
NORTHUMBERLAND County Council

The Federation of Longhorsley and Whalton Church of England Aided Schools

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1st May 2024

Dear Parents

Wow, 1st May - the year is certainly speeding along! Just a few bits and bobs as we enter the Summer term.

Generous Donation from our Local Councillor:

I am absolutely delighted to let you know that Councillor Glen Sanderson has very kindly donated £6,000 to our school to replace the surface of our adventure playground so that the children can start to use it again. Hopefully this will be happening this summer so that the children can once again enjoy all of our outdoor equipment as they do love to climb, swing and slide safely! We are very proud to have an adventure playground, as well as our trim trail for the children to explore and be brave on, so please watch this space for more updates!

Attendance:

Many thanks when it comes to your children's attendance. We will always reiterate our 48 hour rule following any sickness, to try to keep any outbreaks in classes to a minimum and can't thank you enough for sticking to this and keeping us informed. Good attendance is extremely important for your children's learning, and a key government initiative too, so we will be sending out the spring term attendance statement for your child as promised last term. If your child's attendance is in the red, and that is due to sickness/illness, please do not worry, this is not a problem. However, we will be in contact with you if anyone's child has continued to accrue persistent absence from September to date (non-sickness related) to see how we can support further.

Sports Day:

Many thanks to our Nursery parents feedback for enabling us to have both the Nursery sports morning and the whole school sports morning on the same day - Thursday 20th June - this will help the PTA with their refreshments and fundraising. Nursery Sports Day will start at 9.15am, and the whole school at 1.15pm as advertised in the dairy dates.

Sport & PE:

We continue to offer a wide range of sporting opportunities led by specialist coaches. This half term we have skipping at both schools with after school clubs too. Hopefully your children have been sharing their growing skipping prowess with you!

Upcoming Residential for Year 4

Many thanks to all of the parents who came along to the meeting with Mr Morris and to meet the team going with your children. We really hope that this has put your mind at rest, answered any questions you had and that you can see how much fun that your children are going to have (and where they are going to be!). If you have any other questions at all, please do not hesitate to pop into school. The children had a lovely chat with Mr Morris too so that they could have any of their questions/worries answered too. I will be going up on Tuesday to join them too for the day.

Wellness Room Update and Grand Opening:

We now not only have safety flooring and electrics in our new wellness room but we have a new name and a date for the grand opening of it! So, all of the children and staff voted on 4 names and came up with the Longhorsley Lounge and House of Peace, with the School Council having the final votes on combining the two favourite names to become: *The Longhorsley 'Lounge of Peace'*

We will be having the grand opening and blessing of *The Longhorsley 'Lounge of Peace'* on the afternoon of **Wednesday 5th June** with a very special guest, Gill Booth, who is the Interim Diocesan Director of Education. It will be a real pleasure to welcome Gill to Longhorsley; she is very much looking forward to it. Further details will be sent out but please put this date in your diary as it's a new one so we can celebrate altogether!

As mentioned in my last newsletter, 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 Christian school ethos and our zones of regulation.

We are so fortunate to have had a donation from Simonside Country Park of £500 which has paid for the safety flooring - huge thanks for this generous donation. The PTA will be continuing their efforts so that we can now furnish it and pay the electric bill - literally! The children themselves have come up with great ideas of a soft sofa, bean bags, bookcase, cupboard, table, as well as the essentials such as fairy lights and a chandelier! We really hope to deliver their wishes and their wish list will soon be coming to you via the PTA for you to either send in a small donation towards an item, or maybe a few of you could club together for something a little bigger. Together, I am sure that we can make this happen.

Here's to a joyful summer term full of fun and learning (and hopefully sunshine!).

Kind regards,
Mrs Brannen
Executive Headteacher