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# NORTHUMBERLAND County Council

The Federation of Longhorsley and Whalton Church of England Aided Schools

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26th March 2024

Dear Parents

A final catch up before the Easter holidays!

## **Robinwood:**

We are thrilled to be able to offer a residential again this year for our Y4 pupils and are very grateful for Cambo school for taking the lead to organise this for us. The children will get to meet their Federation friends from Whalton as well as make new friends from Cambo First School. This is a fantastic opportunity to support transition to Middle School as familiar faces from the residential will be seen again as they move schools. Most importantly, it is a fun three days with a real emphasis on team building, as well as personally challenging themselves in so many outdoor activities - supported and championed by the amazing staff there, as well as Mr Morris and Mr Laidler from Longhorsley and Mrs Birnie and Miss Ramm from Whalton.

School is supporting the cost of the visit by £50 per child through a ring fenced sports premium budget too, which has helped keep the cost inline with previous years. If you have any outstanding payments for your child's residential, please could you ensure that they have been paid by Thursday, at the latest, before we break up for the holidays. Many thanks. The advertised Parents' Meeting is in the first week back after Easter to go through what the children will need and experience - we look forward to seeing you there.

## **Bikeability**

The trainer was very impressed with our children's attitude and conduct during their bikeability training. The children have all been presented with their well deserved bikeability certificates. We hope this helps to keep them safe when cycling themselves as the warmer weather and lighter nights come.

## **World Book Day Celebrations**

Thank you to all of you for supporting our PTA Coffee and Catch up earlier this half term, (especially to our PTA and helpers for organising!) and also for our Sponsored Story Walk - thank you Miss Mattison, our RE Ambassadors and all staff involved! The children looked amazing arriving in their colourful costumes, whether a book character, a footballer or simply in their favourite outfit. Many thanks go to our three parents, Mrs Bates, Mr Fox and Mr Bell for their storytelling and huge thanks to all of you for your generous donations. We have raised an amazing £476.50 to split between the children's chosen charities; The Guide Dogs Association and St Oswald's Hospice.

## **Our Wellness Room**

Hopefully your children have been coming home telling you about our new 'wellness room' which hopefully will arrive in the Easter holidays. Joint fundraising through the PTA and through a wellbeing grant school applied for, has enabled us to buy a fully insulated garden room which will be put on the old foundations of the bike shelter at the edge of the playground. The idea behind it is that it will be a space for some time out, a place to regulate emotions and simply find some calm; a chill out space for individual children or small groups of children throughout the day; putting the wellbeing of our children first in line with our school ethos and our zones of regulation.

The PTA has worked really hard to be able to make this happen and are continuing their efforts so that we can afford the electrics, soft furnishings and decorating/furniture for inside. One idea is that we could do something of an old fashioned wedding list where you can sign up to pay/contribute towards individual items. More information to follow from the PTA.

In the meantime, the children have chosen the colour of the 'wellness room' and are democratically going to be voting for their favourite name on the first week back after the holidays; so far we have lots of lovely ideas and alliteration: the Relaxing Room, the Peaceful Place...even the Chill Out Room...watch this space for the winning name!

## **Swimming**

Reception and Year 1 (class 2) will be going swimming next half term with Year 2 (class 3) children in the sports hall. For Reception parents, children just need to bring their swimming shorts/costumes, a towel and goggles if you wish (children can wear swimming hats, but it is optional). We are really proud of the fact that we include our Reception children to go swimming, to give them water confidence and an essential life skill, however, if you have any concerns at all, please let us know by contacting the school office.

All children will still need to come into school wearing their PE kits on Tuesdays and Wednesday next term.

## **Pupil Progress Update Meetings for Parents**

It was so lovely to see so many of you at the Pupil Progress Meetings and hope that you found these really useful. There were lots of positive comments made to staff about your children's learning which is fantastic. We really do strive to give them the very best education and for your children to be the very best that they can be. Please remember that you can arrange to speak with your child's class teacher at any point in the year if you have any concerns or queries.

## **Easter Experience and our Easter Service**

Our children joined Reverend Elaine, Pam and Diane for a session full of reflection and fun activities linked to The Easter Story at St Helen's last week. Reverend Elaine is our new Priest in Charge of Mitford and Hebron and the Upper Wansbeck Group of Churches, which now includes St Helen's. She will be with us tomorrow morning at our Easter Service for anyone who has not met her yet; she is very lovely!

## **Multi skills Festival**

We continue to enjoy the wide range of festivals offered to us through our service level agreement with Active Northumberland. Yesterday, our Year 2 children had a fun filled morning at Chantry Middle School making their way around a number of multi-skills stations testing out and developing their ABC's (Agility, Balance and Co-ordination). The children had a great time and were fantastic ambassadors for our school with excellent behaviour and attitudes commented upon - well done Year 2!

## **Skipping School**

We are delighted to invite the skipping school Skip4fit back into Longhorsley every Wednesday afternoon next half term. Linda and Liz will be getting the children to flex their skipping ropes to achieve the most amazing steps and tricks whilst keeping fit in their PE sessions. All non-skippers will become experts!

## **Summer term After School Clubs**

You will have already had information about some of the after school clubs on offer next half term. We have the ongoing popular Forest School, Dance again with Kelly, and two new sessions: a Skipping after school club and a Deaf Awareness Choir - run by one of our mums at Whalton (who is also a qualified teacher and teacher of the deaf). Please look out for the google sign up forms from Mrs Gillies.

We hope that you all have a wonderful Easter and look forward to seeing everyone back in school on Monday 15th April.

Kind regards,

Mrs Brannen  
Executive Headteacher

