
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
Drummonds Close
Longhorsley
MORPETH
Northumberland
NE65 8UT



Whalton C of E Aided Primary
School

Whalton
MORPETH
Northumberland
NE61 3XH

Tel 01670 788316
Fax 01670 788031
email: longhorsleyadmin@fedlongwhaltschools.uk
www.longhorsley-st-helens.northumberland.sch.uk

Mrs Nichola Brannen
Executive Headteacher

Tel 01670 775216

email: whaltonadmin@fedlongwhaltschools.uk
www.whalton.northumberland.sch.uk

Friday 15th February 2019

Dear Parents

A quick round up of this half term and what to look forward to next half term.

Building Work Completion and Grand Opening

The builders are still on track to be completed during the half term holidays, which means that Mr Reilly and Year 4 and Mrs McEwan will all have their new 'homes' after half term. The new entrance will be up and running too. Huge thanks to everyone for being so flexible in working around the build, the Year 4 children's excitement is well worth it.

To celebrate our new classroom, office and entrance, we are extremely honoured that **The Right Reverend Christine Hardman, Bishop of Newcastle** (or Bishop Christine as she is known) has kindly agreed to come along and officially open it for us. This will be on the afternoon of Friday 15th March at 2:30pm, which is also our fundraising day as part of Comic Relief. We have also invited the Director of Education and Skills in Northumberland, Mr Dean Jackson, to come and join us too.

We will be celebrating in style with a special afternoon tea following the official opening and hope that as many of you as possible will come along to join in the celebrations in our Hall.

To this end, if anyone is willing to bake scones or donate cupcakes to be sent into school for that Friday morning, we would be very appreciative.

Not many small village schools are able to improve and expand on their buildings in the current climate and we are very grateful to the Diocese for the funding that we successfully bid for. We are even more grateful to our PTA who are still fundraising to help with our percentage of build costs and cannot be prouder of Jessie in Year 3 who has asked her family to raise some money too to help towards it. Eventually, Jessie would like to form her own charity "Kids help Kids", it is her intention to help get children things that they need to live properly such as a comfortable place to sleep, with good sanitation and plentiful food - so kind, and a real reflection of how our school core values can be put into action.



School Improvement and Pupil Progress Updates for Parents

Our SIP (School Improvement Partner) visited this half term to carry out our postponed autumn term visit. This is where the schools data for the last academic year is scrutinised and the impact of our improvement plan and actions are judged externally.

I'm extremely delighted to share with you that once again our school performance is well above the National Average at the end of Early Years, for Year 1 Phonics and for Reading, Writing and Maths at the end of KS1 - these are the figures that are tested and collated for first schools nationally as we do not have Year 6 SATs. Our next visit will be after half term.

Our next pupil progress update meetings for parents are scheduled for Monday 25th and Tuesday 26th March 2019 where you can find out how well your own child is doing. Reply slips will be sent out after the half term.

Attendance

In order to achieve well, children need to be attending school regularly. Our attendance target, in line with our partnership schools, is 96%. Unfortunately recent monitoring of attendance has shown that there are a growing number of children who are either unsatisfactory attenders (90-95%) or classed as persistent absentees (below 90%). To this end, we will be sending out the standard letters to all parents whose child's attendance causes us concern. This is not to say that your child may not have a genuine reason for not attending school, however, as a school, we have a duty to ensure that we are supporting you and are following county and government guidelines and to make sure you are aware. The Education Welfare Officer will also be coming into school to talk to the parents of any children who are classed as persistent absentees. As always, we will support you wherever we can so that your child, or children, can be the very best that they can be.

Wishing you all a lovely half term holiday.

Kind regards

Mrs Brannen
Executive Headteacher