visit to the Polar Express (paid for by the PTA!) and most recently, their Lillioerei visit at Alnwick Gardens as their marble treats, as well as golden time afternoons
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Opportunity to have weekly singing lessons in Years 4,5,6 with Miss Midgely, the music teacher, and individual music lessons with the drum teacher, Joe Reid
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Carried out an Easter trail at St Mary Magdalane Church

As Parents, you have been invited to:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Our Harvest, Easter and Christmas Services at St Mary Magdalane, as well as the very special Christingle Service and our Family Services each term● Our Coronation Event with Crown making workshop and very British Sports!● Your children's Sports Day, with Maypole Dancing, and especially ordered sunshine!● Family lunches, to experience and enjoy a lunchtime with your child● Read to the children as part of our Father Day celebrations● The annual Bale Fire Dance in the Village● PTA events such as the French Breakfasts, and Coronation tea party● Open evening at the beginning of the year and two pupil progress meetings, one in the Autumn and Spring terms and termly reviews for children with EHCPs● The Christmas Performance at the Village Hall
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Wow, as two small schools, we hope that you have enjoyed these 'memory making events' as much as we have! Not to mention the fact that both schools had very successful recent Ofsted inspections (Whalton, this academic year - November 2022 and Longhorsley in February last year!). We are extremely committed to giving the children the broad and balanced curriculum that they are entitled to, personalised through our Trinity Curriculum, as well as enhancing it

with as many experiences as we can (we do try to think BIG, even when we are small!), especially as Church schools and using our PTA fundraising.

We are, however, always open to new ideas and suggestions, so please do add any comments to the parent questionnaire that we sent out with your child's report or has been sent home today at Longhorsley.

Parent Readers

We would like to continue to invite willing parents in to help with the children's reading practice at both schools. We have a new reading corner for your use at Whalton, so please let Mr Morris know personally, or email either school this week, so that we can formally set up a new reading rota. Thank you to those parents who have given up their time this year - much appreciated!



Swimming Helpers

As always, we also need parents to accompany our swimming sessions, so if anyone would like to be added to that rota, at either school, please just contact us too. Please remember for the safeguarding of our children, that you have to complete the DBS forms and have this cleared before starting. Again, many thanks to our committed group of current swimming mums!

School lunches

Miss Johnstone and Mrs Lamb/ Mr Gunn continue to cook fabulous wholesome meals for our children and we very much need your support to keep our school dinners alive- they are delicious! In line with the rising cost of living, the cost of a school lunch will be £2.50 a day from September for Year 2 upwards. These are payable on a weekly basis, or half termly. Please do not be offended if we remind you of the need to pay as, unfortunately, we still have outstanding payments at both schools. As I have mentioned previously, our schools are not in areas of deprivation, and there is the expectation that the meals are paid for. Please can all monies be paid by Wednesday of this week so we can pay our food bills and staff wages. As it stands, **Longhorsley parents owe £2,225 and Whalton £2,463.** Please can we ask you to do the right thing and settle all outstanding bills with us, including for the weekly swimming bus (and especially if your child is moving to a new school). In the past, we have been left with a lot of debt. Many thanks for your support with this. If you are a PAWS parent, please can you make sure that the lunch money is paid directly to them this week too, as we invoice PAWS.

Improvements to School

Looking ahead to September, we have such a lot planned to improve our schools further, ready for our children coming back.

At Whalton, we have the redecorating of the hall, corridor and toilets, new furniture and resources for our new Reception class, as well as new signage around school. At Longhorsley, we will also be getting new signage and also newly refurbished toilets for our youngest children in the EYFS (although this may be October half term depending on contractors). So lots of exciting changes to look forward to.

Thank you

At this time of year, the children are tired, and the staff are also tired but I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every member of staff for their continued commitment to our schools and for doing their very best for each child, as well as you, our parents. We also have a very supportive and committed Governing Body and Chair, Mr Truscott, who support

and challenge us to get the very best for your children too, so huge thanks to them. We would also like to send our sincere thanks to our Church support: Reverend Audrey, Reverend Elaine and

Pam. Reverend Audrey will be retiring at the end of the summer and we send lots of love and thanks to her for all she has done for us at Longhorsley. Happy retirement!

Nearly there

We have one last week to enjoy with fantastic celebratory activities, such as Class Parties, Leavers' Lunches and our Leavers' Services (as well as the Y4 children going for a meal who missed out on Lillidorei due to one of their transition days!).

A special final memory making week for our children in Years 6 and Year 4, who will be starting on their new adventures in September, and for the children who are relocating and starting new schools. We wish you all the very best of luck and hope you remember us fondly.

Have the very best last week of term, enjoy quality time with your families over the summer and we will see returning and new families in the Autumn term- Tuesday 5th September. It will be my ninth year of leading and managing these wonderful schools, let's make it the best one yet!



Many thanks for your continued support.

Kindest wishes

Mrs Brannen
Executive Head teacher