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# NORTHUMBERLAND County Council

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

Longhorsley St Helen's  
C of E Aided First School  
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July 2018

Dear Parents

As we approach the last couple of days of term, I would just like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to you all for your continued support in both schools across the Federation; it has been quite a busy year in both schools! At Longhorsley we have said goodbye to Mrs Rusby and Mr Smith; but have welcomed Mr Reilly and Mr Chambers; with lots of positive feedback from the children and yourselves. It was great to see so many of you come along to Mr Chambers' meeting - thank you!

At Whalton, we have welcomed Mrs Kenyon, who has settled in brilliantly to Team Whalton and works with Mrs Potter in Class 1. We have also completed our first year with Year 5 children as a Primary school. Thank you to the Year 5 parents for the brilliant feedback, which was also reflected in the children's responses too - they will make exceptional Year 6 students; being role models to the rest of the school, enjoying meeting up with their Ponteland Partnership friends for sporting festivals and not least the trip to France next July - all very exciting. We also had the Church's Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools at Whalton this year and maintained our Outstanding judgement, which is so very well deserved.

In terms of support for the school, we could not have asked for any greater dedication than our current PTA members. Across both schools, the PTA work tirelessly to raise funds for the things that schools cannot always afford in this current educational climate. Not only have we got our impressive learning pod at Whalton (admired and envied by every visitor) and our newly configured and safer cloakroom at Longhorsley, but the catering provided at all school events, creative ideas made to sell, making and baking, production of presents, gifts at all the seasonal times of the year - none of this would be possible without the generosity of these people, so a huge thank you to everyone involved. The PTA will send out the dates of the next AGM meetings, to take place early in the Autumn term so that the total amount raised and priorities for the next academic year can be shared with you. A personal thank you to Linda Balmer (Chair) and Katie Ryder (Secretary) at Whalton for all of their hard work and time given as they step down from their roles. Nomination slips will be sent out. Please can I ask everyone to consider putting themselves forward; very happy to have 'job-share Chairs' if that would help as I know that everyone is very busy. Please continue to support our PTA and their events in any way you can as it really does benefit your children directly.



Enrichment wise, we have had successful sports days at both schools this term, the delayed Year 4 residential went smoothly and was very much enjoyed by all and the musicality of our children was especially showcased in our Year 3 and 4 Violin concert at Longhorsley and the Music concert at Whalton in the Village Hall. Individual performances by our talented children were stunning too. Huge thanks to all of our specialist music staff, who come in to work with the children to get them not only to a high standard in their field of music, but more importantly to enjoy music, and also to the staff who organised all of these events too.

In terms of getting ready for September, all children have visited their new teacher and classrooms (if applicable) and you have had the opportunity to meet and hear from their new teachers. I am looking forward to hearing your feedback following your children's reports sent out on Tuesday; I have thoroughly enjoyed reading them and am so very proud of their achievements. Just to clarify that the formal reports for the Year 3/4 children were sent out at the end of Spring when Mrs Rusby left and very kindly, Mr Reilly agreed to do a complementary round up of the Summer term for the children too at Longhorsley; apologies for any confusion caused by the accompanying letter.

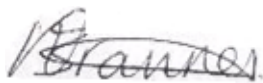
For the Year 4 leavers at both schools, the very best of luck in your new schools; please do not forget us and let us know how you are getting on.

As this is my final newsletter for this academic year, I would also like to formally thank all of the staff for their hard work and commitment and always going the extra mile and to the Governing Body who have been tremendous in their support and challenge for both schools. Also great thanks to Reverend Frances Dower, Reverend Fiona Sample and to Pam Walker, Associate Lay Minister, for all of their support in services, popping in to school and general pastoral support and guidance for children, parents and staff.

Just to remind you that school will re-open at :55am on Tuesday 4th September for Longhorsley children but not until Wednesday 5th September for Whalton children.

Have a great summer when it comes and enjoy your wonderful children; they are all very special. We still have our 'End of Year' Service to come at both schools: 9:15am at St Helen's Church and 2:00pm at Saint Mary Magdalene's Church, bring your tissues (Year 4 parents!) and I look forward to seeing you all there - it is open to all parents.

Kindest regards,



Mrs N Brannen  
Executive Headteacher