



The Federation of Longhorsley and Whalton C of E Schools

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

Hope - Honesty - Forgiveness - Friendship - Trust - Love

12th November 2024

Dear Parents,

Autumn 2 has well and truly started and it was really lovely to see so many of you joining us for our Remembrance Service on Monday. The sun shone and the children did a brilliant job with their singing and respectful poems and readings.



We are, however, looking into getting a wireless microphone because every year, some large vehicle just comes along at the wrong moment!

Staffing Update

Although no longer with us, we are delighted that Mr Laidler (who worked for us as a part-time teaching assistant) has secured a full time class teacher position in another Federated school and we wish him the very best in his teaching career. We currently have Miss Storey and Mr McGuire supporting teaching and learning across year groups and Mr McGuire (also a qualified sports coach), is going to be running lunchtime sessions when he is in school on Mondays and Tuesdays, including football for all Y3 and Y4 children every Tuesday lunchtime.

Appointments for Nursery Parent Meetings

These will be coming out to you this week if you wish to have a chat about how your nursery child is doing.

School Improvements

All of the composite cladding was finally fitted during the half term holidays (it really has smartened up the front of the Early Years Classroom) and we are very excited that the delayed new double glazed windows and doors will be fitted in the last 2 weekends of November.

Christmas Diary Dates

As we rapidly move towards December, please refer to our diary dates as we have lots coming up in the run up to Christmas. The PTA are in school on Friday 29th November for their Starry Nights Christmas Crafts and non-uniform day where children are invited to come into school in sleepwear or onesies, complete a Christmas craft and decorate a star for a loved one to hang on the Village Green Christmas tree.

Tickets for Christmas performances will be sent out as usual, with two tickets per performance per family. We are very happy if you want to swap these between yourselves, but we do have a maximum capacity for fire regulations for our school hall; so therefore tickets are necessary - thank you for your support with this and huge thanks to our PTA (and any other Elf helpers!) in advance of all of their support in school, which is fantastic.

Your Views

Your views are very important to us and we shared our parent questionnaire at both our Pupil Progress Meetings and online via a google form just before half term. Thank you so much for taking the time to share your thoughts, which are summarised below. Overall, we had 36 replies.

We are delighted that the vast majority of answers are in the strongly agree or agree category. For anyone who answered 'don't know', myself or any member of staff would be happy to have follow up conversations - or maybe the pupil progress meetings answered some of them hopefully, but please do get in touch if we can help further.

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Strongly Agree %	Agree %	Don't Know %
Question 1	My Child likes being at this school.	31	5				86%	14%	
Question 2	I would recommend the school to other parents.	27	7			2	75%	19%	6%
Question 3	I feel that my child is safe at school.	29	7				81%	19%	
Question 4	I feel that staff really know my child as an individual.	26	10				72%	28%	
Question 5	I feel that my child benefits from attending a Church School.	17	14			5	47%	39%	14%
Question 6	My child receives the help	23	9			4	64%	25%	11%

	they need to do well.								
Question 7	The school supports my child's emotional wellbeing.	21	13			2	58%	36%	6%
Question 8	My child is making good progress at school.	21	14			1	58%	39%	3%
Question 9	I feel comfortable approaching the school with questions, suggestions and/or a problem.	25	10			1	69%	28%	28%

A summary of comments too - all anonymised:

- "I was blown away to see him able to blend letters into words in such a short amount of time. Thank you!"
- "I am absolutely delighted at how my children are supported and nurtured at school. One thing in particular that I think is wonderful is their love of reading, both of them read every evening for pleasure and sometimes most of the weekend if they are really enjoying their book."
- "My child loves attending School!"
- "I am extremely happy with the progress my child has made, especially within the past year and I am so grateful to all the staff who have made this possible."
- "All my children have really enjoyed being a part of this school."
- "We love that the school is very inclusive of all family, involving them in lots of things. My child feels very comfortable around all members of staff and it's lovely seeing her confidence grow."
- "Great school, great teachers."
- "My child absolutely loves his school journey so far. He adores his teachers. Very positive and happy experiences so far! :)"
- "Really pleased with the support my child is receiving in class and continues to show progress. Thank you."
- "We are very pleased with the support, care and SEND my child is receiving."
- "It is super reassuring to see my child so keen (sad on her days off) to attend school. She is often disappointed when she realises she isn't in on that day."
- "Thank you for all you do for our children."

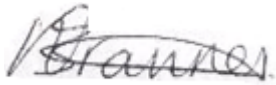
Love your neighbour as yourself means valuing the needs of others...

Following our school's motto, our RE Ambassadors and Eco Warriors are leading the way to help us to be 'good neighbours' by looking at what we can do to support those in the world who need an extra bit of help and of course, looking after our own world. The Wansbeck

food bank were so grateful for our Harvest contributions, that the RE Ambassadors have chosen to support them as their chosen local charity throughout the year and are asking for one item (off the list) from each child so that we can send our Reverse Advent Calendar into the Wansbeck Foodbank before 1st of December - details sent out in their latest newsletter. The Eco team have been focusing on looking after the Earth - God's creation, and are doing such great work promoting the recycling of soft plastics, batteries, ring pulls, plastic pens and old empty cartridges.

Thank you for supporting all of these worthy causes to help us to make a difference as a church school, bringing our community together to help others.

Kind regards

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

Mrs Brannen
Executive Headteacher