
NORTHUMBERLAND County Council

The Federation of Longhorsley St Helen's and Whalton Church of England Aided Schools

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20th April 2020

Dear Parents,

We hope that you all managed to have a peaceful Easter with your families; the weather has certainly been very kind to us. The photo below features on Bour twitter feed and was made by our critical workers' children and federation staff during the holidays.



Longhorsley was open to children from both schools over the Easter and Bank Holidays and so much fun was had. A huge thank you to the staff who not only gave up their time in the holidays to provide such fun activities but for the care that they gave the children and community too. Please do take the time to have a look at our twitter feed: <https://twitter.com/LonghStHelens> (the Easter cards made by the children for the residents were especially heart-warming).

Over the holidays, Nick Gale, who looks after our grounds for us, also came along and sprayed our school grounds and gates with disinfectant to keep us as safe as possible. He will be returning to do this on a regular basis at both schools as an extra measure. We have also doubled our cleaning team so that all areas of school have been deep cleaned and all surfaces, door handles, surfaces in communal areas are kept clean and disinfected regularly on a daily basis. Huge thanks to Angela, Marlene and Diane for their essential work to keep us all safe.



Critical Workers

Firstly, we cannot thank you all enough for all that you are doing to keep us and everyone safe; we are so grateful for everything you are doing; please just keep safe and well too, especially if you are working on the frontline.

We know that many of you are managing your own childcare arrangements yourselves to keep everyone as safe as possible, but please remember that we are here for you when and if you need us.

To that end, we will continue to provide school places for the children of the critical workers for both of our schools; it is an essential part of our national effort to combat this disease until told otherwise by the government. To help us to provide the right amount of staffing levels, we have re-sent the google forms to all parents, asking if you require a place for your child to help you during the next couple of weeks. Please keep in mind the latest guidelines; the safest place for your child is at home with you, but we are very happy to help and have your children with us when needed. The safekeeping and safeguarding of your children is paramount, therefore knowing the exact numbers of children is essential. Please also remember that, if you have said that you require a place, you must let us know in plenty of time if this is not the case, as staff may have travelled to work unnecessarily. The normal Attendance Policy also applies; children need to be in school by 9am at the latest. We will follow up any absences with a phone call home.

Free School Meal Vouchers and Scam Alerts

Due to the overwhelming demand across the country, there have been a few teething problems with the new government's food voucher schemes, which are hopefully resolved now. Vouchers can now be sent either directly to your e-mails or by post from school. Please make sure you let us know if you have not received them by the end of this week.

Unfortunately, we also need to make you aware that there are scams going around.

County Hall has informed us that some parents have received an email stating the following: 'As schools will be closing, if you're entitled to free school meals, please send your bank details and we'll make sure you're supported'. **We can confirm that this is a scam email and is not official.**

We urge you that if you receive any emails like this, please do not respond, and delete it immediately and let us know. Thank you.

e-Safety

Prior to the holidays, Mrs Elliott sent out our updated Pupil Acceptable Use Policy and Pupil School360 Policy. These have been amended to reflect the fact that online classrooms carry the same rules as the physical classroom to ensure that your children are safe on the internet while doing home learning. Please take the time to look at and discuss them with your children.

Children Working from Home

Now that the lockdown has been extended to at least three weeks, we would like to help give the children a bit more structure to their week. Teachers will continue to set a daily Maths and Literacy task but will now be setting a **specific** subject every day too, as well as a daily PE activity. Please see the table below:

Monday 20 th April	RE
Tuesday 21 st April	Science
Wednesday 22 nd April	PSHE
Thursday 23 rd April	Art, Design and Technology
Friday 24 th April	History
Monday 27 th April	Geography
Tuesday 28 th April	MFL
Wednesday 29 th April	Music
Thursday 30 th April	Computing
Friday 1 st May	PSHE

In addition, teachers will ask the children to return one piece of Literacy (by Wednesday) and one piece of Numeracy (by Thursday) a week, which will be marked and returned to them. This can simply be a photograph of the work uploaded to *Google Classroom* on School360.

For those of you who would like *Google Classroom* as an app, please follow the steps below:

To access on a tablet/ipad/smart phone

- Step 1: Download the app 'Google Classroom'
- Step 2: Press *Get Started*
- Step 3: Click add an account
- Step 4: It asks you to add an email - this is your child's username that they use to log onto School360 (please note some children have a number 1 afterwards on their username) then add @school360.co.uk example: fred.bloggs@school360.co.uk
- Step 5: This takes you to School360
- Step 6: Log onto 360 using your username, eg fred.bloggs, and your child's password
- Step 7: Allow notifications
- Step 8: Click on your teacher's name and you should be in the classroom, scroll down and you will find the work set
- Step 9: Click on classroom folders (if you haven't already done so you may need to download google drive too). This will let you create work on a google doc (similar to Microsoft Word) or upload a photograph of their handwritten work

Mini-report Updates

We really hope that our Longhorsley parents enjoyed reading their children's mini reports, received prior to the Easter holidays. Due to the dates that the pupil progress consultations were to take place, we decided that this would be the best way forward to give you a summary of progress to date of your children and their next steps to work on at home. Many thanks to the staff for writing these.

Whalton parents, you all received a phone call from your child's class teacher; we hope these proved just as useful.

Children's Wellbeing

It has been brilliant to see so many of the children at both schools interacting with their peers and friends through School360, however, we are aware that some children do not have access to this and we would like to offer a phone call to every child over the next couple of weeks from their class teacher to see how they are doing. The children we have trialled this with so far have been delighted, so we hope that your child will too - you can tell them in advance or keep it as a complete surprise! If you prefer us not to contact your child via phone, please can you email school today on the contact e-mail at the bottom of this letter. Many thanks.

We have explored the likes of Zoom to have greater interaction with the children virtually, however, we have limited laptops with microphones and cameras and we already know that the expectation that all households have the ability to do this is not accurate, (and whether the safeguarding element for such a big group is secure too) so we thought a good old fashioned phone call would be better.

Everyone's Wellbeing

If you haven't already seen the Action for Happiness calendar that Mrs Campbell has been adding onto our school websites (under 'Working from Home' tab and down the left hand side), there is a great April page which has some lovely ideas which you might like to try out.

ACTIVE COPING CALENDAR: APRIL 2020

"Everything can be taken from us but one thing: the freedom to choose our attitude in any given set of circumstances" ~ Viktor Frankl

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5 Get active. Even if you're stuck indoors, move & stretch	6 Contact a neighbour or friend and offer to help them	7 Share what you are feeling and be willing to ask for help	1 Make a plan to help you keep calm and stay in contact	2 Enjoy washing your hands. Remember all they do for you!	3 Write down ten things you feel grateful for in life and why	4 Stay hydrated, eat healthy food and boost your immune system
12 Immerse yourself in a new book, TV show or podcast	13 Respond positively to everyone you interact with	14 Play a game that you enjoyed when you were younger	8 Take five minutes to sit still and breathe. Repeat regularly	9 Call a loved one to catch up and really listen to them	10 Get good sleep. No screens before bed or when waking up	11 Notice five things that are beautiful in the world around you
19 Do three acts of kindness to help others; however small	20 Make time for self-care. Do something kind for yourself	21 Send a letter or message to someone you can't be with	15 Make some progress on a project that matters to you	16 Rediscover your favourite music that really lifts your spirits	17 Learn something new or do something creative	18 Find a fun way to do an extra 15 minutes of physical activity
26 Take a small step towards an important goal	27 Thank three people you're grateful to and tell them why	28 Make a plan to meet up with others again later in the year	22 Find positive stories in the news and share these with others	23 Have a tech-free day. Stop scrolling and turn off the news	24 Put your worries into perspective and try to let them go	25 Look for the good in others and notice their strengths

ACTION FOR HAPPINESS

www.actionforhappiness.org

30 actions to look after ourselves and each other as we face this global crisis together

Keep Calm · Stay Wise · Be Kind

Finally ...

We would like to share with you a prayer about the Coronavirus outbreak that was sent to all of the staff by a very special person to help keep us well and safe:

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

Kindest regards and please stay safe,

Mrs Brannen
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