
NORTHUMBERLAND County Council

The Federation of Longhorsley and Whalton Church of England Aided Schools

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6th June 2025

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome back to the final summer half term! We hope you enjoyed last week's break.

Before half term, we sent out the general newsletter to keep you updated with all of the activities we have planned in the weeks ahead, including Sports Day and the next Parent lunches (of our Reception children). We can't wait to see as many of you as possible at these events! Please click on this link to view the letter again: [Summer 1 & 2 Newsletter](#).

Year 1 Phonics Check

It is national phonics screening for Year 1 children next week. We don't make a fuss about this with the children. However, any additional reading at home over the next few days will just ensure that they are as confident as possible with their reading next week. Your children know all of the sounds and all it does is test their knowledge of segmenting and blending words to read both real and nonsense words. We have attached a link: [Phonics screening check: information for parents - GOV.UK](#), so that you know what the test looks like for them and here is a [link to previous years tests](#), should you want any further understanding. Please do not hesitate to talk to your class teacher if you require any further information.

Class Organisation and Staffing

At this time of year, we are not only planning for this term but also for the next academic year. To this end, please see below our organisation of classes and class teachers for September:

Nursery and Reception	Mrs Robinson/Miss Mattison
Year 1	Miss Bowen (currently at Whalton)
Year 2 and Year 3	Mr Carr
Year 4	Mr Morris

As you can see, we have borrowed Miss Bowen back from Whalton as Mrs Hall will be going on maternity leave next term. We are very excited to have another Federation baby on the way, so huge congratulations to Mrs Hall and family, and welcome back to Longhorsley, Miss Bowen!

Retirement News:

We will also be saying a very sad but well earned goodbye to Mrs Martin, our caretaker who has been with us for 23 years, who will be retiring in the summer. We cannot thank her enough for all of her hardwork and commitment to Longhorsley over the years and wish her the very best in her retirement. We will really miss you!

Transition Days

In line with our middle schools, we will be having our transition days- where the children get to visit their new class/ class teacher (if it isn't the same one!) on Thursday 3rd July and Friday 4th July. Miss Bowen will be making lots of visits to Longhorsley too so that she can get to know her new class before this date, as well as meeting the children on these days. We will also be inviting our new children, who may be new to the area or just to our school, so they have also met their new class teacher and class friends, ready for September.

PTA

We look forward to welcoming our hardworking PTA back to our sports day, both in the morning for our Nursery sports morning and our main school, in the afternoon. This is one of their main fundraising events of the year so please do come prepared with some spare change (or notes!). Hot and cold drinks, delicious homemade cakes, pick and mix, ice pops and of course, their fantastic tombola too!

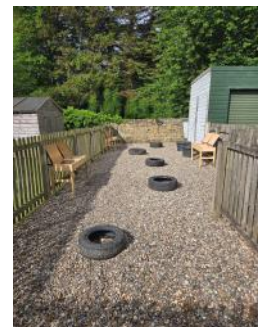
We are currently fundraising for an EYFS canopy for their outdoor area, a new outdoor stage and a 'sports' track around our field area so the children can benefit from having this additional area throughout the winter. There will be the opportunity to vote for the one which you would like us to do first!

However, the PTA will also be losing a key member after the summer term so they have asked me to put out a special request for anyone interested in any of the roles (chair, secretary, treasurer and general members /helpers) to come and have a chat before the AGM meeting in September. Date to be confirmed. Huge thanks to Kathryn Fox for being such a pivotal and dedicated member of our PTA, we are very grateful for all that you have done to support our school over the 6 years!

Sensory Garden



School also has its own project with the children too, with Mr Carr leading the way with help from Mr Morris and the School Council, Miss Mattison and the RE Ambassadors and Mrs Hall and the Eco team. Watch how we transform the old allotment area into something more spiritual and beautiful to feed all of our senses, as well as looking after the wildlife and planet. The children will be involved every step of the way. Watch out for updates! Lots of recycling has started already!



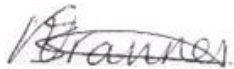
Teacher Training Day

Just a reminder that we have our last Teacher Training Day on Monday 23rd June. A great opportunity for a long weekend somewhere! Can I also take this opportunity to remind everyone again that even children under five receive an unauthorised absence if they go on holiday in term time, as you have enrolled them onto our school roll. The difference is that they would not be eligible to be fined. Hope this clarifies things. The main thing for school, however, is that the learning planned by the teachers for those days will not be repeated and for our youngest children, this can be significant to miss out on, especially developmentally. There is also no legal requirement for schools to provide work.

Finally, here's to a busy but productive and fun Summer 2 with plenty of learning!

As always, please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any queries.

Kind regards,

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

Mrs N Brannen
Executive Headteacher