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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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08 September 2023

Dear Parents

A big sunny welcome back to the new Autumn term; we all hope that you have had a wonderful summer. The weather has been the best that it has been (so typical!) but so lovely for the children for playtimes and lunchtimes! An especially warm welcome to our new Nursery children and families and to the new children joining us in Reception and Year 2 - we hope you enjoy your time with us.

During the holidays, the staff have been working hard to get the school spic and span and ready for learning again. Huge thanks especially to Mrs Martin for the endless cleaning- the school looks great, and to Mrs Lamb and all the staff who came in during the holidays to get things sorted for the new term. The children love their new classrooms! We even have a new little reading area for our reading volunteers to sit and listen to children read - with velvet chairs and reading lights!

Lots of work is carried out in the holidays to make sure all of the school and kitchen equipment is checked, and the grounds maintained; Nick sorted out our ever growing bushes and made sure the field was cut and ready for playing on!

## **Start and Finishing times of the School Day**

We have continued to line the children up in the morning. Please remember that you can drop your children off from 8.45am with school staff. The children then put their coats and bags into the cloakroom (less health and safety issues when they are doing it this way) and then line up ready for their class teachers on the grid. We will take these children in at 8.50am with school starting at 8.55am - so please if you can make sure that all children are in for then to ensure a smooth start to the day. You are more than welcome to come into the playground too; any year group parents, and especially our Nursery Parents for their children's session starting at 9am.

### **At the end of the day we have allocated area for each class:**

Reception and Year 1 children - at the far end of the playground next to the benches and path to the adventure playground

Year 2 children - on the yellow grid where they line up in the morning

Years 3 and 4 children- next to the bike shelter

You are more than welcome to come fully into the playground (and it makes it easier for us to match children with parents) and stand next to the allocated place for your child (or youngest child if you have more than one child with us).

We will be sending out a google form to collect the names of the main pick up person/people. Please remember to let the office know if someone other than parents are picking up your child for safeguarding reasons and to share this information with the children themselves, unless of course there is an emergency on the day, thank you! Also, if your child gets the bus or goes to playgroup, please let us know what these arrangements are (and if they ever change to update us on the day too). Many thanks for your support with this.

### **Diary Dates for the Year**

Diary dates were sent out to all new and returning children electronically before the holidays. We do update these but will always send out further copies.

Our Open Evening to Meet the Team is next Thursday 5 - 6pm (for grown ups only please) and will consist of an introduction to what we are about as a school in the hall, including presentations from each class teacher and then a chance to meet your child's class teacher and see your child's classroom too.

### **After School Clubs**

These are a great way for your children to enjoy additional social activities to support their health and wellbeing. Please look out for further information and get signed up as soon as possible as places are limited. Our new Forest School is already fully booked but a cricket club will also be coming out once we have had a final confirmation of the day.

### **Class Newsletters**

Class teachers will be sending out the information you need about your children's learning and the weekly organisation, such as homework etc. Please remember that you can email or ring school to make an appointment with your child's class teacher at any point of the year if you have any concerns or queries.

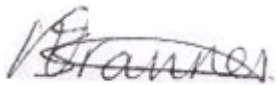
## **Whalton Show - Saturday 16th September 11-5pm**

Our Federated School and grounds form part of the widely celebrated Whalton Show and we would love to see you there too; it really is a great day out and a great fundraiser for our Federated school!

Looking forward...

We are really looking forward to working with you all again this academic year so that your children can continue, or start, their educational journey with us to be 'the very best that they can be'.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mrs Brannen', written in a cursive style.

Mrs Brannen  
Executive Headteacher