



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

2nd September 2025

Dear Parents,

A big warm welcome back to the Autumn term; we all hope that you have had a wonderful summer. We especially welcome all of our new families; we hope you enjoy your first term with us. School will reopen on Wednesday 3rd September for all children. The staff have been working hard to get the school spic and span and ready for learning again. Huge thanks especially to Mrs Martin and then our new caretaker, Mr Ellison, for the endless cleaning - the school looks great, and to all of the staff who came in during the holidays to get things sorted for the new term. The children will love their new classrooms!

School Improvements

Lots of work is always carried out in the holidays to make sure all of the school and kitchen equipment is checked, and the grounds maintained. In terms of improvements, the whole school has had its new emergency lighting fitted with new smoke detectors and a very high tech fire alarm system too, so we will continue to have our fire alarm practices with the children so that everyone is confident in the case of any emergency.

We have also had a beautiful new pergola canopy built for us in the Early Years area to enable greater flexibility for outdoor learning plus a complete refit to the old shed too (which houses the trikes and bikes!). Huge thanks to the PTA whose additional funding has allowed for this to happen far quicker than we imagined. We love it!



PTA

Just a reminder that the AGM meeting for the PTA and anyone who is interested in supporting school in any way is on Friday 19th September at 2.30pm in the school hall. 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. New families, the PTA have got it strategically sussed to maximise fundraising while sharing and minimising the load, so do please come along as it is a great way to meet other parents and it is all aimed at enhancing the children's experiences and memories whilst at Longhorsley. A new outdoor stage and a 'sports' track around our field area are still on our wish list.

Start and Finishing times of the School Day

School gates open at 8.45am for 8.50am start in all year groups. Children come straight into school whilst we ask that Reception and Nursery children are dropped off in their cloakroom please. Morning Nursery finishes at 11.50am and children are picked up from the main school gate. Afternoon nursery starts at 12.30, please bring children to the main office and then pick them up from the main playground at 3.30pm.

At home time, 3.20pm, all children are led out in their classes and dismissed by their teachers in allocated areas of the playground. Please note that you are allowed to come into the playground for pick up. We will be operating an 'in and out' system to help - in through the single school gate, then out through the double gate to help with congestion please - many thanks for your support in this!

Please remember to let the office know if someone other than parents are picking up your child for safeguarding reasons and to share this information with them please, on the who can my child go home with list, thank you. We will check if they aren't, so please do not be offended if we then ring parents to check. Safety of all children is paramount at our school.

Diary Dates for the Year

For our returning children, these were sent out at the end of last term to give you as much notice as possible. For our new parents, please find the list attached which gives all dates for the academic year in advance. We do amend these with any changes or new events, but we will always let you know to help with planning.

Class Newsletters

Class teachers will be sending all of the information you need about your children's learning this week, including the weekly organisation, when your children need to wear their PE kits, bring in their homework etc. 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. There will be no swimming this week. All children to come in their PE kits on Friday, including Nursery.

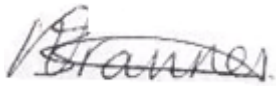
Whalton Show - Saturday 20th September

Our Federated School's grounds form part of the widely celebrated Whalton Show and we would love to see you all 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 too - so please do come along and pop to say hello as we will be having a tombola stall and a very full wheelbarrow of goodies (including the wheelbarrow) to be won!

Looking forward...

We are really looking forward to welcoming your children back to school and look forward to working with you all again this term so that your children can continue, or start, their educational journey with us to be 'the very best that they can be' through loving themselves and their neighbours; our school vision as a Church of England school.

Kindest regards

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

Mrs Brannen
Executive Headteacher