



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

5th October 2026

Dear Parents,

A big warm welcome back to the Autumn term; which is racing along! The children have settled well and are loving their new classrooms and classteachers. It is so lovely to have Mrs Hall back from maternity leave and so exciting that Mrs Robinson is now on her maternity leave! A huge welcome to our new families too, it is really lovely to have you join us.

School Improvements

During the holidays, we had the boys' toilet completely remodelled and no more urinals! They are especially loving their very posh trough sink with sensor taps and the mirrors above it! Please see the before and after pictures below. We are very hopeful that we will secure a successful bid for further funding for the girls' toilet to have their makeover next summer.



All weather track around the field

We are also very excited to let you know that we can finally get the outdoor track sorted too. Our amazing PTA, supported by all of you, have managed to fund raise enough to get the company in to start the works with a payment for half the amount it will cost us. We will then need to raise funds to pay further installments across the year to pay it off but at least the children will have the opportunity to use it straight away, which will be brilliant and really help them to spread out along the track in the winter months when the field is too wet to play safely on. The PTA will be letting you know what they have planned for over the year to help us - they have lots of great streamlined ideas - and will be very appreciative of any help, as well as donations!



Parent Governor Vacancy

We are also currently looking for a new parent governor at Longhorsley and at Whalton to support all of the underpinnings of the Federation as a whole. School governors are volunteers who work together as a governing body to oversee the strategic direction, accountability, and financial performance of the school (or schools in our case). Governors do not manage the school day-to-day but support and challenge the school leadership team. The parent governor represents the parental viewpoint but does not handle any individual parent complaints or make decisions on behalf of all parents. Being a parent governor is a rewarding role where your insights can make a real difference. We have a fantastic board of experienced Federation governors already and you would be joining these to help shape the future of your child's school (and Whalton) in ensuring it serves all pupils effectively. If you are interested in finding out any more about this role, please do get in touch. The accompanying letter explains more about the role and process, which involves being nominated/being put forward for the role and then all parents are invited to be part of the voting system so we have a democratically voted parent governor (if there is more than one person interested!).

Safeguarding

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 us 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 you to check. Safety of all children is paramount at our school.

We have also updated our Safeguarding policies in line with the 2026 Keeping Children Safe in Education - please click on this [link](#) for further information on our website. Please do remember that mobile phones are not allowed to be switched on in school if you come in to visit. For special events, such as Christmas performances, we always say that you can take photos for personal use only, and strictly no videoing.

Diary Dates for the Year

You should have all received the diary dates for this academic year to help with your planning. Please remember to use teacher training days for longer weekends and cheaper travel so your child does not lose out on their learning. Our teachers spend a lot of time carefully planning sequences of learning that build daily and weekly so it is very difficult for children to catch up as the other children move on in their learning. Please note that teachers will not provide resources/homework when the child should be in school.

Harvest Lunch - Wednesday 7th October

We are looking forward to our first parental lunch for Harvest for our Y3/4 parents this week. Please remember to sign up on the google form (which was sent out) if you haven't already - 1 parent per family - thank you!

Class Newsletters and Pupil Progress Meetings

Class newsletters, with all of the information you need about your children's learning this half term, including the weekly organisation, when your children need to wear their PE kits, bring in their homework etc are on our [website too](#). 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.

We have pupil progress meetings with class teachers on *Tuesday 13th and Wednesday 14th October* - please see separate links below . These are 10 minute slots and if you feel that you need longer than this, then a further meeting can always be arranged as there is nothing worse than having to wait for your appointments, so please again, do not be offended if the class teacher has to finish your appointment. Many thanks for your support with this.

Appointments Booking Links:

[Mr Morris - Class 4 \(Year 3 & Year 4\)](#)

[Mrs Hall - Class 3 \(Year 2\)](#)

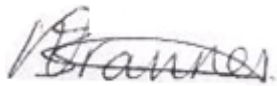
[Miss Mattison - Class 2 \(Year 1\)](#)

[Mr Carr - Class 1 \(Reception only\)](#)

For our Nursery children, we will do an informal catch up towards the end of the term, however, again, please just email if there is anything you would like to be discussed with their class teacher in the meantime.

Here's to a great term of fun learning!

Kindest regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mrs Brannen', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mrs Brannen
Executive Headteacher