
NORTHUMBERLAND County Council

The Federation of Longhorsley and Whalton Church of England Aided Schools

**Longhorsley St Helen's
C of E Aided First School**
Drummonds Close
Longhorsley
MORPETH
Northumberland
NE65 8UT



**Whalton C of E Aided
Primary School**
Whalton
MORPETH
Northumberland
NE61 3XH

Tel 01670 788316

Mrs Nichola Brannen
Executive Headteacher

Tel 01670 775216

email: longhorsleyadmin@fedlongwhaltschools.uk
www.longhorsley-st-helens.northumberland.sch.uk

email: whaltonadmin@fedlongwhaltschools.uk
www.whalton.northumberland.sch.uk

4th September 2024

Dear Parents,

Welcome back!

A big warm welcome back to the Autumn term; we all hope that you have had a wonderful summer. The sun was shining perfectly to welcome the children back this morning and the children look so smart in their new uniforms and school shoes, so thank you!

The staff have been working hard to get the school spic and span and ready for learning again too. Huge thanks especially to Mrs Martin, Mrs Lamb, Mr Gunn and Mrs Gillies and all the staff who came in during the holidays to get things sorted for the new term. The children love their new classrooms!

Our Church School Vision

Staff and Governors have also been working hard on the Training Days to review our School Vision in light of our revised Motto which was voted for last term. We welcome any comments via our admin email - thank you!

Love your Neighbour as yourself so we can all aspire, believe and achieve to be the very best that we can be...

Our School Vision embodies the Christian tradition to love your neighbour as yourself, a message of encouragement through one of God's greatest commandments.

To love your neighbour as yourself means valuing the needs of others, fostering a culture of generosity through which children, staff and visitors to the school create a space of kindness, inclusivity and acceptance.

With Love at the centre of our core Christian values of Hope, Honesty, Forgiveness, Friendship and Trust, we aim to build a community ethos of lovingly serving one another, where everyone can aspire, believe and achieve to be the very best that they can be...

Together with our children, families, the Church and the wider community, we will help each child to flourish in a happy, safe and nurturing environment to create education of the highest quality for all. We aim for excellence in intellectual, moral and spiritual development.

School Improvements

Lots of work has been carried out following the news of our successful bid for additional funding last term. The Early Years Toilets have been completely refurbished - they are very swish!



We also have a fantastic new wooden fence at the bottom of our field too, giving extra security.



Our roof is also now watertight (where it wasn't!) and we now look forward to seeing all of the wooden cladding disappearing (mainly around the back of our building and on the front of our Early Years classroom) for new composite cladding over the coming weeks. The replacement PVC windows will be installed during the October half term now to minimise disturbance to learning - school is going to look so smart, keeping in line with our high expectations!

Start and Finishing times of the School Day

We continue to start the school day at 8.55am for the main school and Nursery at 9am, with the gate and doors opening at 8.45am for all children to be dropped off earlier if that helps (including Nursery children). At home time, the children are led out in their classes and dismissed by their teachers in specified areas of the playground at 3.15pm. *Reception parents please can you collect children directly from their new classroom, not the playground - thank you!*

Please can you also remember to let the office know if someone other than parents are picking up your child for safeguarding reasons. We will not let children go home with anyone that has not been authorised to, so please do not be offended if we need to contact parents first, if school has not been formally informed. We will also continue to ask parents of children who go on the bus to let us know of any change to days/childcare. Many thanks!

Diary Dates for the Year - updated list attached - new events highlighted.

Our Open Evening/Meet the Staff is on Tuesday 17th September and will consist of an introduction to what we are about as a school in the hall and then a chance to meet your child's class teacher, see your child's classroom and opportunities to ask any questions - *adults only please*. We will be sending out a Google form for you to complete to let us know if you are able to come along. All parents ('old and new') are invited from Nursery to Year 4!

Parent Teacher Association (PTA)

Our PTA are raring to go and have lots of plans to support school again this year. Now that our Lounge of Peace is up and running, we would really like to focus on revamping our Early Years Outdoor Area. The PTA are having their New Term Team meeting on Thursday 5th September at the Shoulder of Mutton at 7pm and would love to see anyone interested in helping out.

Class Newsletters

Class teachers will be sending out the information about your children's learning this term and the weekly class organisation, by the end of the week. 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.

Children's Wellbeing and Additional Support

We will also be inviting some children to additional sessions to support either their Literacy skills or to help socially and emotionally, so please do let us know if you would like to take up these offers.

After School Clubs

These are a great way for your children to enjoy additional social activities to support their health and wellbeing too. Please look out for further information for the dance and drama clubs and get signed up as soon as possible as places are limited. Great Oaks After School Forest Club begins tomorrow night.

E-Safety

E-safety is a huge part of keeping your children safe. Mr Morris is our E-safety Lead and will be sending out helpful advice and updates each half term. I am also updating all of our Safeguarding documents as Designated Safeguarding Lead, including guidance on the use of social media for parents too.

Whalton Show - Saturday 21st September

Our Federated School and grounds at Whalton form part of the widely celebrated Whalton Show and we would love to see you there too; further details will be sent out on a flyer for anyone interested; it really is a great day out and a great fundraiser for our Federated school.

Here's to a fabulous Autumn term!

Kind regards,

Mrs Brannen

Executive Headteacher

